May 23 2005

Dear Classmates,

It has been some time since I have written everyone. After all, spring is here and I have a short game to work on (golf, people. I’m talking about golf.) But I somehow set aside some time to pen this letter (my wife thinks I am paying the electric bill. Ha! Parker 1, Wife, 0). So here’s the big news of the year: President Andy T. is stepping down. Below is the full article posted on the Wabash website by Jim Amidon. Following that is some more general news.

**Ford to Step Down as Wabash’s 14th President**

One of the most effective and accomplished presidents in the 173-year history of Wabash College has announced that the 2005-2006 school year will be his last at the helm of the liberal arts college. Andrew T. Ford, who became Wabash’s 14th president in 1993, told members of the Board of Trustees of his intention to step down at the end of the next academic year at the conclusion of the Board’s regular May meeting.

“It is with mixed feelings that the Board accepts President Ford’s decision to step down,” said John N. Fox, Jr. ’64, chairman of the search committee. "The Board so appreciates the enormous contributions Andy and Anne have made to transform Wabash College during their tenure.

"Andy’s success is directly related to his ‘students first’ attitude in everything the College does. By focusing the work of the College on the students, he has inspired faculty to be more creative as teachers and alumni to be more supportive as volunteers and donors. His vision for Wabash to be the preeminent liberal arts college has been clear and unwavering, and there is evidence of his success in doing so in every facet of the College."

Fox will chair a search committee comprising Executive Committee Chairman Stephen Bowen ’68, Kevin Clifford ’77, and Bill Wheeler ’83 that will hold its first meeting on June 10. Board of Trustees Chairman Joseph D. Barnette, Jr. ’61 will serve as an ex officio member of the committee, which will include students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Ford, a 1966 graduate of Seton Hall University who earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, has been one of the most effective presidents in Wabash history. He became Wabash’s 14th president in 1993 on the heels of a controversial and divisive study of coeducation. Since that time, the College’s enrollment has stabilized; the endowment has nearly doubled; and the physical landscape of the College has become dramatically different.

Ford led Wabash to a successful conclusion in its largest fund raising campaign ever. The Campaign for Leadership outstripped its original $100 million goal when it ended June 30, 2004 with a total of $136 million in gifts and pledges. The Campaign generated funds for innovative cross-cultural immersion learning programs and faculty development, as well as new facilities for science education, recreation and athletics, and the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies.

Perhaps Ford’s greatest achievement was landing the College’s largest ever gift, a $20.8 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to establish the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College. Also under Ford’s leadership, Wabash established in 1995 the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, another Lilly Endowment-funded initiative. The Wabash Center holds dozens of national workshops for teachers of religion at the undergraduate, graduate, and seminary level. It is also a grant-making agency for faculty development.

In 2003, the National Association of Wabash Men, the College’s alumni body, elected him an honorary alumnus for the
Class of 2003.

The search committee hopes to recommend a final candidate to the Board of Trustees for its January 2006 meeting.

FIJI's Break Ground on New Chapter House

By Jim Amidon

Two-dozen alumni joined the undergraduate members of Psi Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta as the Wabash College fraternity broke ground on a new chapter house.

The $5.1 million house, designed by Psi Chapter alumnus Jim Riddle ’86, captures many of the same architectural elements found on the current chapter house, which was built in 1927.

"We started with a Tudor style to match the traditional architectural design from 1927," says Riddle, who owns his own architecture business in St. Louis, Missouri. "The front has three large gables which symbolize the Greek letters of Phi Gamma Delta and stand for the principles on which the fraternity was founded. It has six large windows in the front which symbolize the six men who established the fraternity. And we worked in a diamond theme throughout the house, so in many ways the physical structure is the embodiment of the fraternity's principles."

The chapter house’s capacity will be 65. Riddle points out that the most significant difference is in room size; study rooms will be approximately twice as large as current rooms. "This is exciting because today's college students bring so much with them—computers, refrigerators, stereos; it's not like the time when the fraternity was built and men pretty much came to Wabash with just a suitcase," adds Riddle.

