WABASH COLLEGE



Class Agents Letter
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Class of 1952

Class Agent

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Late June, 2018

Dear '52ers

INTRODUCTION

My most recent Class '52 Letter was dated March 2018. So now composing and sending another just three or so months later "ain't bad at all," in the vernacular of our youth in the mid 1950's. Right?

So let's begin with some of the good news up front. The requisite obituaries come later.

"THE GREATEST CHALLENGE"

"If you buy a bad car you'll find out pretty quickly. You can return it and ask for your money back. With a college education, you might not find out it was bad until 20, 30 years after graduation.

"But if you look at the track record of our alumni 20 and 30 years out, you'll see liberally educated Wabash men living lives of promise, purpose, and professional fulfillment.

"When it comes to leadership in business and politics in Indiana and elsewhere, we have a disproportionately large footprint.

"If you look at philanthropic returns to the College, we have *the highest* rate of alumni giving in the Great Lakes Colleges Association and are 16th nationally. Our alumni know the difference Wabash College made in their lives, for their families, and for their communities."

If these words sound familiar, they should be as they were crafted by the 16th president of Wabash College, Gregory Hess, and you likely read them on pages 12-13 of the Winter 2018 edition of *Wabash Magazine*, which each of us should have received earlier this year.

Powerful message, isn't it? And well worth repeating here and now.

CLASS '52 HONOR ROLL

Each year I customarily provide in this Letter an "Honor Roll" of our '52 classmates and widows who contributed so far this year prior to the Wabash fiscal year end of June 30. This Honor Roll serves the twofold purpose of (1) recognition and (2) secondly to encourage more of us to give some money to our *alma mater*. So here is an interim listing dated as of June 19, 2018:

Bob Elkins	Wilbur Appel	George Vann
Tom Henderson	Mike Austin	Betsy Beasley
Roland Hultsch	Hugh Smaltz	Irmi McKinney
John Iuppenlatz	Dr. Don Fisher	Wanda Millet
Gail Mullin	Brad Johnson	Jean Peters
Jim and Peg Thomas	Russ Thrall	Bill Reinke
Norm Buktenica	Dr. Tom Vernon	Elizabeth Mahrdt
Jim Lemon	Mike Austin	Brad Johnston

If I have missed or overlooked anyone, please call me at 574-271-1941 and I will make amends after first expressing my profuse apologies. Remember, if you please, this listing is as of June 19, so there is still time

THOMAS A. KLINGAMAN

(April 4, 1930 - June 1, 2018)

Our classmate **Tom Klingaman** was a member of Beta Theta Pi, the Sphinx Club, and the Glee Club while at Wabash —And he ran track. His Wabash barbershop quartet still sang together 60 years later. A resident of both Scottsdale Arizona and Maple City, Mich., Tom died peacefully in Scottsdale. Tom is survived by wife Marilyn, four children and six grand-children

He served as a Trustee at Wabash from 1981-2001, as an *emeritus* trustee thereafter, and received an honorary degree from his alma mater. Tom also alerted me to news in the making about Wabash, and this was of great help to me in writing the Class '52 Letter over the many years past.

After earning his MBA from Indiana University in 1954, Tom enjoyed a successful 35-year career at Eli Lily & Company in Indy, retiring in 1986 as an Executive Vice President.

On a more personal note, his obituary contains this paragraph which is well worth sharing here: "He loved his family, Wabash, the Chicago Cubs, train adventures, and Glen Lake, Michigan. Memorial contributions can be made to Wabash College."

So here's a toast to our classmate Tom Klingaman - *Some Little Giant!* May he rest in peace.

JAMES B. THOMAS (July 10, 1930 - June 16, 2018)

Peg Thomas e-mailed me recently that her husband (and our classmate) **Jim Thomas** suffered a stroke on May 25. He asked that Peg let me know, and then she signed off "With wonderful Wabash memories. Peg"

Jim has since passed away and his funeral services are set for Tuesday, July 10th at 10:30 am at Trinity Episcopal Church, Castine. Reception to follow.

As I wrote back to Peg:

"You two are among my closest Wabash Class '52 best friends. You both kept me going as Class Agent. Although residents of the far off 'From the Hills of Maine,' I always felt like you were right next door. I fondly recall your telling me that when a Class Agent's Letter arrived in your mailbox, it was a challenge between you two as to who got to read it first."

Hailing from Indianapolis, Jim was a Kappa Sig, a division 1 Biology Major, and member both of the Wabash Glee Club and *the Bachelor* staff.

In his post-Wabash days, Jim went on to procure his MS degree at George Washington University (1958), Ph.D in 1962 (also at GWU), and M.D. at Michigan State in 1972. He later served on the faculty at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem NC, followed by Michigan State service at its College of Human Medicine and the Lyman Briggs Science Honor's College.

Besides his wife, The Rev. Dr. Margaret Ann Thomas, he is survived by several children and grandson Blake.

So here's another toast. This one is for our classmate Jim Thomas. *Some Little Giant!* May he also rest in peace.

A PERSONAL NOTE

It has been my pleasure to have served as your Wabash Class '52 Agent for almost a half century.

No, this is not a farewell message (at least I hope it is not), but is merely intended as an observation I now wish to share with you in this Letter.

In this capacity as class agent, it has been my pleasure to report on successes, achievements, and yes some failures, over the years. I have, and still am, much enjoying this reporting activity. It keeps me "in touch" (another colloquialism of our 1950's youth) with y'all, and I have much enjoyed performing this task.

I especially enjoyed my sabbatical in January a few years back when **Ted Steeg** and **Paul Arnold** took over my role in doing this Letter for a few months while I unfortunately underwent some health recovery issues. Good team. They did a great job!

The fun part has been reconnecting with you, my classmates. How so? Well Sue Carol Colvin (who's mother was the cook and confidant of many in the Lambda Chi fraternity house southwest of campus), and I married late in my Junior Year at Wabash. Sue and I lived in "Mud Hollow," the housing area for married men attending Wabash, and this semi-isolation got me a little out of touch with my classmates. So, this role of being your Class Agent has enabled me to reconnect, so to speak, and I have enjoyed greatly doing so.

I am soon to reach the grand age of 88. Only the good Lord knows how many years remain, and He is not telling me. (Or perhaps He has tried to tell me and I am just not listening?) So, this is a fond farewell, expressed when I can still do so. I have much enjoyed the trip over this lifetime with you, my fellow classmates.

A ROSTER UPDATE

Wabash '52 Classmate **Donald B. Miller** recently advised that his new cell phone number is 706-970-9436 and that "All is well in the mountains of North Georgia. We are on the border with Tennessee & North Carolina on a beautiful lake. Anyone in the area of the Blue Ridge is more than welcome to stop in. Our girls are in NC - one in Raleigh and one in Franklin (30 minutes away). Nice to have them relatively close. Hope all is well — Don."

Great news! Thanks for that update, Don.

Please read again the above message from **Don Miller** and consider if you might write a similar update about yourself and family.

ADDENDUM

Please go back and re-read the great stuff about **Tom Klingaman** and **Jim Thomas** on pages 3-4 of this Letter. Wow! What truly *Great Little Giants* were among our classmates in our Wabash Class '52! And remember that we are members of what *Time* magazine labeled us many years ago as "The Silent Generation."

An aside to **Serve Charles**, *Editor* of our <u>Wabash Magazine</u>: Steve, you really owe me big time for these Obits on Kling and Jim! Please put my write-ups to good use, as I know you will. Thank you.

Cordially,

Bill

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