September 2006

Dear Many Miler:

One of the things on which we reached general consensus was Jim Wood’s comment that he can’t stand in the middle of the room to put on his pants anymore, that he needs to have something to lean on!!! I think most of us agreed with that idea! As promised, I am enclosing a bunch of e-mails before and after our reunion. And, now that Barbara has brought me up to speed on this technical operation known as cutting and pasting, look out! I may do more of it!!!

Congratulations, Many Milers! We reached almost 60% participation (59.06%) placing us behind only the 50 year class of 1956 at 63.27%. Anyway, thank you! We are to be congratulated for our continuing high level of participation! With 75 donors, we raised just over $105,000 this year. You will receive the annual giving magazine from the College this fall, and it that I hope you find your name listed!

And, how about the Commencement/Big Bash issue of the Wabash Magazine! I have enjoyed going thru it more than once to see pictures of many of our class as well as many others I know. It sure is a great issue, especially with Anne and Andy Ford’s departure.

The Class Agent Forum is 9/15 & 16, so I am looking forward to meeting President Pat White and Dean Gary Phillips for the first time, as well as the new CFO and Treasurer, Larry Griffith. This is a very significant period in Wabash history. Seldom has change of both of the top administrative positions changed hands at the same time, and, both are non-Wabash alumni! I don’t suggest that this is particularly a negative, just that it is enormous change. President White welcomed a very large Class of 2010, over 270 strong!

Wabash Picked to Repeat in NCAC Preseason Football Polls

by Brent Harris
07 August 2006

Wabash, the defending North Coast Athletic Conference football champion, has been selected by the media and the coaches to repeat in the 2006 title chase. The Little Giants dominated both polls, garnering a large majority of the votes cast.

"My stance on polls hasn't changed now nor will it ever," Wabash coach Chris Creighton said. "I think polls are meaningless We will not be deceived by pre-season rankings."
"Over the last 3-to-4 years the top 4 or 5 teams in this league have proven they can have special seasons and win the conference title. I expect to see competitive football from the first week of the season to the last as we always do in the NCAC."

Wabash was picked to finish in the top spot in the coaches’ poll after receiving eight of the possible ten first place votes from the NCAC coaches. Wooster, picked third, garnered the other two votes. Wabash received 98 total points. Ohio Wesleyan was second (78), followed by Wooster (77) and Wittenberg (76). Allegheny (62), Kenyon (47), Denison (45), Oberlin (27), Earlham (26), and Hiram (14) rounded out the voting.

The media was nearly unanimous awarding Wabash 24 of the 28 first-place votes and 264 points. Wooster was second with one first-place vote and 213 points. Ohio Wesleyan was third (108) followed by Wittenberg (193), Kenyon (173), Allegheny (145), Denison (108), Oberlin (77), Earlham (60), Hiram (44). OWU, Kenyon, and Allegheny all picked up a single first-place ballot.

The Little Giants, 11-1 in 2005, will attempt to become the first team to win back-to-back conference titles since Wittenberg won four consecutive championships from 1998-2001.

### Football

**Coach Chris Creighton**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/9</td>
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<td>at Wittenberg</td>
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**President White Urges Face-to-Face Campus Discussions**

by Howard W. Hewitt

August 31, 2006

President Pat White set the tone for campus discourse Thursday morning with the school year’s first Chapel Talk. The President urged face-to-face conversations that would make students better Wabash men before they graduate.

"Great conversation is not just debate or verbal combat," the President said. "If it was only that we’d have people just like us all around us. The conversation we have is the hardest work we do as a College."

The President titled his remarks "Wabash Always Talks: The Grand Conversation of the Liberal Arts."

He mixed his comments with great authors, poets, movie stars, cultural references and humor. He reminded the students, faculty and staff, as he told the incoming freshman class, teachers are all around us. We learn from each other.

"The conversations must be face to face," he emphasized. "We do so for one key reason. Only in close conversation can you do the best learning in the world."
"Action is easy. Conversation is hard. It’s the easiest thing in the world to act without talking or to act without thinking. It’s the music of our community when we do it well together. It’s exhausting work even when it’s the most pleasant of conversations."

