Thanksgiving 2014

Dear Classmates and Friends,

I hope this finds you well and in good spirits! All’s good here in the Colson household except for all the aches and pains of advanced age.

Sad news:

Phil Brown passed away earlier this year. A Fiji, he left Wabash after our 3rd year for IU and a law degree. He practiced law in Shelbyville, Indiana, for 54 years. RIP.

Mary Lou Ristine, wife of Dick Ristine ’41, died this past summer. Lou was a great friend of Wabash College. Can I say she was “the hostess with the mostest” when Dick was Lieutenant Governor of The Great State of Indiana and when he served Wabash as the Director of Development. She was! Lou was especially kind to Peggy and me when I was working at the College. We have fond memories of her and Dick. RIP.

Better news:

Last August, 260 young men of the Class of 2018 matriculated. They are from 20 states and 15 foreign countries. Among them are 13 Eagle Scouts and 36 Boys State Representatives. The class is 6% larger than last year’s.

It was just announced that Jacob Burnett ’15 is the College’s 9th Rhodes Scholar. He will be studying for a master’s in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Oxford. Jacob hails from Mishawaka, Indiana. Some Little Giant!

Three varsity teams were nationally ranked this Fall: Cross Country, Football and Soccer. That’s the first time it has happened.
The Cross Country team is Little State Champions, NCAC league champs, 1st at the Great Lakes Regional Meet and placed 16th at Nationals. 16th was a bit of a disappointment for the guys--3 fell at the start and another later in the race--, but there is always next year!

Football has had a tremendous season, and, as I write, are still playing in the Div III Tournament. In the first round the Little Giants beat a good Franklin College team 33 - 14. This Saturday (Nov 29), the team will travel to Whitewater, Wisconsin, to take on the reigning national champs--University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. Wabash can win! We may drive up there, if the weather is good--no snow. The Little Giants are 10 & 1; the lone loss was by nemesis Wittenberg. A blocked punt and a fumble led to a 15-21 final score.

Soccer also had a tremendous year! It was quite a turnaround from a year ago when the record was not very good. The team finished the season with a record of 13-3-3--beating the nationally ranked number 2 Kenyon College 1-0 and tying DePauw 1-1. The DePauw match was a hoot: Mud Hollow Stadium was packed with Wabash fans--standing room only--, after practice the football team came across Jennison Street in their uniforms to cheer on their comrades and John Horner '59, Phi Delt, led the old “Give me a W” cheer. (He does that at basketball games, too) After 2 overtimes, the score was unchanged 1-1. A good time was had by all; a victory would have been icing on the cake.

The year is quickly coming to a close, and I hope you will consider a gift to Old Wabash by December 31.

And have a Blessed Holiday Season!

Gordon