November 2004

Dear Class of 1986:

**College:**

Gentlemen! I trust all is well. It certainly appears to be going well at the campus in Crawfordsville. First, the Campaign for Leadership ended this summer, surpassing its goal. The six-year goal of $100 million was eventually increased to $132.5 million and eventually topped out at over $136 million.

As a direct result, many new buildings now dot the Wabash landscape and others have been renovated. The new science building was dedicated in the name of Tom Hays ’55 recently. The Allen Athletics Center, the new Malcolm X Center, and many others have all been added in recent years. As always, I would encourage you to venture back there if you have not had the chance. It is truly remarkable and even more beautiful than before.

By the time you receive this letter, the Monon Bell game will have been played. The football team was ranked earlier in the year, but a couple of tough, close losses have left us once again looking to the only game that matters.

I know President Ford has been making the rounds discussing the next phase for Wabash. There was a breakfast recently here in Indianapolis that I was not able to attend. However, I would like to use this space to make the following suggestion.

In short, I think we ought to invest now in students, more particularly students in need. I see this happening in two ways. First, I would encourage a guaranteed legacy program. Essentially, my idea of a guaranteed legacy program would allow for any male child of a Wabash alum to receive free tuition, books, and fees (not housing), if an unfortunate death of his father occurred while he was pre-college or college age. In other words, if something were to happen to you, your child could go to Wabash for free (and pay his own room and board) if he qualifies otherwise academically. I think it sends a message that says, “We take care of our own” and would also be a powerful selling point to parents bringing their children on campus for a visit. The cost of such a program could be calculated someone brighter than me, but I have to believe that the cost of such a program would pale in comparison to the dollars raised in the campaign for leadership.
Second, I believe we ought to continue to find ways to get young men to Wabash who would not ordinarily be considering going there. For example, there are a couple of different programs about which I have read in the last couple of years that assist Appalachia children or inner-city children who might otherwise not have thought about even going to college, much less Wabash. A particularly interesting one is the Posse Foundation. I do not profess to be an expert on this program; yet, it is my understanding that a group of students from similar backgrounds, if not the same high school, are brought into college classes together. They overlap their classes, if not their living arrangements, so that they share the experience together while not feeling ostracized by their new environment.

Again, I do not mean to suggest that this program is perfect for Wabash. I merely suggest it as one that seeks to find “non-traditional” students and jump start their dreams. In the early 80s, I think Wabash did that for me. No matter the perspective, I think people would have defined my environs as “trailer park trash” when I was a young man. Yet, Wabash, at that time in its history, actively pursued the road less searched, and I’m forever grateful.

So, if you have an idea for Wabash, by all means, send it on. You are welcome to send them to me, or you can contact the College directly.

**Class of 1986:**

Our own Father Mike Reding gave the sermon at graduation this May. While I cannot reveal my source, I heard that none other than Bill Placher said it was the best he had ever heard. Here’s the link to Mike’s sermon for your review and reading pleasure. [http://www.wabash.edu/magazine/displaystory.cfm?news_id=1955&issue=SF2004](http://www.wabash.edu/magazine/displaystory.cfm?news_id=1955&issue=SF2004)

While it has been awhile, I spoke with Zaheer Shah in the past year, and visited him in Rhode Island. He has a great practice and had brought his brother and father from Indiana out to work with him. He had also visited with Chris Ferris who is involved with research at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

I was reading some political news online recently and a story caught my eye. FBI Agent, Tim Campbell, evidently played a key role in the public corruption task forces investigating East Chicago, Indiana. His work brought to justice the “sidewalk six” and their trials have held high publicity in that area and in the South Bend area where the federal trials were held. In a related note, Mayor Bob Pastrick was defeated after nearly 30 years in a special primary this fall.

Speaking of publicity, Tim Campbell and Matt Beebe have been burning up the airwaves this summer. First, Matt was featured on an HBO segment of Bryant Gumbel on Sports this summer when the show did a story on Cialis. Matt heads up the marketing of that drug for Eli Lilly worldwide. Campbell and his wife, Barb, got a small surprise when they recently visited New York for a family vacation. They were stopped on the street and ended up taping a “Top Ten with David Letterman” spot which appeared on the air.

Our own Jim Riddle is the architect for the new design for the FIJI house. (Jim, I know you are from Oklahoma, but please…no horns over the fireplace mantel!).

I should note that the Beta house and Lambda Chi have finished their renovations. The new Sigma Chi house is up. The new Phi Delt house is also under construction.
The Season of Giving

As we enter the season of giving, (and the last opportunity to seek deductions on our taxes for tax year 2004!), I would encourage each of you to consider giving something to Wabash this, and every, year. For those of you in our class that give regularly, I would encourage each of you to consider increasing your commitment. I have tried to religiously give back to the College each year. Some years, I have been able to do more than others. This year I made the decision to increase that commitment. There are many ways in which to give. I took the option of having the amount automatically deducted from my credit card each month.

Alumni Referrals

Close to 43% of the 250 who started at Wabash this fall were referred by an alumnus. Unfortunately, we are nearing the age where more and more of our friends and co-workers have children in high school. Fortunately however, that provides us the opportunity to talk to those parents and prospective students about Wabash. You can get online and do so rather easily and I would encourage each of you to look for these opportunities. I have to admit: it’s always more fun to go back to campus and see a friend’s son at one of the fraternities.

That is all for now. Hope the holidays provide everyone with a safe and relaxing time. I would leave you with this plea:

1.) Go get a full physical. We are at the age where it matters more.
2.) Get involved (even if it is only glancing at the website every so often) with Wabash.
3.) Enjoy life and give back. No one ever attends a funeral where a man is praised for making a lot of money, ignoring his family, and hoarding his assets, financial or other.

Yours in Wabash,

Tim

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