The new fraternity will feature a much larger kitchen, plus a student kitchen that will be open for students to grab a bite 24 hours a day. There are several shared study, conference, and computer rooms, primarily on the upper floors. Central air conditioning and a sprinkling system are welcome additions to the new house, amenities the old chapter house didn't have. "It's amazing how many college students die from faulty wiring and fires on campus," added Riddle. "So while students don't think much about modern electrical and sprinkling systems, the new house will certainly be a much safer place to live."

"This has been a six year labor of love," says Psi Chapter Housing Corporation President Greg Miller ’83. "It's so nice to finally break ground on the project that builds on the chapter's history and traditions, but will serve future generations of Fijis."

Miller pointed out that Psi Chapter alumni have raised approximately $2.5 million toward the project's estimated cost of $5.1 million. "We've done a great job of raising funds so far, but we still have a lot to do. We feel like our alumni will be excited about the unique opportunities the new chapter house will provide for the undergraduates."

The house is being constructed directly across Grant Avenue from the Center Hall parking lot. General contractor for the project is Geupel DeMars Hagerman of Indianapolis. Constructed is set to conclude in time for the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. The project is part of the ongoing Fraternity Partnerships, which are part of the Campaign for Leadership.

Work Nearing Completion on Phi Delta Theta

Workers under the direction of Brandt Construction are on schedule to complete construction of the new chapter house for Phi Delta Theta later this summer. The $4 million project is part of the Campaign for Leadership's Fraternity Partnerships. Demolition of the old house on the corner of College and Walnut was completed last summer. The new facility will be ready for fall occupancy by members of Phi Delta Theta and the incoming freshman pledge class.
Wabash College Graduation Celebrates 163 Seniors
by Howard W. Hewitt

Under cloudy skies and cool temperatures, Wabash College President Andy Ford continued Sunday a decades’ old tradition and rang out the Class of 2005.

Using the school bell which once belonged to founder Caleb Mills, Ford sent Wabash’s 163 graduates on to graduate school, medical and law school, impressive positions in business and into the world as Wabash men.

The ceremony on the campus mall featured the usual traditions, pomp and circumstance of the annual rite of passage. Two graduating seniors spoke about their Wabash experience.

Justin Grimmer, a Griffith native, urged graduates to always live in the moment.

"The moments in our life that are the most salient and important remain indescribable with words," the summa cum laude graduate said.

"Rather, we can only hope to conjure the context in which the moment occurs in order to reconnect with the part of our soul that was uncovered. Therefore, life cannot be an attempt to accumulate moments for reflection. Rather we must embrace the significant moments as they occur, for reflection will never yield a true understanding of their importance."

Byrd Brothers Team with Panther Racing for 500 Entry
by Jim Amidon

March 25, 2005

Jonathan and David Byrd (’97 & ’98) will be teaming with Panther Racing to attempt to qualify a car for the 2005 Indianapolis 500.

The partnership between Byrd Brothers and Panther Racing was announced at a press conference on March 24. "It feels like a return to the good old days at the beginning of the Indy Racing League," said Jonathan, a philosophy major and 1997 graduate of Wabash who is also the general manager of the family’s successful Jonathan Byrd Cafeteria in Greenwood, Indiana.
Panther Racing is a two-time IndyCar Series Champion and is the winningest racing team in Indy Racing League history. The driver for the No. 95 car will be 1996 Indy 500 Champion and 2000 IndyCar Series Champion Buddy Lazier. "Buddy is a good friend to our family, so we're excited he'll be in the driver seat of the Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria/Panther Racing/ESPN 950/Dallara/Chevrolet in the 2005 Indianapolis 500," said Jonathan.

It was a series of serious health problems for their father, Jonathan I, that brought the brothers back together. "When Dad got sick, we got together and decided we needed to come together and step up," said Jonathan II. In addition to running the company's cafeteria and operations, Jonathan is also president of Raven Broadcasting, which recently purchased Indianapolis ESPN affiliate 950 AM. David Byrd, who majored in both philosophy and religion and graduated from Wabash in 1998, is the director of operations of Byrd Enterprises, which owns five hotels in Goodyear and Peoria, Arizona. David serves as vice president to his brother in Raven Broadcasting, Inc.

Lazier's No. 95 will once again be sponsored by Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria, which is returning as an Indianapolis 500 sponsor for the first time since 2001. Joining Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria as a primary sponsor of the Chevrolet-powered entry will be ESPN950 WXLW. At present, sponsors of the No. 95 also include WHMB TV 40 and US Foodservice, with additional sponsorships expected to be announced in the near future.

