



Class of 1952

Class Agents
William J. Reinke

Class Agents Letter

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Labor Day, 2019

Dear '52ers

A REPORT FROM RUSS THRALL

Russ Thrall's first grandchild celebrated his first grandson's 37th birthday on August 24. Russ capped off the event by reporting to me this update on what also is going on with him in Arlington, VA.

His wife Marilyn, a DePauw co-ed, passed away 9 years ago leaving Russ "with 3 wonderful children, 6 grandchildren and 4 great granddaughters....not a Wabash man in the lot.." Russ retired from the practice of law 23 years ago. He also has a summer home in Delaware "where I am headed this week for a little vacation. My kids and grandkids use it all summer long. I am absolutely delighted with this arrangement."

"There have been ups and downs as with anyone else," Russ continues, "but my life so far has been very satisfying. I would credit Wabash with heading me in the right direction. Not just academically, but as a life experience as well." Nicely said, Russ, and thank you for your report. It is just the push I need to get going on what has become my annual Labor Day Class '52 Agent Letter.



ANNUAL GIVING

A report on annual giving usually comes right after the end of the fiscal year at Wabash (June 30) or the calendar year (December 31). So I thought a report to you on Labor Day might be more productive now than later.

The Wabash Director of Annual Giving is **Aaron Selby, class of 2006**. As of June 21, Aaron reports we are just 410 alumni short of achieving the self-imposed goal of 45% alumni participation. "Each 118 donors raise us up another percentage point," he observed.

Enough said. Please put this info to good use during the next several months before year-end arrives and before pleas for donations from other good causes confuses and distracts you from considering Wabash. As Russ Thrall observed above: "I would credit Wabash with heading me in the right direction." I am certain many of the rest of us could echo this thought.

CLASS '52 MAILING LIST

The College sent me a report concerning our current mailings. It is an interesting report and is well worth sharing here and now:

As of three months ago, there are 18 of us Wabash Class of '52 alumni receiving this Class Letter. 23 non-graduates in our class receive this Letter. And a whopping 29 widows of our classmates receive this Class Letter.

This comes to a total of 70 recipients. In my view, this makes the effort of doing the Class '52 Letter well worth while.

Plus here are three other considerations: (1) Some of what is reported in our Letter is useful to Steve Forbes, editor of our quarterly *Wabash Magazine*. (2) Our Class Letter adds to our class cohesion. And (3) the College administration can view what its alumni are doing and not doing.

NEW BOOKS

As previously reported, over the course of writing these quarterly letters to my fellow Wabash Class '52 contemporaries, it has been my pleasure to advise and promote new books authored by others in our class.

These have included **G. Alan Hickrod's** *An Embattled and Unapologetic Liberal* (iUniverse, Inc.,2005), in addition to **Bill Etherton's** *Good Night and Good Sports* (foreward by Ara Parseghian), plus this tome from our class '52 prexy **Tom Klingaman:** *Who Are Those Guys?*, and **James Blake Thomas'** sextet of *Passing Thoughts, A Potpouri of Thoughts, Idyll Thoughts, Meandering Thoughts, and Afterthoughts*, in addition to **Paul Arnold's** two books *Wisdom of the Guides* (Frank Amato Publications,1998) and a novel co-authored with Paul's wife Carol: *Divided by the Light* (AuthorHouse, 2012).

Now If I have missed someone, please write and tell me in order that such unintended omission may be corrected in my next Letter. This request is a repeat from my last Letter, so based upon your silence, I take it I have not overlooked anyone. But please let me know if I am mistaken.

A HOOSIER TRIAL LAWYER'S NOTEBOOK

So at long last it has now become *my turn* to boast of writing a new book. Entitled *A Hoosier Trial Lawyer's NOTEBOOK*, with the subtitle "40 Years at the Bar," the outside cover features artwork by my grandson Austin Reinke. It is my *magnum opus*. Published May 8, 2019, it was "hot off the press," as we used to say in our younger days. The first copy went to my grandson/artist Austin and the second was hand-delivered to Wabash president Gregory D. "Greg" Hess.

I am pleased to report that this book was a sell-out. My thanks to many of you who have written me how much you enjoyed reading your purchase.

WILBUR L. APPEL

(August 1930 - February 2019)

Wilbur Appel was with us his first two years of college at Wabash where he was affiliated with Phi Delta Theta and played golf. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korea War and later earned his BA from Miami University in Ohio followed by an MBA at Cornell University.

