



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1952

Class Agent

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Dear '52ers

PLAN NOW FOR OUR 65th REUNION

Our Wabash Class '52 65th Reunion is set for the weekend of Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4 and two of our classmates have already advised they plan to attend.

From the Hills of Maine, I received this e-mail on 1/10/17: "Today we booked passage for the Big Bang. Hope to see you there. **Jim & Peg Thomas.**"

And from California one week earlier on 1/3/17 at 6 pm, our Senior Council President **Norm Buktenica** called with a similar message that he also plans to attend. (More good news from Buck later in this Letter.)

I've asked Michele Ward of our Alumni Office to attach to this Letter copies of photographs taken at our 60th Reunion as reminders of that good dinner we enjoyed on the second floor (which has an elevator for us oldsters) of Trippet Hall. Those of us present may well recall our discussions then continued through the evening - and even back at our hotel until midnight.

Can we replicate this on Saturday night, June 3, 2017? Don't know. But we are sure going to make every attempt to do so. Wabash Alumni Director Steve Hoffman says that what we initiated five years ago has been copied by classes following ours to the point where in June 2016 the Wabash class of '56 had 18-20 alumni and spouses attend.

More to the point, Steve will reserve for us the same Trippet Hall, second floor, arrangements we enjoyed at our 60th, and if an insufficient number of us sign up he will merge our dinner with the Golden Little Giants. Peg Thomas has agreed to again give the invocation at mealtime.

This advance notice is so all of us at this early date may now initiate plans to attend. Also attached to this Letter is a copy of present itineraries for the Big Bash weekend which include dinner at the Knowling Field House for all returning classes Friday night, June 2, separate class dinners Saturday, June 3 as reported above, with a concluding Sunday June 4 brunch back in the Knowling Field House. Schedule updates will be available on the Wabash web-site www.wabash.edu. Next hit the word "Alumni" on your screen, and finally "Big Bash" on the right side of the third page to appear on screen.

UPDATE ON 'DANNIES'

Our October 2016 Letter began with Wabash archivist Beth Smith's query about the origin of the term 'Dannies' as applied to male DePauw students. She also reported the first use of the term was in a *Bachelor* article of January 13, 1956. You may recall I responded to her the word was familiar to us during our class years of 1948-52. Several of you have written to confirm this recollection and I have advised our archivist accordingly. While we still do not know when it began, it was in vogue by 1948, if not before.

Fellow alumnus Dr. Gordon Colson of Indy (class 1958) e-mailed me this message: "Hi Bill. I agree that the term 'Dannies' was used prior to 1956. There aren't many guys left from the 30s and 40s who have all of their marbles" But he expresses the hope some of them are contacted anyway.

Archivist Beth, are you reading this? Be forewarned of Gordon's observation as your quest continues. Please report if you find any info that the word was in use any earlier than by us. Or do we appear to be among the first?

CLASS MEMBER UPDATES

Paul Arnold recently ran across a free book on Amazon and suggested it might be interesting to report in a Class Letter. From the description and comments, Paul opines it might be an interesting read for Wabashers and Crawfordsvillians. He has downloaded the book and "when I get to it I'll send a report "The Wabash-in-1897 book is not new, he continues, as the copywrite date is 2013. "Interestingly, it is dedicated to a (post-Charles) classics professor." To be continued, right Paul?

From Scottsdale, Arizona, **John Gallios** reported in the course of a recent telephone call that he and wife Angela have moved to a smaller house now that their children and grandchildren are all graduated and on their own. John has put his golf clubs away, and says that he is now "not well, but not sick either," which well describes a lot of our classmates. After Wabash, he earned his M.S. in Pediatric Dentistry at Univ/Illinois, where he remained as an associate professor and at the same time practiced Pediatric Dentistry. "And I very much enjoyed all three: Wabash, my long career, and teaching," he concluded.

Classmate **Bill Ransom**, says that he is "obviously now long retired" from having been an architect and in the lumber business at the Carmel-Frankfort area of Indiana. He and his wife are now living in Ft Wayne IN these past 11 years. Their recent travels together (using the Road Scholar program familiar to many of us) include France and the western US, plus some revisits to Indianapolis which Bill notes has undergone recent changes. Because many of us now reside far away from Indy, which we would frequent on occasional weekends during our days at Wabash, perhaps a few of Bill's observations about that city of our youth might well be worth sharing here: Many newer and taller commercial buildings have been constructed downtown. A vastly expanded commercial and residential north has developed. Founded in 1989, the *Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art* (where **Bill**

Ransom formerly served as a volunteer guide) is a major downtown attraction. Please Google *Eiteljorg* for more info and praise as well as recent Indy changes. My son Andrew (Wabash '85) and I enjoyed a visit there last December during its annual *western trains* exhibit at Xmas time.

(Bill Ransom is one among the very few in our class to have escaped the clutches of **Dick Daniels '52@50** autobiographical sketches most of us he coerced into writing about exactly 15 years ago.)

During his winter sojourns to escape the cold from his home in Minnesota to the warmer climes of Palm Desert, California, classmate **Norm Buktenica** has been teaching at a Braille Institute to assist people senior to our age bracket. He boastfully claims to still playing golf and tennis. Sculpturing remains a hobby. And he yet volunteers at Hospice. All this makes one wonder what he does in his spare time? No matter. Way to go, Norm. *Some Little Giant!*

From the east coast, by way of contrast although **Jim Thomas** plans to attend our Big Bash as previously reported, he has expressed “hope that Sphinx Club members will be offering golf cart transportation around campus again. I didn’t need that last time, but would welcome such service in 2017.” Yes, Jim, I’ve been advised this is included in plans for the Big Bash again this year.

As for **Bill Reinke**, I am somewhere in between those two coastal guys Bucktenica and Thomas. How so? While I can no longer play tennis like Buck, I do not yet require a wheelchair. About a year ago we were snowed in with no electricity for three hours, so Liz & I went to a nearby Pancake House for brunch. A lady in the next booth said that I looked like Bernie Saunders. I replied: Please don’t vote for me. So that may account for (hopefully) my not looking a day over 80? My wife says I am a dreamer!

NEWS FROM THE CAMPUS

The Wabash chapter of Phi Gamma Delta celebrated its 150th anniversary this past October, 2016, as reported in *the Bachelor*. Congratulations. *It has been on campus since 1866.*

My own fraternity, Delta Tau Delta, is just now in its first year on campus. How so? Well, we were kicked off campus some time back over the death of a freshman pledge, as you may recall was previously reported in detail, and only recently have returned to campus at the same Shelter.

The Independent Martindale Hall has been completely renovated, including a reported “exquisite entry way where students can sit and enjoy the fresh air.”

In sports, Wabash senior Kyle Stucker reached an uncommon milestone toward the end of last fall’s football season: He has now played all five positions on the offensive line. He started out as a sophomore playing right guard. As a sophomore he played right guard. In his junior year, he was the team’s starting center, where he earned All-Conference awards and Academic All-Conference Awards. As a senior, he started out at the left tackle position, later right guard, and in the middle of the game against Oberlin he was shifted to replace an injured right-tackler where he remained for the rest of the season.

Speaking of football, in the traditional last game of the season vs. DePauw, the “Dannies” beat us 37 to 34. Even so, it was an exciting game to watch, which we did from a bar in Mishawaka with a combined alumni group from both schools. Our Little Giants also lost to Wittenberg, which appears to be the powerhouse in our conference, 24-14 earlier in the season. The rest of the games Wabash won handily, viz: Albion (41-34), Allegheny (59-7), Hiram (45-21), Oberlin (51-0), Kenyon (24-3), Wooster (34-24) and Denison (22-14).

Bill

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Left to right: **Sam Harrell, Russ Thrall, Irmi McKinney, Peg & Jim Thomas, Nick Steele, and Paul Arnold.** Then an about-face for a view of an adjoining table:



Clockwise from lower left foreground: **Hugh Smaltz, John Poncher, Norm Buktenica, Bill Reinke, Ted Steeg, Jim Youngjohn, and Mike Austin.**



Other side of same table viewed from where photographer Reinke was seated in foregoing picture: **Ted Steeg, Jim Youngjohn, Mike Austin, John & Gwen Poncher, Norm Buktenica**

THE BIG BASH 2017 SCHEDULE

Casual Dress for the entire weekend.

Friday, June 2, 2017

8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. - Registration in Chadwick Court- Allen Center. Stop by Chadwick Court for latest Big Bash information. There you'll have the opportunity to sign the ***Alumni Register***, which is important for your class as it competes for the attendance awards. After registration, meet your classmates for refreshments in the **Scarlet Inn** and get the latest Wabash gear in the **College Bookstore**.

10:00 a.m. - Wally Wabash Golf Outing (Crawfordsville Country Club). Hackers and serious golfers alike will want to form a foursome for the Wally Wabash Golf Outing. Foursomes will compete in a Florida scramble, best ball format with a shotgun start. Prizes will be awarded for low gross, as well as for closest to the pin and longest drive. A boxed lunch will be available so you can eat on the fly. Directions to the course available at registration.

11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. - Campus Tours. Tour guides from the Sons of Wabash will lead alumni and friends on tours of campus. Each tour is about an hour in length, so wear comfortable walking shoes. Golf carts will be provided for alumni and guests who are unable to walk the campus. Tours depart from the steps of the Allen Center at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. — 12:45 p.m. - Welcome Back Luncheon. We offer a casual buffet lunch in the Knowling Fieldhouse. Catch up with other alumni, faculty, and current students at the luncheon.

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Tommy's Scarlet Nickel. The traditional Tommy's, as many of you knew it, has been lost. However, TWR and other beverages can be had at Tommy's Scarlet Nickel, a temporary establishment right here on campus. Meet your classmates for a drink under the tent north of the Allen Center entrance.

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Wally 8.0: A Symposium on Technology in the Liberal Arts. The eighth annual symposium will be integrated into the Big Bash Reunion weekend and will feature presentations from alumni and faculty/staff demonstrating the breadth and depth of the liberal arts. Presentations will be offered simultaneously throughout the afternoon. The list of speakers will be shown below after the start of the New Year.

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Scarlet Yarns: Your Wabash in Story and Song. Scarlet Yarns is a collaboration between the Archives, Alumni Relations, and *Wabash Magazine* to record on digital video the stories of Wabash alumni of their days at the College. The recordings will be preserved in the Robert T. Ramsay Jr. Archival Center at Wabash and some stories will be transcribed for use in *Wabash Magazine*. Swing by Lilly Library, where staff will be on hand to assist you.

5:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. Reunion Reception. All reunion attendees are invited to a lively reception and cash bar in the Knowling Fieldhouse.

6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m. - Big Bash Banquet. The Big Bash Banquet is one of the highlights of the weekend. Classes will sit together in Knowling Fieldhouse and enjoy a wonderful meal by Bon Appetit. President Gregory Hess will present the class of 1967 with their 50th reunion medallions and make a few brief comments.

Saturday, June 3, 2017

8:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. - Registration in Chadwick Court - Allen Center. Stop by Chadwick Court for the latest Big Bash information. There you'll have the opportunity to sign the **Alumni Register**, which is important for your class as it competes for the attendance awards. After registration, meet your classmates for refreshments in the **Scarlet Inn** and get the latest Wabash gear in the **College Bookstore**.

8:30 a.m. - Fun Run/Walk. If you run, you'll want to compete in a two-mile or four-mile race that begins on the oval at Hollett Stadium. If you walk, shake it loose early, grab a buddy, and join the fun. All competitors (serious and not-so) will receive a free T-shirt just for coming out.

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Scarlet Yarns: Your Wabash in Story and Song. Scarlet Yarns, is a collaboration between the Archives, Alumni Relations, and *Wabash Magazine* to record on digital video the stories of Wabash alumni of their days at the College. The recordings will be preserved in the Robert T. Ramsay Jr. Archival Center at Wabash and some stories will be transcribed for use in *Wabash Magazine*. Swing by Lilly Library, where staff will be on hand to assist you.

9:45 a.m., 2:15 p.m., & 3:30 p.m. - Campus Tours. Tour guides from the Sons of Wabash will lead alumni and friends on tours of campus. Golf carts will be provided for alumni and guests who are unable to walk the campus. Tours depart from the steps of the Allen Center at 9:45 a.m., 2:15 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

11:00 a.m. - Alumni Chapel Sing on the Chapel Steps. There won't be any "W" haircuts given this time, so if you forget a word or two, no big deal. But there will be singing when Wabash hosts its annual Alumni Chapel Sing. You'll sing along with members of your class and compete against the other nine reunion classes. Volume counts, so don't let your mates down. Learn the words to Old Wabash all over again, stretch your vocal chords, and relive what many Wabash men recall as their fondest Wabash memory.

12:00 p.m. - Picnic Lunch - Knowling Fieldhouse - Allen Center. We'll wrap up our Alumni Chapel Sing with a festive and casual picnic in the Knowling Fieldhouse.

1:00 p.m. — 1:30 p.m. - Class Photographs. Starting with the Class of 1962, class reunion photographs will be taken every three minutes in the Allen Center. Bring your spouse/partner as two photos of each class, with and without spouses/partners, will be taken.

1:00 p.m. — Class of 1962

1:03 p.m. — Class of 1967

1:06 p.m. — Class of 1972

1:09 p.m. — Class of 1977

1:12 p.m. — Class of 1982

1:15 p.m. — Class of 1987

1:18 p.m. — Class of 1992

1:21 p.m. — Class of 1997

1:24 p.m. — Class of 2002

1:27 p.m. — Class of 2007

1:30 p.m. — Class of 2012

1:33 p.m. — Other Classes and Golden Little Giants

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Tommy's Scarlet Nickel. The traditional Tommy's, as many of you knew it, has been lost. However, TWR and other beverages can be had at Tommy's Scarlet Nickel, a temporary establishment right here on campus. Meet your classmates for a drink under the tent north of the Allen Center entrance.

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - *Scarlet Yarns: Your Wabash in Story and Song.* Scarlet Yarns, is a collaboration between the Archives, Alumni Relations, and *Wabash Magazine* to record on digital video the stories of Wabash alumni of their days at the College. The recordings will be preserved in the Robert T. Ramsay Jr. Archival Center at Wabash and some stories will be transcribed for use in *Wabash Magazine*. Swing by Lilly Library, where staff will be on hand to assist you.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Academic Department Receptions. The following academic departments are hosting receptions to welcome back their majors and minors for the Big Bash. We hope you will stop by the designated location shown below to meet the faculty.

Biology Department - Courtyard Area Behind (east side) Hays Hall

Physics Department - Goodrich 102 (George Carscallen Commons)

Psychology Department - Baxter 312

2:00 p.m. — 2:45 p.m. - Colloquium: TBD

2:00 p.m. — 2:45 p.m. - Colloquium: TBD

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Fraternity houses open for visits.

3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - Colloquium: TBD

3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - Colloquium: TBD

4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. - Colloquium: TBD

5:30 p.m. - Class Receptions and Dinners. Each reunion class will have its own private reception and dinner catered by Bon Appetit. You'll go entirely at your own pace and will have lots of time after dinner to reminisce, relive old memories, and tell lies. Dinners will begin at 6:15 p.m. and locations will be noted in your registration packets.

Sunday, June 4, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Complimentary continental breakfast in Chadwick Court.

8:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass - TBD

9:45 a.m. - Ecumenical Chapel Service - Pioneer Chapel.

11:00 a.m. - Big Bash Awards Brunch. We'll say fond goodbyes at the Big Bash Brunch in Knowling Fieldhouse, where President Hess presents several reunion awards.