



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1952

Class Agent

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Dear '52ers,

When I returned home last night, Fathers' Day June 18, from a good long day family outing, there was a message on my telephone asking that I return a call from our classmate **Bill Etherton**. His recorded voice on my phone was not strong, so I returned his call immediately.

Bill reported that he is now located at "Copper Trace," a retirement center in Noblesville, just a bit northeast from Indianapolis. He reports having fallen out of his wheelchair and broken some bones (including his pelvis) and wanted me to know. His wife Jodie is in therapy also.

As you all are well aware, I usually refrain from including a lot of health notes in these Class '52 Letters, because they are so many that doing so would leave little room for anything else to report.

So why share this ill health report from Bill? Well, at the end of our conversation he advised he intends completing a second book which he hopes to have published later this fall. His first book, as you may recall from one of my Letters a year or so ago, is entitled *Good Night and Good Sports*, a 136 page publication with a foreword by Coach Ara

Parseghian, which focuses on Bill's broadcasting of Notre Dame football and basketball for over fifteen years. His new book-in-process will cover the same territory, but with different stories and contents. And that is why I share this report with all of you immediately: for most of us, if not all of us, are somewhat at that down-and-out stage as fellow octogenarians. But what we yet plan to do in the future keeps us going. Right?

As for me, it's that upbeat discussion toward the end of the conversation with Bill Etherton which impels me to begin this Letter the very next day on Monday, the day after Father's Day. Now getting the Letter finished and published timely may well be another matter. But at least the first hurdle is now behind me and that's a good start.

CLASS '52 @ 65 in 2017

I've asked Michele Ward, my trusted Wabash Alumni Office contact and publisher, to post a picture in this Letter showing attendees at our 65th Reunion held at what is now call the "Big Bash" of alumni classes. Those of us present at dinner Saturday night, June 3 in Trippet Hall include (from left to right in the photograph) **Jim Thomas** from Penobscot Maine; **Nick Steele** from Greencastle, Indiana; **Irm McKinney** from Crawfordsville (our classmate Paul McKinney's widow); **Norm Buktenica** and his bride **Jonne' Lerner Buktenica** from Palm Desert Calif and Vergas Minn; and yours truly, **Bill Reinke** from South Bend, Indiana. Not pictured is our photographer **Peg Thomas**, wife of classmate Jim Thomas.



A little bit of nostalgia: As I am sure all can remember from our youthful days as students on the Wabash Campus, it was neat to see the old retired alumni back for campus reunions. So now it has become our turn. Only this time we few represented the oldest class to have a reunion this year! And that has never happened to us before.

I mentioned this observation to someone ahead of me in line at one of our breakfasts, and he replied: “Not so; I am from the class of ’49.” “But your name and class do not appear on the roster of alumni present this year,” I protested. “No,” he replied, “Because of my ill health I did not expect to return; but here I am.” He gave me his name: Frank Beardsley, Wabash class of 1949.

65TH REUNION PROGRAM

So what was our dinner program for Saturday night? Well, if you will recall from my April Letter, we had planned to view **Ted Steeg**’s film about Wabash College as professionally produced by Steeg Productions Company of New York. But before our dinner Saturday

night, Alumni Relations director Steve Hoffman suggested that it may be best if the College just mail each of us a DVD from Wabash College from which we can each view the film at our own respective homes. And we won't have to pay for it!

So our after dinner program was the same as what we did five years ago at our 60th: There was no program. Instead, as shown on Peg Thomas's photo, we just occupied one big rectangular table 'round where we ate and talked together and separately. We just talked...and talked...and talked...

One of the things we talked about was the following poem which **Jim Thomas** brought with him and read aloud to our small '52 Class Reunion. I may not have the paragraphing correct, but no matter, for the message is good, clear, and well worth sharing here and now.

A POEM

The poetry in the life of a college like Wabash is to be found in its history.

It is to be found in the fact that once on this familiar campus and once in these well-known halls,

students and teachers as real as ourselves worked and
studied, argued and laughed and worshipped
together,
but are now gone,

One generation vanishing after another,

as surely as we shall shortly be gone.

But if you listen,

you can hear their songs and their cheers.

As you look, you can see the torch which they handed down to us.

Byron K. Trippet '30
Ninth President of Wabash College

Somehow, these words just sink in, don't they? I asked the Thomases for the source of Dean/Professor/President Trippet's above-quoted remarks, as I could not find them in his magnificent book *Wabash On My Mind* (1982). Response: The only source the Thomases have for the Trippet quote is Wabash College 2016-17 Academic Bulletin found at <http://bulletin.wabash.edu/about-wabash/>

RICHARD T. MORAN
(d. February 11, 2017)

Classmate **Dick Moran** attended Wabash as a member of our Class '52 in both his freshman and sophomore years before leaving to serve in the Korean War. An Independent at Wabash, he is pictured next to **Norm Buktenica** in both our 1949 and 1950 Yearbooks.

He spent his career in various positions at NJ Bell/AT&T. Born and reared in Morristown, New Jersey, he and his surviving wife Anne Daniher Moran continued to reside in New Jersey where they reared two children: son Timothy of Japan and daughter Kathleen Madison and her three children and two great-grandsons.

Some Little Giant!

A FEW END NOTES

The Wabash Glee Club 125th Anniversary Celebration is scheduled for September 28-30, 2017, and this is just a “heads up” for those among us who may be interested in attending as there will be much more about this event from our Alumni Office in the next few months.

Although Wabash College offers no Journalism classes, its students have produced an award-winning newspaper for 115 years in the best liberal arts tradition. *The Bachelor* has propelled Wabash graduates to successful media careers, such as the following: Former Time Magazine Miami Bureau Chief Tim Padgett '84, CBS and ABC veteran news reported Dean Reynolds, '70, and CBS News' Ryan Smith '03, a producer for 48 Hours Mystery, are just a few of the Wabash graduates and former *Bachelor* staffers working in the national media. In recent years experienced journalists like Ron Recinto '87 have left print and moved to online journalism. Recinto is now the Detroit editor for Yahoo Online Media.

The Bachelor has really excelled in recent years, winning 174 Indiana Collegiate Press Association Awards since 2008. The staff came home with 25 awards in the 2016 contest. The state press association named *The Bachelor* “Indiana’s Best Small College Newspaper” in 2009, 2011, and

again in 2014. *The Bachelor* still publishes each Friday during the school year, just as it did in our college days.

This e-mail from Steve Hoffman on 2/2/17 to the NAWM board, Class Agents, and regional leaders: “Kudos to all of you for your diligent work! Wabash is ranked #1 in the nation in Princeton Review’s top alumni networks. Here is the link: <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings?rankings=best-alumni-network>.”

Speaking of which “alumni networks,” please drop me a line concerning what you’ve been up to, what’s going on in your world, and any other news or questions you may wish to share. Before wrapping up this issue, I tried telephoning classmates **Chris Kirages** in Noblesville IN and **Jim Miller** in Florida, but was unsuccessful in using the telephone data included with the Roster sent to each of us via US Mail from the Alumni Office last month. So please contact me with some update info using any of the several communication modes offered below my signature.

Go Wabash!

Cordially,

Bill

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