Will owned and operated Central Indiana Oil Company in Kokomo. He was a resident of Indianapolis at the time of his demise where he had served for twenty years as a docent at the Indianapolis Museum of Art,

According to his obit, "Bill was a very social and outgoing man, he was an avid golfer, loved art and classical music; reading, especially history; and enjoying a good party." I ask you now, doesn't that brief description fit about every Wabash man?

Some Little Giant!

JAMES BLAKE THOMAS, M.D.

(July 1930 - June 2018)

There was a brief obituary in the Spring/Summer 2018 issue of our Wabash Magazine, and as my next Class Letter at that time was scheduled for Labor Day, 2018, I was “scooped” and wrote nothing about Jim’s passing away.

Big mistake on my part, as it had been my custom to write an obit for everyone in our class when the time came so to do. So here goes for JBT — one year later as I try to make amends.

Jim and his wife Peg resided, as our song goes, “From the Hills of Maine....” in Penobscot. For the 50th Reunion of our Class ’52 on Campus, Jim and Peg took a train to South Bend, stayed with Liz & me in our home overnight, and the next day we drove to Crawfordsville together. At our reunion banquet Peg offered a blessing, which she, as an ordained minister, crafted very well.

Jim was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. As I was a Delt on the other side of the Wabash Campus, our paths did not cross frequently while we were classmates. But as fellow alumni, it was a different story. Indeed Jim shared with Dick Daniels the temporary chair of serving as our Class Agent in January-March 1957 when I was out of commission because of cardiac surgery.

In **Dick Daniel’s** *magnum opus* for our class entitled ’52@50, Jim wrote this: “Words fail to capture the richness of my experience at Wabash. I can only say that the essence of liberal arts education that was nurtured there has remained with me to this very day. As we say in medicine, the inoculation took.”

Jim authored six books as recounted at the bottom of page 3 of this Letter, His authorship followed his retirement after a lifetime of practice as

a medical doctor in Penobscot, Maine. Indeed his career included having been on the faculties of Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC, the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State, and the Lyman Briggs Science Honors College which is also located at Michigan State.

Besides wife Peg, Jim is survived by three children and a grandson.

Some Little Giant!

RICHARD A. GOODING, M.D.

(1931 -August 2019)

Following attendance at Wabash where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta, Dick Gooding went on to medical school at IU, where his studies were interrupted by the Army draft. He was assigned to serve as head of the Outpatient Clinic for two years at Sandia Base in New Mexico. Following graduation from IU, he returned to Albuquerque where he became a prominent Plastic Surgeon . Dick was elected as president of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and also served as president of the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

He enjoyed spending as much time as he could at his ranch in northern New Mexico. Dick was a conservationist, hunter, fisherman, and adventurer He loved the arts and music, classical music and musicals being his favorites.

He leaves behind a brother in North Carolina, plus two sons and their respective families in Albuquerque and Tucson.

Some Little Giant!

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

HOMECOMING — September 28, 2019

FAMILY DAY — October 19, 2019

COMMENCEMENT — May 19, 2020

BIG BASH — June 5-7, 2020

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS

Classmate Russ Thrall's Report which began this Letter included some additional ideas and questions well worth sharing: After expressing his appreciation for our Class Letters, he added "But maybe it's time for a different approach....the Wabash of 2019 is far different from the Wabash of 1952. Maybe you could bring us up-to-date. What is the social life like now? The athletics? The faculty? In other words, what is Wabash 2019? A lot has happened in 68 years. Are the Delts back on campus? I have long been an annual donor, who am I donating to?"

Good questions, all. His penultimate question is readily answered: Yes, my Delta Tau Delta fraternity is back on campus and is in good standing. Some of his other queries are well answered by simply Googling "Wabash College" on one's computer. And of course Steve Charles does an excellent job with his quarterly publication which we all receive. Last, but certainly not least, is the weekly student newspaper publication still named *The Bachelor* (published since 1908 and now beginning its 111th year!), a copy of which is sent to all Class Agents. I feel certain your name and address could be added to the list of recipients at no charge.

But returning our attention to Russ Thrall's questions in the first paragraph hereof, what are some of the things you would like to read about in this quarterly Class Agent's Letter? Your comments are most welcome.

And while you are at it, please write something about what you are doing currently. For example, we are all entering the ninth decade of our lives: so are some of us still traveling? Probably not as much as we used to do — but still reports of travel by classmates are always of interest.

So pick one of my several addresses at the conclusion of this Letter and, as we used to say in the days of our youth, "Let her rip!"

Cordially,

BILL

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"Wabash educates men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely."