If you ask them they will write

This is the second newsletter I’ve produced since becoming co-class agent with John Lowe. Recently I sent out an e-mail soliciting information for this newsletter; the response was very welcome and surprising. Instead of asking for the usual job and family info, I suggested answering a series of questions; an abbreviated version follows.

1. Second careers? Good points/bad points?
2. Second marriages? Younger wives?
3. Speaking of second marriages, what’s your youngest child?
4. Hobbies?
5. What do you really think of the Cubs’ chances this year?
6. Who did you pick for the NCAA champion?
7. If you’ve been back to Wabash since graduation, what is the biggest change that you’ve seen? What was

The “Class Scrap” has faded into memory. The “Greased Pole Fight” no longer exists. “Cultures & Traditions” has replaced “Western Civilizations” as an all-College course. Only a few fraternity pledges wear pots, and they’re almost never called “Rhynies.” And nobody goes to class on Saturday mornings these days.

Traditions at Wabash College come and go, but a few classics endure. No matter when you graduated, chances are that you participated in that rite of passage known as “Chapel Sing.” Some of us sang Old Wabash and some of us only learned to grunt it. But we could all proudly stand and sing it word-for-word after the football team scored a touchdown.

Come back to campus June 4-6, 2004 for the Big Bash at Wabash! There will be plenty of TWR and telling of old tales, but the highlight of the weekend will come Saturday morning when reunion classes compete in the first Alumni Chapel Sing competition. Nobody will leave with a “W” haircut and none of you need to paint your faces. Just brush up on the lyrics to Old Wabash (audio file) and come ready to have a great time.

The Alumni Chapel Sing is just one of many exciting, family-friendly events during Big Bash Weekend. The college needs to hear from you no later than May 24, 2004, in order to reserve a spot for you in what promises to be the best Wabash reunion weekend ever.

Register now by returning the reservation form from the formal invitation that was mailed to you or by going online at http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion. Reunion classes will be 1999, 1994, 1989, 1984, 1979, 1974, 1969, 1964, 1959, 1954, and Golden Little Giants. Join your classmates on campus for a reunion weekend like no other.

Check out www.wabash.edu on online

Have you visited the website lately? If not, please visit it while surfing the net and be sure to bookmark it or add it to your favorites so you can easily return at any time. Recent improvements to many of the “back” pages of website make it exciting to use and ongoing home page modifications will make the site more user friendly. Have a suggestion? Please e-mail the college at alumni@wabash.edu.
If you ask them

Continued from page 1

the least changed?

8. If you haven’t been back or simply have no desire to do so, why?

9. Do we all become Republicans when we hit 50? (I blasted Clinton and praised Bush for this one)

10. Any religious conversions/experiences to share? (My wife tells me to avoid discussions of religion or politics but I can’t resist.)

I have included responses to these questions as written, with generally only minor editing. You may want to refer to the above list as you read some of the responses.

At this point I’d like to make a request for updated e-mail addresses from you. I realize some of you may be leery about giving me an e-mail address: I too am tired of getting all of the Spam urging me to increase my penis size and refinance my mortgage. If that is an issue (not wanting to give me an e-mail, not your penis size), why don’t you set up a spare address we both can use. That’s why I am officially wabash73@aol.com.

Several people who wrote this time did not recognize my name. I was a Lambda Chi, and did a double major in history and English. I spent my fall junior semester in London, and when I came back I lived with Lee Clark, also a Lambda Chi, off campus. I was a member of Sphinx Club my senior year. I was not involved in athletics, but usually could be found in some pickup game in the gym during the afternoons. I also spent lots of time napping in the library and drinking coffee in the Scarlet Inn.

After graduation I bummed around for a couple of years, did a master’s in journalism at the University of Missouri, was a newspaper reporter and editor, later decided to change careers and got a master’s in education in 1989. I lived in Massachusetts, Missouri, Florida and Illinois and have lived in Champaign, IL, about 80 miles west of Crawfordsville, since 1996. I have been married to my wife, Wendy, for 20 years, two children—27 and 10—and teach social studies,

Continued on page 3

Class of ‘73 News

Marshall Akers

“Since graduating from Wabash and completing graduate work at Purdue I’ve bounced around a couple of companies and am now General Manager at RTP Company’s Indianapolis facility. RTP compounds custom thermoplastics for customers all over the world.

“Jane and I will be married 30 years this May and have three children. Sarah is in Chicago and will marry a Swedish dude end of summer. Will is going to school in California. Paul, the youngest, is a sophomore at U of MN, currently taking a semester abroad in New Zealand.

“Sailing is a passion acquired while living and working in the East. Presently most of my sailing is on Lake Michigan out of CYC. Downhill skiing catches some winter sunshine and an occasional marathon encourages a lot of running for both Jane and me year round.

“Only been back to the ‘Bash a couple of times. The new fieldhouse is awesome. Wish we’d had that back in the ‘70’s. Hope all is well with my fellow alumni. The Akers are doing very well in Indianapolis.”

David C. Worrell

“I’m a lawyer in Indianapolis at the same firm (Baker & Daniels) where I started after law school. I have the same practice I’ve had for many years--practicing corporate law in the securities and banking areas.

“I’m married to the same woman, Laura, whom I married in 1977. For our 25th anniversary we went to Italy with our two teenagers. Becky is now 20 and Matt is 17. We’ve started looking for some real estate in Southern Indiana with a dream of building something on 25 - 50 acres close to Bloomington.

“I make furniture as a hobby and hope to complete a course of woodworking classes later this year that I’ve been taking for almost 10 years. I find woodworking a good change from law and rewarding in different ways. I enjoyed seeing some of our classmates at our last reunion and hope more will be able to make the next one.”

John Garber

“There’s just not a lot of news from my standpoint. Both my daughters are in school: Megan at Purdue in grad school (education & student affairs); Ashley is a freshman at N. D. My wife (Anne) and I are planning to “downsize” in the near future. I see Bob Meyer from time to time. I ran into John Lowe at a local restaurant/bar last week. I feel the “Wabash bond” is still strong.”

Guy Guthrie

“I’m an alum of 1973. However, I finished my senior year at Earlham College in Richmond and am a graduate of there, class of 1974. Education beyond that includes an MBA from the University of Indianapolis in 1989.

“I’ve stayed in transportation nearly all my business career and currently am logistics manager for a lumber company in Union City, IN. We cut the specialized lumber called quartersawn oak and it ships all over the world.

“I have one son, Wabash class of 1996, and one granddaughter, all in Noblesville. My wife and I are heading into 33 years of marriage and enjoying it. I’m a deacon in the Presbyterian Church and active in the community (Richmond).

“For enjoyment I like to sail, having done that all my life. My two brothers and I sail out of Galveston, TX, when we can.

“I’m starting to get active in local recruiting for Wabash through Rudy Cope from admissions.”
If you ask them

Continued from page 2

science and reading to 7th graders. I swim, walk, play golf, baseball and read a lot in my spare time.

Like many of you, I have had little to do with Wabash College over the years. I would read my newsletters and other communications from the college. I would put solicitations for money in the trash. I've kept in contact with Lee Clark over the years but that's about it. Last spring, at Clark’s urging, I was back for my first Wabash function--our 30th reunion--since graduation. I had a great time. I even volunteered to become class agent when I found out Clark wanted to retire. I regretted my decision almost immediately, but since have changed my mind again--I’m okay with this.

Then I was back in the fall for a class agents’ workshop and football game. I took my 9 year-old son with me. He was impressed, particularly with the athletic experience. He is small, but is Mr. ESPN and is a great athlete, particularly in baseball. He loved the football game and the facilities and seeing where Dad went to college.

My epiphany about Wabash, if you want to call it that, was watching my kid sit in the dugout in Mud Hollow—where I and other Lambda Chi’s sat so often so many years ago smoking grass after studying. I realized that I wanted him to consider coming to Wabash (for the education, not the drugs). I still need to sell my wife on this.

So, if you haven’t been back to Wabash recently, I urge you to do so; I think you’ll find it a worthwhile experience. See if there is a Wabash association in your area—just check the Wabash website for a listing. Finally, cut a check. I’ll be the first to admit that I have not financially supported the college over the years. I’m going to try to do better. I think Wabash College is one of the more deserving places for your money.

Gary Pinkerton

Class of ‘73 News

Bob “Colonel” Kissling

“I unloaded all my pent-up information a few months ago in a lengthy note that you published in a Class Notes newsletter.

“The only thing I can add at this point is that my son Matt is pledging Delta Tau Delta fraternity at Allegheny College, and of course I was a Delt at Wabash. He’s having his own personalized initiation on April 8 because he plays on Allegheny’s tennis team and they have a match at Ohio Wesleyan on the day his pledge class is being initiated. The schedule change allows me to attend his initiation, and, in fact, I’ll be participating as the stand-in for the chapter adviser. I’m certainly looking forward to sharing this big day with him. I haven’t kept up with Delt rituals over the years, but I’m trying to knock the dust off 30-year-old memories so I’m ready.

“I also recently received an invitation from the Malcolm X Institute for Dr. Peter Frederick’s retirement party this spring. Unfortunately, I won’t be able to attend, but it certainly got me to thinking about what a terrific teacher he was and I’m sure still is. Like many of us I was fortunate to be exposed to a lot of great professors at Wabash, but I have to say that Dr. Frederick, Dr. Jim Barnes and Dr. Vic Powell were at the top of my list. It was my great privilege to be a student in their classes.”

John Deffenbaugh

“Daughter Fiona opens her shop on Carnaby Street, called Black Pearl. She’s selling jewelry, clothes and her photos from her recent trip to Vegas (she studied fashion photography and styling). Check out the website of her company, www.def-design.com. She’s 21.

“Son John is an architect in Edinburgh, and the director for the regeneration of the only UK Grade A listed 1960s building, St Peter’s seminary in Cardross outside Glasgow. Website not yet up and running, but will be www.cardrossregen.com. He’s 24.

“Me, I have a great ‘I told you so’ vein by being an expat and having gone on the peace marches a year ago. Need I say more the greater constituency of Red America. Aside from this, I head up Frontline’s London operation, the consultancy I co-founded 14 years ago: www.frontline-consultants.com. My typical week is Glasgow-London-Liverpool-Nottingham-Belfast-London-Glasgow. That’s Monday-Wednesday.

“Penny is still teaching, but looking forward to early retirement that can’t come too soon, but probably will be 4+ years away.


Michael Crosby

“Since you asked I will reply. First, I am recorded as an alumnus even though I left after two years. Actually, my roommate thought I had left school the semester before, but I dropped back in for finals.

“I am now entering the 3rd decade of my second career—law—in San Diego California.

“I cannot share your enthusiasm for Republicanism and particularly G. W. Bush. While I understand there is much reason to be appalled by Bill Clinton’s personal behavior, the comparison between the two as world leaders is not favorable to Bush. In fact, he must be the least qualified president since at Continued on page 4

APRIL 2004
Scholarship Exam Weekend draws 320 prospects
The 111th Honor Scholarship Exam Weekend was a tremendous success. Over 320 prospective students journeyed to campus on March 19-20 to compete for scholarships totaling well over $2 million.

The students took exams in English, Math, a foreign language (or American history) and a science of their choice. Besides exams, the students had an opportunity to rush a fraternity and participate in some great campus activities. Typically two-thirds of these prospects will end up attending Wabash, so the weekend is a pivotal weekend in our admissions year.

