January 7, 2004

Class of 2000,

This Class Agent letter contains just a single piece of news. However, it’s such an important piece of news that I thought it appropriate to devote an entire letter to it. Over the Holidays, I received the message below from the College.

-----Original Message-----
From: Jim Amidon [mailto:amidonj@wabash.edu]
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2003 8:20 AM
To: wally-announce-l@wabash.edu
Cc: runget@wabash.edu
Subject: Sad News

Friends,

I’m sad to report that Professor and Dean Emeritus Paul Caylor McKinney ’52 passed away Saturday, December 20, in his home after a long battle with cancer. His wife, Irmi, and children were with him at the time of his death. Professor McKinney will be cremated and there will be a private family service.

Wabash students, alumni, and friends are invited to a memorial service on Saturday, January 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Wabash College Chapel. A reception will follow in the International Hall of Detchon Center.

Professor McKinney taught at Wabash from 1956 through his retirement in 2001, marking the longest teaching tenure in College history. He served as Dean of the College from 1982 through 1993.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wabash College.

James Amidon
Director of Public Affairs and Marketing
Secretary of the College
Wabash College
P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN  47933
765-361-6364; FAX 765-361-6424
I immediately passed along the message to the rest of our class via email (if you didn’t receive it, the College doesn’t have your email on file; email it to me at peast@1stbooks.com and I’ll pass it along to them).

You can read more about Dr. McKinney’s passing at
http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/news.cfm?news_ID=1294

Below are some of the comments that our classmates have sent to me about this legendary professor and amazing man who undoubtedly had a profound impact in the lives of hundreds of Wallies.

Yours in Wabash,
Pat

Han Ong, hong@bio.indiana.edu

My fondest memory of Dr. McKinney was when I requested him to write me a letter of recommendation for a summer internship in my junior year. The first time I walked into his office to do this, he was at his desk playing solitaire on his computer. After a simple greeting, I asked him how he was doing to which he replied, “Solving the equations, Han, just the usual”. I don’t know about any of you but I usually use a calculator to solve math problems! But I know he was thinking hard even as he was doing mundane tasks. He once told me that he would have studied the human brain if he was in biology. That pretty much says what a man he was - eager to unravel the mysteries of the universe but at the same time, was astonished at the human capacity and power of the mind to be able to participate in such an endeavor.

Isaiah Kalinowski, IsaiahKalinowski@go.com

These were my thoughts when I first read the news on the website. I immediately wrote my Pledge Brothers to appraise them of the sad news. --Isaiah

-----Original Message-----
From: “Isaiah”<IsaiahKalinowski@go.com>
To: --
Date: Mon Dec 22 10:55:42 PST 2003
Subject: Prof. McKinney just passed on.

>Brothers,
>
>Who could forget the marriage of Father Sky and Mother Earth in their Promethean progeny, fire? Even more, who could forget the man who recreated the marriage through medieval alchemy and gave us the taste of science’s forbidden fruit?
>
>Sadly, that man has moved on from this life. The Wabash site did a news write up on the bittersweet event:
>
>http://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=1294
>

You should read it, remember him from when we knew him, and remember him and his family in your Christmas prayers.

He remains a brother in our hearts forever.

A.E.K.D.B.

DUMP

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[From Pat: Dr. McKinney was a Kappa Sigma and fraternity brother to Isaiah.]

Dave Sharp, davemsharp@hotmail.com

Let me first thank you for sending the e-mail. Until now, I was not aware of Dr. McKinney’s passing. Also, collectively gathering notes and memoirs about Dr. McKinney is a great idea. I had Dr. McKinney my freshmen year for my freshmen tutorial. I was an English major, therefore, this would be my only class with Dr. McKinney. The freshmen tutorial was a class on multicultural literature, which only strengthens Dr. McKinney’s teaching abilities in my mind. Here he was, a chemistry professor (and a great one at that), and he is leading a group of freshmen reading a novel by Richard Wright or Sandra Cisneros? I extremely enjoyed that class and it set the tone for what a “Wabash class discussion” would become in my experience. He also arranged for us to read a novel by Richard Rodriguez and after the completion of the novel we, as a class, had the opportunity to luncheon with Mr. Rodriguez and discussion his novel. Talk about cool! Dr. McKinney continually asked about my personal reading throughout the tutorial and into the summer break. Dr. McKinney always remembered me from that class and throughout my four years as an undergraduate, and returning as a alumnus, Dr. McKinney ALWAYS addressed me by my first name and genuinely seemed interested in my progress as life-long student of literature... not chemistry! Wabash has lost a wonderful professor, an intelligent teacher and incredible mentor. May he continue to share his knowledge and talent forever!

Jason Harvey, jason_daniel_harvey@yahoo.com

My regards to Dr. McKinney:

Although he was known best for showing Wabash Men the value of fire to the philosophy of Chemistry—”man’s greatest gift,” he once said in class; Dr. McKinney was at his best showing us Wallies the value of having fire in our determination, which we all thank him for that.