Panther co-owner John Barnes is pleased to be working with the Wabash grads. "Everyone at Panther Racing is excited to have the Byrd Brothers join with us for this year's Indianapolis 500. The Byrd family has a long history at the Brickyard, and with this partnership, we are proud to be able to bring them back to the Speedway," Echoing those comments, Jonathan added, "Panther is such a fantastic racing team. My brother and I consider it an absolute privilege to be able to join with them to form Byrd Brothers/Panther Racing and return to Indianapolis to take another shot at winning the 500."

"Just to be able to have a car at the Indy 500 is a dream come true for me," David said. "With Buddy Lazier as the driver of that car, we believe that the dream of winning the Indy 500 is absolutely within reach."

In one of the most impressive displays of tenacity and determination in the history of racing, Buddy Lazier won the Indianapolis 500 in 1996, just three short months after suffering serious back and pelvis injuries in a testing crash at Phoenix International Raceway. In 12 starts at Indy, Buddy has recorded five top seven finishes, which include his 1996 victory, two runner-up finishes in 1998 and 2000, a fourth place run in 1997 and a seventh place finish in 1999.

Lazier, speaking about his opportunity with Byrd Brothers/Panther Racing, said, "After you get a win at Indianapolis, all you can think about is winning it again. Now that I'm going back to Indy with the resources of the Byrd Brothers/Panther team, Chevy power, and two great teammates, I believe that I can make it back to victory lane at the 500 this year."

Byrd Brothers/Panther Racing and Buddy Lazier join current Panther drivers Tomas Enge, and 2002 Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year Tomas Scheckter, to solidify an outstanding May lineup. Tomas Scheckter has led 148 laps in just three starts at IMS, which ties him for 33rd on the all-time list. Panther spotter/driver coach Tom Sneva was the 1983 Indianapolis 500 winner.

• The Wabash College Annual Fund
  Thank you to the more than 2,975 alumni, parents, and friends who have made a gift to the Wabash Annual Fund so far this fiscal year. As students are finishing up their final papers, studying for exams, and preparing for summer internships, we are mindful that our fiscal year is also coming to an end. We are working on having as many alumni as possible contribute to the Annual Fund during the current fiscal year which ends on June 30, 2005.

  Gifts to the Annual Fund have a direct impact on students through—
  • Scholarships—The Annual Fund supports opportunities like President’s Scholarships, Honor Scholarships, and several other merit- and need-based programs.
  • Technology—Wabash maintains over 380 computers across campus dedicated for student use and several software programs are used in classroom teaching and discussion. Gifts to the Annual Fund enable Wabash to provide students with the best technology available.
• Immersion Learning Trips—This past spring break, over 100 students toured the globe to gain an in-depth understanding of their classroom studies through immersion learning programs. Annual gifts enable Wabash men to embark on immersion learning trips at little or no additional cost to the student.

• Facility Upkeep—The Wabash landscape has changed over the past few years with new and renovated buildings. There is an ongoing need to keep these facilities looking their best for Wabash men and gifts to the Annual Fund make this possible.

These are just a few of the many examples of how an Annual Fund contribution has a direct impact on current Wabash students. If you have yet to make a gift to Wabash this year, then please consider making your gift online today at www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift or by calling 877-743-4545.

2005 Indiana License Plates
Alumni and friends with vehicles registered in the State of Indiana are eligible to receive a Wabash College License Plate www.wabash.edu/alumni/plates with a gift of $25 or more to the Annual Fund. A gift of $25 is required for each license plate purchased.

• **David Blix ’70**, assistant professor of philosophy and religion has been selected as a **2005 Carnegie Scholar**. Read this story and other news from campus at www.wabash.edu/news/.

• **Admissions**
The May 1st deposit deadline is less than a week away. Now is the ideal time to encourage your recruits to send in their deposit check securing their spot in the Wabash Class of 2009.

If you are looking for some information to share with prospective students, this Wabash Top Ten list may be helpful:
1. Rated as a top tier National Liberal Arts College by U.S. News & World Report
2. One of the 40 colleges and universities featured in Loren Pope’s Colleges That Change Lives
3. 4. 97% of our faculty holds a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree and there are no teaching assistants at Wabash
4. Ranked in the Princeton Review for the following categories:
   - Best Overall Academic Experience for Undergraduates
   - Schools Where Their Students Never Stop Studying
   - Professors Bring Material to Life
   - Professors Make Themselves Accessible
   - Students Happy With Financial Aid
   - Best Bargains (ranked 2nd for private schools)
   - Lots of Race/Class Interaction
   - Everyone Plays Intramural Sports (ranked 3rd)
5. 50% of our students participate in an off-campus study program
6. Currently have an 85% acceptance rate into medical school
7. Currently have a 95% acceptance rate into law school
8. 1-8 of our graduates hold the title of CEO, president or chairman
9. 44% of our students participate in a varsity sport
10. 13% of our graduates have earned a Ph.D.

• The search has begun for the new **Director of the Schroeder Career Center**. The College has begun a national search to replace current director Rosalind Lister as she will be leaving that post at the end of this spring semester. If you know of someone who would work well in that position please encourage them to apply.
Deon T. Miles
I would like to let everyone know that I am moving into a new home. The address is:
651 Wildflower Circle
Chattanooga, TN 37419

I have also just completed my third year of teaching chemistry at Sewanee: The University of the South. I thoroughly enjoy it and am looking forward to many more years of teaching.

James M. Scurlock
I recently completed my MBA and am now working for SBC in Global Accounts.

Steve King
I was recently awarded the designation of Certified Financial Planner by the CFP Board of Standards. Thank God I passed that nasty exam, because this aging brain isn't retaining as well as it did in Dallinger Organic Chemistry. On another note, the Greater Cincinnati Association of Wabash Men (GCAWM) recently welcomed President and Mrs. Andy Ford and History Professor Richard Warner to another successful alumni dinner and prospective student night at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse on the Ohio River. As President of the GCAWM I was responsible for hosting the event but more importantly I'm responsible for finding the next president.
So guys from 1997 in the Cincinnati area we'd love to invite your involvement.

Eric Borgert
Here are a few things that have changed for me.

1. Got promoted to Validation Lead (computer system validation) - still consultant/contractor to Lilly.

2. Now coaching a Little League baseball team at Westlane Delaware Trails in Indy. This sort of sums up our year so far: In our first game, our starting pitcher allowed 2 hits and struck out 10 in 5 innings. We were winning 5-0. The head coach decided to pull him to get some experience for another kid. Three pitchers, two crying players, and 6 walked-in runs later, we lost 6-5.

3. I'm supposed to go on a mission trip to Honduras next Spring, so maybe I'll be hitting up everybody up for a contribution.

4. If anybody is looking for Jimmy Hall (Sigma Chi/class under us), he's living in Ft. Wayne next to a good friend of mine from high school that went on to DePauw. And Jimmy's knee is still swollen I think.

Jared White
I recently moved from Louisville, KY to the New England area as the General Manager for UniFirst Corporation servicing all of Vermont & New Hampshire.
New home address & phone is:

177 Hardy Hill Road
Lebanon, NH 03766
Home phone: 603-448-2298
Todd Sarti
I just recently took a position in Rhode Island with AMGEN Biopharmaceuticals as a Quality Analytical Labs Associate III, particularly within the Whet Chemistry and Bacteriology group of the Microbiology Lab. It sounds complicated, but it's a rather large facility! The Rhode Island plant makes AMGEN's up and coming blockbuster drug, Enbrel, used to treat Rheumatoid Arthritis among other FDA-approved indications. I am excited for the change and the opportunity to work with this company, but it is quite a scale up from the type of pharmaceutical environment I am used to working in. In addition, making the adjustment to a New England style of living will be a challenge as compared to my midwestern roots, however, I look forward to being a Patriots and Red Sox fan and eating copious amounts of lobster and crab legs. My new address is:

166 Valley Street, 6M301
Providence, RI 02909
401-569-9881

Parker Lyons
I just returned from seeing “Star Wars, Episode III – Revenge of the Sith.” For those of you who know me, you’ll know that makes me very happy. Earlier this month, I attended the “Star Wars Celebration 3” in downtown Indy for 4 days. Got some great pix to share with you all:
Take care everyone. If you have some class notes or pictures you would like to contribute for the next letter, send them to me at parker.lyons@covance.com.

Parker