The entire Wabash community contributed to this year’s success. On March 19 over 55 faculty and staff attended the breakfast reception and luncheon for the parents of prospective students. Close to 20 current parents of Wabash students joined the reception also. That evening at the Honors Dinner, over 25 alumni shared their perspectives on Wabash as they dined with over 300 prospective students.

It takes the entire Wabash community to recruit a Wabash man, and this year was an exceptional effort. Special thanks go out to all those who contributed to this year’s Honors success.

Alumni referrals are needed
Alumni referrals are significantly lower than the last two years. The college currently has 690 referrals—almost 200 fewer than the record breaking year two years ago.

Now is the time that high school juniors begin formulating their lists of colleges to consider. Refer a junior today at www.wabash.edu/alumni/home.cfm?pages_id=63 or by calling 800-345-5385. You may also send a note to Steve Klein at P.O. Box 352 Crawfordsville, IN, 47933.

Class of ‘73 News

Continued from page 3

Michael Crosby...cont.
least Warren Harding. And at least Harding did not involve the nation in any dead-end preemptive wars that we are aware of. The people I know have not necessarily flocked to that side in or around their 50th birthdays. Of course the political culture is different here from Indiana...though San Diego itself is generally Republican or at least more middle-American in its political (as opposed to cultural) views.

“As for Mark Prior, I am surprised that he is injured but don’t expect that it will last long. Mark Prior has been trained and paced since his early teens, if not before, to be a major league pitcher. His catcher in grade school, high school (actually, two different high schools), Pony League, etc. is the son of a former coworker of mine. His dad and his coaches were very cautious about overwork. He is a great kid and a fine athlete—a good hitter, as you probably know, and was a very good forward on this high school basketball team as teammate to Luke and Chris Walton (and another future baseball star, Carlos Quentin, who was drafted I think by the As in the 1st round) at SD University High, a Catholic high school sort of like Cathedral in Indianapolis, but more closely tied to the archdiocese.”

Bill Bookwalter
“I am a neurosurgeon in Pittsburgh, PA. I am president of a 10 man group. Waited awhile to get married, but am married only once and still with four kids, 16, 14, 11, 10.

“Scuba dive a lot. Went to South Africa for collections I sponsored at our zoo. Did Great White Shark dives. Saw 32 Great Whites, 14 to 18 feet. Have been to Russia and Uzbekistan doing secular missionary surgery. Traveled a good bit to Europe and lived in England for a while. Remember the assassination attempt on the Israeli ambassador to England in 1982 by a Palestinian? I was the Neurosurgery Senior Registrar who took care of him.

“Still think fondly of the Sig house and the brothers. Still hate Wabash and especially Lester Hearson who tried to screw my early admittance to Med School. I have had the last laugh, though.

“If you hear from any of the Sigs, give them my e-mail. I don’t know if you will hear from Delts like Jim Perez or Hose Manley or anybody else I knew while I was there. I’d be happy to hear from them.”

Dave Feeback
1. No, I made one mistake, why make another.
   “2. See answer to 1.
   “3. I have a 25 year-old and an 11 year-old and feel maybe the 11 year-old is getting cheated a bit because her old man is, well, old.
   “4. Hobbies? Who has time for them with all the volunteer work we do?
   “5. My team is the Tigers. The odds of them having a season worse than last year are astronomical.
   “6. Oklahoma State. But my dream Final Four (before the selection committee screwed it up by their regional placements) was St. Joe, Oklahoma State, Wake Forest and Mississippi State.

Continued on page 5
License plate supports Wabash

Wabash College alumni, students, parents, and friends with vehicles registered in the State of Indiana are eligible to receive a Wabash College license plate with a gift of at least $25 to the Greater Wabash Foundation. A gift of $25 is required for each license plate purchased. Here are the three easy steps to get your license plate and help ‘Spread the Fame’:

- Make an annual gift to Wabash of $25 or more to become eligible.
- Wabash will mail you a validated license plate form.
- Take the validated form to your Bureau of Motor Vehicles when you renew your license plate. NOTE: There is an additional $15 BMV fee for getting a special recognition plate.

Gary Bates

“I’m currently the principal at Frontier Jr./Sr. High School in Chalmers, IN. This is my first year here, having previously been an assistant principal at a middle school in Logansport. Things are going well; it’s a small rural community, and it’s refreshing to find a situation in which core values are still instilled in kids. We have some of the best behaved and polite students I have ever been around. Teachers who have taught here for some time have no idea what teaching in another place is like for today’s educators.

“This is actually my second entry in the education field. I taught right out of Wabash from 1973 through 1987 and at that time decided that I had had enough and needed a change. I worked in the private sector (human resources and work comp) for ten years. After a ten year hiatus, I started getting the urge to get back into education and was lucky enough to go back where I first began teaching (Logansport). I started out in the classroom, but soon I was selected to be the Director of School-to-Work Programs for the corporation before getting the assistant principal’s job.

“I, too, am on my second marriage. We have a blended family with two girls, ages 28 and 21, and a son who is 24. My wife, who is a nurse by trade, decided a couple of years ago that she wanted a career change, and so in 2002 she opened up a laundromat/tanning salon business called Life’s a Beach Wash and Tan. Since we live in Monticello and have Lakes Freeman and Shafer, she decided to use a beach theme for the business. What a switch from nursing!

“Between my job as principal and helping my wife, Ann, with her business occasionally, I don’t have a lot of free time for a lot of hobbies. I started running in 1979 and have kept that up through all these years. I run the Mini almost every year and have three marathons under my belt, but now it’s more for the health benefits than the competition. I’ve not been back to a Wabash function for a long time. I was in C’ville just the other day, though, and went by the new Sig house which was very impressive.”

Lilly endowment to assist interns

Recently the College was awarded a five-year Lilly Endowment grant that will help prepare Wabash students for business opportunities after they graduate. The college will be hiring an alumni career officer to administer the grant and the Schroeder Career Center will play an integral role in getting the most out of this grant.

A sizeable portion of the grant funds will be used to subsidize internships in Indiana. This year there are 11 students participating, all of whom will intern in Indiana during the Summer 2004. If you know of an internship or employment opportunity for a young Wabash man, please don’t hesitate contact the college.

Class of ‘73 News

Dave Feeback...cont.

Continued from page 4

“7. Biggest change: the athletic center (although it is great, I hate what they did to Crawford Street) Least changed: Center Hall.

“8. My #2 son is a junior there this year. That has really helped me reconnect to the college.

“9. Go Bush????? Make my Republicans men with a little more backbone and candor—John McCain for example. I’d vote for him in a heartbeat. Sorry, I was with GWB after 9-11 because he was our president and all, but this escapade into Iraq to find the non-existent WMD while Bin Laden still runs free has gotten in my craw.

“Are the people of Iraq better off without Saddam? That’s not really the issue is it? If that’s our goal, when do we invade North Korea? Cambodia? Isn’t this the same president who said, when he was running for election, that we shouldn’t be involved in nation building? How long do you think we’ll have to have a ‘presence’ in Iraq before ‘democratic institutions’ (which never existed there previously) will be in place? Most experts are saying 5-10 years. Now, aren’t you sorry you brought that up?

“10. You should spend more time listening to your wife.”
Wabash men recruit more Wabash men

Simply put, alumni have a tremendous impact on our efforts in admissions.

For the 2002-2003 year, Wabash received over 1000 alumni referrals. And 899 of those students referred were seniors. Out of those 899 seniors, 37% applied for admission. An astounding 43% of the young men deposited to Wabash for 2003-2004 were referred by an alumnus.

Wabash men are also referring great kids. Forty-three percent of the 2003 Lilly finalists were referred and 40% of the Honor Scholarship winners were referred. These numbers clearly suggest that Wabash Men do a terrific job locating fine young men.

How can you become involved?
* Refer a student online;
* Attend a college fair in your area;
* Host or attend a recruiting function;
* Call students in your area, or those with similar career interests;
* Contact Steve Marcou, Coordinator of Admissions Volunteers (765.361.6018, or email marcous@wabash.edu)

Alumni efforts in admissions go beyond referring. Hundreds of alumni speak to prospective students interested in pursuing careers similar to theirs. This year Wabash men represented the College at forty-two college fairs nationwide; we even had an alumnus attend a fair in Juneau, Alaska—better yet a student he spoke with there has deposited for the Fall!

Many Wabash alumni hosted or attended recruiting functions throughout the country where they play a key role in selling the college to both prospective students and parents.

Class of ‘73 News

Mark Simmons

“I have stayed the course in career (while my company changed around me) here at Roche (used to be Boehringer Mannheim) and have migrated from R&D to Technical Affairs to Marketing while actually doing the same thing the whole time—Systems Development (hard to explain that).

“Same marriage to Debbie. The one I started at Wabash in 1971. My youngest child Katie will graduate from Northwestern in June, so we are REALLY empty-nesters now (she starts grad school there and we no longer have a swim meet to go to every other weekend there). Middle child Greg continues to hit the road with his band JEB. Two CD’s out and a collection of solo work under way. Oldest child Christine (also started out at Wabash 32 years ago) is married and is the Associate Director for Academic Services at the University of Louisville.

“We have spent so much time over the last 25 years in swimming that we have no other diversions. That will have to change as we are at least 10 years away from any swimming grandchildren. Debbie and I are doing the entries for the 2004 World Short Course Championships at Conseco in Indy in October as our last project for the world of swimming. We are looking forward to new opportunities and challenges for our spare time.

“I have been back to Wabash, but not every year. The athletic facilities ARE amazing. But I am looking forward to touring the new Science building. That will be a huge change for the campus atmosphere. I have some very vivid memories of long afternoons in lab in Goodrich Hall.

“As for other changes, I have this observation. I did not realize in 1969/1970 just how many of our faculty were brand new (or nearly so). So, returning to campus for the last 30 years, I would see the same faces on the staff (particularly those that I took my toughest courses from). And I took that for granted. However, in the last year, the changes have started. I realize now that from here on out, returning to campus each year will bring fewer opportunities to meet with those who shaped my education there. For me, that will be a significant transition. And if Mike ever leaves the bookstore, the transition will be complete!

“So, I think we all need to get back to Wabash to get to know the next generation of the faculty and understand the place as it is today.”

Mike Shaver

“My son, Bob, will graduate from Wabash next month. Don Herring was his faculty advisor, (and he was mine, too) even though Bob was not an English major, which was good because Bob has now proven that all Shavers are not necessarily academic lost causes. The real news for us is that he has been accepted to the graduate divinity schools at Harvard and Yale (he has no intention of being a minister) and has received a nice scholarship package from each of them. It is an exciting time for our family. I never thought I would feel like this.

“Since I was no great shakes as a student, especially in bio, where I started out, to have Bob do well at Wabash was a wonderful thing. He truly used the liberal arts opportunity at Wabash in every way, and it was a tremendous affirmation of Wabash as an institution, in my view. Bob took a significant number of courses in several disciplines ranging from math and physics to religion and philosophy and the sum of that effort was that he was

Continued on page 7
Study reveals Liberal Arts make a difference

After nearly two solid years of research, the scholars at the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash seem to be on to something. Recently some of the nation’s leading higher education researchers gathered to hear a presentation of data that might just be the first evidence that students who study the liberal arts in college show significant gains as a result of their experience.

The study draws on the data set of research guru Ernie Pascarella at the University of Iowa. In the mid-1990s, Pascarella and his team conducted the National Survey of Student Learning, asking thousands of college students hundreds of questions about their experiences. The research was gathered over a three-year period and included students from small liberal arts colleges, regional universities, and major doctoral universities.

Working with Charlie Blaich, director of inquiries at the Center, Pascarella’s team posed the question, “Were there significant differences in outcomes among the students who attended liberal arts colleges?”

Pascarella had never before found evidence that the type of institution could make a difference in educational outcomes. And, of course, there’s a common notion that students

Continued on page 8

Class of ‘73 News

Mike Shaver cont.

Continued from page 6

much more able to make discreet choices about his major and his future. I can’t say enough good things about Wabash as a result of his experience there.

“Our daughter, Becky (19), is completing her freshman year at IU, and is in the process of applying to the school of athletic training. Her goal is to be a physical therapist, with emphasis on athletic training and sports medicine. I have to admit that I have seen another side of IU in the past 8 months. What I once regarded as a cattle herd is now illuminated differently; it is a great school, with a lot more going for it than I had originally understood.

“Perhaps my biggest story, and the one I would most like to distribute to my classmates, is about my wife. I have had only one marriage. I figured that the odds of finding anyone else that could put up with me was relatively limited, so we’ve been married for 30 years this coming October. Jan is a pediatric nurse practitioner with IU & Riley Hospital. She is, in my opinion, the best nurse practitioner in Indiana, and she deals a lot with parents of very, very sick kids (many with malformities of one form or another), who are very, very poor. I am so proud of Jan. For many of these kids and their families, she is their last, best hope of obtaining quality health care for their children. So many of these kids are in such bad shape that the health institutions just push them from place to place and crisis to crisis. Jan tries to speak to them as people, and even tries to speak Spanish (which our kids tease her about, since they are much more fluent than she) when the situation requires. Jan is a top professional and really is an inspiration to me in many ways.

“As a ‘hobby,’ I am attempting to complete the restoration of a 1958 Porsche Cabriolet. It’s been a 14 year project, and it is a source of almost constant taunting. So, in response, I am making a list of those people who won’t be riding in it, which after 14 years, includes most of the northern hemisphere.

“There has been really only one career for me, with several variations. I went from Wabash to work for the state in what is now the department of environmental management. I helped get several programs started back in 1973-76, during which time I got my master’s degree in urban and regional planning. Then I went to work for two consulting engineering firms as a city planner, with the second firm leading me back to employment as director of Community Economic Development for the Indiana Department of Commerce. After leaving DOC, I started my own consulting firm, Wabash Scientific, Inc., which specializes in community development policy analysis.

“My firm has been lucky to do some very interesting things, and to be involved with some very interesting projects over the years. And most interesting of all is the virtually constant revelation over the last 30+ years of how Wabash had enabled me to be effective in a multi-disciplinary environment, and to move between disciplines to develop solutions. Self-employment is interesting. Most importantly, I understand that the boss is a jerk, but now I know when he is lying to me (which before I never could prove).

“The political stuff you offer is fine with me, regardless of which side you are on. I’ve been a Republican since before Wabash, despite being from a family of union Democrats. Disgust with things like Enron and Tyco, and issues like social and community responsibility, make me kind of a political hybrid. The Republicans get most of my contributions and most of my intellectual capital, but I have found individual Democrats to support.
Study Reveals  
Continued from page 7

who attend liberal arts colleges tend to arrive with higher test scores and an appreciation of learning.

Pascarella ran the data. He carefully controlled for the differences in entering SAT scores, essentially leveling the playing field for all of the students in the survey. And he found what he thought he would: the improved educational outcomes for students at liberal arts colleges, once the controls were in place, were not statistically significant.

Blaich then worked with Pascarella to develop a continuous scale of liberal arts education—variables for the type of education received not institution type.

“We created a measure that was based on what colleges actually do, not what they call themselves,” says Blaich.

The research team came up with a formula of variables, which they called the “Liberal Arts Emphasis,” or essentially the good teaching and learning practices often found at liberal arts colleges. They based the variables on commonly held research, and again had Pascarella perform the data run. Pascarella took his huge data sample, again controlled for ability of the students, and threw in Blaich’s “Liberal Arts Emphasis” variables.

The Eureka moment finally arrived. And the results created quite a buzz at the Center of Inquiry recently.

What Pascarella and Blaich found was that there are significantly stronger educational outcomes for students who pursue a liberal arts experience, which Pascarella rightly points out can be found at large universities and small colleges, but more often at liberal arts colleges.

“What we found matters most is whether the institution has a liberal arts emphasis and whether the student pursues it,” said Pascarella.

The results for students of color and students with lower average ability were even more pronounced in places where the liberal arts was emphasized.  
Continued on page 9

Class of ‘73 News

Jim Thomas

“I will structure this letter somewhat along the topics you suggested.

“1. To some extent, I embarked on a second career immediately after completing my first stint in graduate school. After majoring in Chemistry at Wabash, I completed a PhD in Physical Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1978. However, I did not pursue a career in Chemistry as I had planned, but instead became an Operations Analyst, which is sort of an applied mathematician. I started as an Operations Analyst for the Center for Naval Analyses, a federally funded research and development center in Alexandria, VA, that performs analyses for the U.S. Navy.

“In 1985 I joined McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis, which has since become part of Boeing. Several years ago I became interested in financial analysis and returned to graduate school at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville to complete an MBA and an MS in Economics and Finance. I have also completed the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) self-study program sponsored by the Association for Investment Management and research. Last summer I completed the third and final CFA examination and will be eligible to receive my CFA charter once I complete the required work experience. Toward that end I am becoming increasingly involved in financial analyses at Boeing. I would not rule out leaving Boeing in the next few years for a twilight career in some aspect of the financial services industry.

“2. My wife and I married the summer before my senior year at Wabash, and we will be celebrating our 32nd wedding anniversary this August.

“3. Our two daughters are 25 and 26 years old. The older daughter is a cosmetologist in St. Louis, and the younger daughter is a nurse in Fort Worth, TX. The younger daughter will be getting married in Fort Worth at the end of May.

“4. My most consistent hobby is training retrievers. Most Saturdays a group of us meet to train our dogs together. My current dog is the third Golden Retriever I have trained for field work.

“5. Although I have come to like the Cards over the course of the 18 years we have lived in St. Louis, I am still a Cubs fan. I learned long ago, however, not to have any expectations regarding their performance. It is much better to be pleasantly surprised than bitterly disappointed.

“6. I did not make a pick for the NCAA, but I likely would have picked Duke because of Coach K. He seems to have competitive teams year after year, and his teams seem not to beat themselves.

“7. I have gotten back to Wabash a few times in recent years. My wife and I made it back for at least part of the 20th and 25th reunion weekends. I made it back for the reunion for science majors a few years ago, and I attended the dedication of the new science building last fall and the memorial service for Dr. McKinney last winter. The new science building and the new athletic facilities are extremely impressive. The campus still feels timeless, though, which I consider to be a good thing.

“8. Under most circumstances it is difficult for me to participate in activities on campus during the week or on Friday evening, so my wife and I missed the main gathering for the 25th reunion, and we did not attempt to return for the 30th reunion. We occasionally participate in activities with the alumni group in St. Louis.

“9. My political beliefs have not changed much. I still tend to be fairly liberal with regard to social policy. I have become more conservative with
Study reveals
Continued from page 8

So, what does it all mean? Pascarella says he thought the data run would be “a bust” and that he was excited that there are significant effects for students who pursue a liberal arts experience.

One researcher asked, “But how do we determine which schools do this better than others?”

Answering her question was harder than it should have been since George Kuh was in the room. Kuh heads up the National Survey of Student Engagement at Indiana University, and his team has spent the last five years identifying colleges and universities that most engage their students, where best practices are in use.

What’s clear to is that there finally is evidence that a liberal arts/best practices approach leads to better learning outcomes, so families ought to be asking the same types of questions that Kuh and his NSSE survey ask when considering colleges and universities.

As Blaich says, “Families should look carefully at institutions, and we’re going to try to identify the things they should look for. NSSE will be helpful, but they need to do other things as well. The research is important to the Center because it will direct the conversation that we’ll now begin with high school counselors, parents, teachers, and students.”

The Center of Inquiry was founded to serve as a catalyst in the liberal arts. By bringing together people like Pascarella and Kuh, and by focusing on clear and relevant data, the Center appears to have hit its stride.

The beneficiaries of this good work will be future generations of college students who will make more informed college choices and thus get a better education.—JIM AMIDON

Class of ‘73 News

Jim Thomas cont.
Continued from page 8

regard to fiscal policy, and my economics and finance studies have led me to be a strong believer that (over the long term) free markets generally allocate resources most efficiently. My voting often does not follow my political beliefs, however. I tend to vote against incumbents on the basis that mediocrity should not be rewarded.

“10. Turning to religion, I am fascinated and awed by the nature of the physical world. Beyond that I never have attempted to characterize my religious or spiritual beliefs. My personal ethics are deeply held beliefs, but they do not derive in any explicit way from my religious beliefs.”

Ken Ganza

“I’m not usually this cooperative, but I thought I’d reply to your solicitation for information, because I know what it’s like to face a deadline in need of stuff to write about. And being a fellow of little imagination, let me reply simply by following the format of your inquiry:

“1) First career went south when I failed to get tenure at Colby College, where I’d been teaching Asian art history since 1990. (Colby is in Waterville, Maine. It’s a central-casting small, New England liberal arts college, like Wabash but completely different.) Decided to stay in Maine because family (1 wife, 3 kids) have lives here, and I was tired of tilting academic windmills. Second career should be coming along any day now.

“2) One marriage. One month short of twenty-five years, and today’s odds are fairly good that we’ll make that milestone.

“3) Youngest child is a boy, 7. Also have boy, 16, and girl, 11. Oldest boy is a church organist, girl is drama queen, and youngest boy is in training for Al Qaeda.

“4) Don’t play golf. Actually pawned my clubs a few years ago because we needed money, and never looked back. Don’t drink beer. Alcoholism. It’s like perpetual Lent with no hope of Easter.

“5) Who cares about the Cubs? You live in New England, you are a Red Sox fan. And yet every Sox fan shares a spiritual bond with Cubs fans—an inner toughness forged by decades of collective futility and frustration. It makes us special.

“6) I had the College of Cardinals.

“7) Some of the fraternities seem to have improved to the point that they wouldn’t accept us any more if they had to do it over again. Certainly true of mine, the Delt House. Other than that, the few times I’ve been back have triggered more feelings of continuity than unfamiliarity.

“8) I’d certainly go back more often if not for the geography thing.

“9) Amen to that, brother. I don’t consider myself Republican per se but a rabid conservative culture warrior. (“Republican” around here means the likes of Olympia Snowe, Susan Collins, and the whole Northeastern moderate thing.) Someone once defined a social conservative as a liberal with a daughter in junior high, and that’s probably an apt metaphor for what happens to us when we age and have kids. Don’t get me started.

“10) Welcome aboard. My Catholic faith has been a source of constancy over changing times, and I dare say you’ve had similar experience with it. Or not. But you will, if you haven’t. My wife is a Unitarian, but the kids are being raised Catholic. The 7-yr-old is still seeking ways of reconciling religious faith with the sheer pleasure of being bad. Now there’s a metaphor for life.”
Malcolm X at Wabash

nation’s first

The nation’s first Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies was founded at Wabash College in 1970.

The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies at Wabash College provides students with a variety of resources including a library, recreational room, computer, classrooms and others.

Visitors are often surprised to discover that the nation’s first Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies was founded at Wabash. As they relax in the newly dedicated 8,500-square-foot MXI building that fits so well into the architectural scheme of this campus, they might assume that the Institute is one more academic program meticulously planned and slowly implemented through a series of committees and initiatives, as are most such programs on college campuses.

“In 1967, a group of African American students organized the first African American student organization at Wabash College,” the Institute’s official history reads. “The seven students wanted to create an organization to serve the needs of African Americans at Wabash and to protect their interests.”

One immediate need arose during the traditional Chapel Sing of the College

Continued on page 11

Class of ‘73 News

Pete Allen

“I’ll just work my way through the list you provided.

“1. Second career? I passed job #2 a long time ago. Robin Pebworth, when he was heading up Career Services at Wabash, used to look forward to talking with me just to see where I was working. Currently, I’m the System Administrator for Tippecanoe County Government in Lafayette, Indiana. I keep the computers and networks operating for the courts and courthouse staff, the county offices, the sheriff’s department, and such. I came here after being a consultant in computer programming.

“2. Marriage? Patsy and I will celebrate our 30th anniversary this September. How she puts up with me—I have no idea.

“3. Children? Erica is 27, Mike is 25, Jeff is 21, and Andy is 12. Andy and I spend a lot of time at the Allen Center playing racquetball and basketball (one of the terrific perks of being an alum living in Crawfordsville is being able to use those facilities!).

“4. Hobbies? We spend a lot of time with my kids and grandkids (grandson #4 is due the 20th of April). And there’s usually a few Wabash students hanging around our house. During the summer we do some autocross racing.

“5. What I really think of the Cubs’ chances this year? The Cubs might do as well as last year, but more because of mediocre performances by their competition than the Cubs being exceptional this year.

“6. Who did I pick for the NCAA champion? I really couldn’t get into the tournament this year. Sorry.

“7. The Friday and Saturday of Honors Scholars weekend, I attended a focus group meeting on the college’s relationship with its alumni. Part of the reason for scheduling the meeting for that weekend was to give us an opportunity to meet with the high school seniors who were trying to get scholarships—an impressive group of young men.

“The focus group was divided into Wabash grads for the 60s, 70s, and 80s. I was joined in the 70s group by Ted Grossnickle (’73) and Michael Dockendorf (’72), along with some from after our days on campus.

“Other than some incredible new buildings, much of Wabash is the same. I don’t recall the workload being put on the students today as being quite so intense when we were there (but, then again, I wasn’t known for my regular class attendance or study habits.).

“8. We’re on campus 4-5 times a week. But I encourage everyone to try to get back to Wabash at some time. Dockendorf made a comment during the focus group that he had stayed away from campus for over 25 years. He didn’t realize how neat Wabash was until he finally made the trip to Crawfordsville.

“9. Yeah, my kids really can’t grasp why we would travel to DC to protest war and get thrown in jail or to Birmingham or Selma to support racial equality. These days, I’d be classified as “conservative”.

“10. Besides family and work, most of my time is spent working with the Campus Crusade and FCA groups at Wabash. Between the two groups, they account for around 120 students. Why do I do it? I suppose I believe that a Wabash student needs to be a well-rounded individual by the time graduation rolls around.

“To be “well-rounded” and an asset to the community outside Wabash, they need to develop a sense of service to those they meet and have some solid moral values. So, I normally spend a few nights a week meeting with members of this group of men. There are usually some students (anywhere from 4 - 10) who join us at our house for lunch on Sunday afternoons. It’s really exciting to watch how these men grow.
Malcolm X

Continued from page 10
song. Customarily, freshmen who forgot the words to the song during Chapel Sing were penalized by the Sphinx Club, whose members would shave a “W” into the freshman’s hair. When two African-American students made such mistakes in 1967, they protested the shaving of the “W” into their newly grown afros, stating that the haircuts were a symbol of cultural pride and solidarity.

The controversy that arose shone a light on “the need for African Americans to join together to protect their interests,” the Institute’s history explains.

One of the Institute’s founders—Keith Nelson ’71—recalls those first days of the organization.

“After we formed the Afro-American Student Association, we told the College that we needed a place to get together and discuss issues.”

A College-owned house was rented to the group, many of whom took up residence in this new Afro House. But they soon realized that a facility separate from the living unit would be needed, and in 1970 the students, along with professors Finley Campbell and Peter Frederick, offered a proposal to the College.

“That summer, we worked with Professor Frederick, taking an old raggedy college house, cleaning it inside and out, painting it, adding furniture, a kitchen, and a pool table,” Nelson recalls. “That first year we had seven brothers—the next year, 15. We formed a family—the Malcolm X family. And we joined the College, because we couldn’t have accomplished what we did without that support.”

By 1979, when MXI member Keith Lee ’83, joined the institute, the establishment of the Institute was no longer a concern.

“Our group was more concerned about improving the Institute, and we structured MXI in a different way,” Lee recalls. “We started up another African studies course and worked through the already established Owen Duston program to bring faculty of color to

Continued on page 12

Class of ‘73 News

John Gastineau

“I am an attorney in a small firm (4 attorneys) with offices in four towns or cities, including Fort Wayne and LaGrange, Indiana. The overhead is killing me. We are primarily litigators, but since one of our offices is in a small, rural area, we also do the traditional stuff: wills, estate planning, real estate. We also do a lot of work for local governments. I represent two regional sewer districts, for example. I did not imagine when I went to Wabash or to law school, for that matter, that I would know as much about sewage as I do today, although the constitutional aspects of the subject are intriguing.

“This is my third career. I started out working for newspapers when I left Wabash. After seven years of working as a reporter, photographer and editor for newspapers in Indiana and upstate New York, my family and I returned to Indiana so my wife could go to school. I spent a couple of years at home, taking care of our son, working as a freelance editor, and writing a novel that is now on its 30th draft and destined to remain in a drawer for the sake of readers everywhere.

“When it became apparent that one actually has to work to eat and so forth, I went to work as an editor and eventually editorial director for a textbook publisher in Indianapolis. Two acquisitions and three reorganizations later (at one point, I was fired and promoted in the space of 3 weeks by different divisions of the same acquiring company, it occurred to me that perhaps I needed to do something that would give me a little more control over my career.

Thus, law school, and the rest is as “they” say.

“My mother is convinced that I am unable to hold a job. I like to think that as a student of the liberal arts I am capable of figuring out most things without formal training. I am also willing to consider the possibility that I am easily bored.

“I am on the same wife. Jane and I met while I was at Wabash and she was a student at Depauw on a blind date arranged by Mike Shaver. I have been, over the course of 30 years, alternately annoyed with and grateful to Shaver for that. Our son, Adam, is a graduate of Indiana University. He spent two years teaching English in a couple of small towns in Japan and now works for the City of Fort Wayne while he tries to get into law school. Our daughter, Clare, is a junior at Indiana University, although she is spending the current semester in Japan and France. Since we had free translators available, Jane and I have traveled to Japan and France in the last couple of years, and both were great trips.

“I have no hobbies, except collecting refrigerator magnets from places around the world. My goal is to build a collection large enough to pull all the food in metal containers to one side of my refrigerator or to drag small children with braces off course as they walk by my house, whichever comes first. I have started working out, too. Tripping on my own endorphins is the best thing I’ve found since I gave up recreational drugs, lo, those many years ago, but it tends to run contrary to the sedentary lifestyle I enjoyed for 50 years.

“If it’s all the same to you, I will decline the invitation to talk about politics or religion.”
Malcolm X
Continued from page 10

“‘When I joined MXI [in 1988], I was shocked to discover we had disagreements, just like any family has disagreements,” recalls Institute member Alonzo Weems ’92, now an attorney with Eli Lilly. “But in the end we knew we were here to help each other grow socially and intellectually, and all that happened for us through MXI.”

But the legacy Weems is most proud of from his time with the Institute is MXI’s mentoring program for area schoolchildren—the KQ&K.

“We began tutoring Crawfordsville students—black students and white students—twice a week, and we had picnics on campus and got other members of the Wabash community involved,” Weems recalls.

“We didn’t just give lip service to our concern about our community; we realized we have to be accountable and show through diligent and consistent efforts that we’re going to make an impact on our community. And I’m proud that the guys in MXI today continue to do that.”

At the dedication of the new MXI building in November, founding member Charles Ransom called the Institute of his era “a port in the storm.”

“It was a place where we could go that would feel like home,” Ransom recalled.

As Wabash President Andy Ford stated at the dedication of the new Malcolm X Institute for Black Studies in November: “MXI has played an extraordinary role in the life of this College. We now have an expectation of its doing even more, as we try our very best to implement the mission of this College.

“We all express that mission of the College differently,” Ford said. Then he quoted from Malcolm’s letter from Mecca.

‘I have always kept an open mind, which is necessary to the flexibility that goes hand-in-hand with every form of intelligent search for truth.’

Class of ‘73 News

Jim Laurent

“Not much to tell you other than I’ve been living in Southern California since August of 2001. Prior to moving out here I had spent the previous 8 years living in central Virginia.

“I’m still in the medical malpractice insurance business, 28 years now. I never remarried although I have a significant other who is an artist. We’ve been together almost 11 years now, a lot longer than either of my two marriages.

“I work in Century City which is right next door to Beverly Hills, but I actually live about 25 miles away right off of Malibu Canyon Road. It is beautiful out here and the weather is great, but I do miss the change in seasons.

“Traffic is unimaginable unless you’ve experienced it first hand. Do a good deal of cycling (bike) although I no longer race.

“I do see some celebrities on occasion, such as Martin Sheen, Dick Butkus, Stacy Keech, etc. No, I haven’t been discovered yet. Probably no need for gray haired has beens.”

Lee Clark

“On March 27, long-time Lambda Chi faculty advisor and classics instructor John Fischer was honored at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis. He is retiring after 35 years at Wabash. Over 100 attended the event.

“Lambda Chi’s from 1973 included Ted Grossnickle, Rob Lempke and myself. It was great from the perspective that alums from the 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and current all came back to honor John. Pete “LaMont” Durant was back for the first time in over 30 years, Mike “Cakes” Gregory was back from Texas (he and LaMont were in tuxes), Butch Alberico was there, with brothers, sons and daughters, as MC.

“J.J. Paul III was there; he is the top DWI attorney in Indianapolis and lectures around the country about it. Gordie Goodwin was there; he is a psychologist at Fort Lee in Virginia, and said if he told us what he did he would have to kill us. Dr. Bill Cook came back and represented the group from the 60’s; his speech gave us an indication of why he is such a popular professor. Also there were Mike Dockendorf, Skip Burhans and Frank Hagaman.

“After the dinner a large group went to a bar about three blocks from the Columbia Club for drinks and further visiting.”

Michael Loudon

“I’m a professor of English at Eastern Illinois University where I am in my twenty-first year. My wife Maureen Robinson is Director of the Nye County Mental Health Center in Pahrump, Nevada. We’re in our 27th year of marriage.

“I have a son Brian, 24, a graduate of Antioch College in Social and Global Studies, who lives in Yelapa, Mexico, where he teaches English, publishes a weekly newspaper in Spanish and coaches basketball. My daughter Kate is an assistant manager at the local Taco Bell.

“Highlights in academia have been constant involvement in the African American Studies program at EIU, a sabbatical at the U of the West Indies in Trinidad in ’90-’91, and one last year at the U of Guam in the fall with travel in Switzerland and Italy in the spring.

“I’ve been back to campus for Bert Stern’s retirement, and I’ll return again this spring for Peter Frederick’s retirement.”