Thursday Chapel Talks are hosted by the Sphinx Club. White paid tribute to their efforts and referred to the Chapel Talk tradition. "We are in what is very much a holy place at Wabash," he said. "This is a place sanctified by conversation."

He recalled his only previous Chapel Talk was listening to Tim Lake in February shortly after being named the College’s 15th president. He called Lake’s Feb. 9 talk about the Negro National Anthem one of the best speeches he had ever heard.

On a very sad note, I report the death of William Cecil Bolinger on August 27. Bill was from Indy (Short Ridge) and was president of the Beta pledge class. We spent one night of our walkout at his home on North Guilford, sleeping on most every horizontal surface we could. Pat and Bill were able to attend part of our reunion in June, and he did not look well then. When they went to Indy in August to try to get on the liver transplant list, they found an inoperable tumor on the liver. He has two sons, one is in law school in Chicago, and the other is a student at IU-Bloomington. We will probably have a celebration at Homecoming which Sam Hildebrand is planning. Bill’s career was spent teaching English at the penitentiary at Putnamville, a pretty good hike from his northern Brown County home. He would tell that, yes, he did have Mike Tyson in his class! We send our deepest sympathy to Pat and the boys. This also is the second of our great banjo players to leave us in just over a year, counting Jerry Kenealy last year. We had many guys in the Beta House who were pretty good guitar pickers, but only Steve Close ’59, Jerry and Bill were banjo players.

From Sam Hildebrand:
Patty Bolinger called us today with the sad news that her husband, friend and love, William Cecil Bolinger, a 1961 graduate of Wabash College, father, teacher and all round good human being, had died peacefully on Sunday night, August 27. Bill had been a candidate for a liver transplant up until last month when a tumor was detected, thus sealing his fate. In the ensuing days, Bill adjusted his view of the future, in his usual stoic manner, to accomplish the things we all say we will get done “some day,” including the directions for his funeral service. He specifically asked any memorials be made to the Brown County Community Foundation in lieu of flowers. He asked that friends and family gather at 11 AM, Saturday, September 2nd at the Bond-Mitchell Funeral in Nashville, Indiana for a memorial service. Following the service, all are invited to a reception at the Conference Center at the Seasons Motel in Nashville. If you play and instrument, bring it. If you have a voice, bring it. If you want to help celebrate Bill’s life and his love of music, poetry and philosophy, bring yourself. The gathering will be from 1 to 4 PM. Food, friendship and the sharing of fond memories, along with a little picking and playing are all part of Bill’s plan. Patty asked that I relay this news to as many classmates, fraternity brothers and friends who’s email addresses I had. Those of you who receive this email may know of others who would like to be notified.

Jack, (Ernest!)

I won’t be able to attend the reunion, but I would like the shirt. Where do I submit the order? How do I pay? For my forty-fifth excuse: Carolyn, I, and my grandson leave for England on June 2d where I will speak at a conference on the 9th; then its off to Greece where I will teach (Athens, Mykonos, Delphi/Olympia, and Corfu) until late June and then on to Italy (Sorrento, Capri, Pompeii,) winding up in Rome on July 2d. The life of an academic is a hard one, but someone has to live it.
I trust all will accept this as an excused absence. As always, Algernon (As in “The Importance of Being Ernest” which Terry & I did with the Scarlet Masque in May of 1961).

Terence J. Anderson  
University of Miami School of Law  
P.O. Box 248087  
Coral Gables, FL  
305-284-2253

*JB, needless to say, Nili and I won't be attending the 45th reunion this year, to my regret. It's a bit of a schlep from Israel. But you'll all be in my thoughts.

George Oshry

Therapy is expensive. Popping bubble-wrap is cheap. Your choice.

*From Dave Behling

JB, Thanks for keeping me informed and encouraging me. I have bad news. I will not be able to make it.

I got back from Korea with a chronic sinus problem that usually gets better with the clean air here in San Diego - but it did not improve and yesterday they advised an operation next week. No airplanes for at least a month and a half. This is why I have procrastinated.

I really wanted to see you and everyone and renew ties. Looks like it will have to be the really big 50th in 5 years. Also if possible I still would like the famous shirt. My address is 700 Front Street, #1506, San Diego, CA 92101. Also let me know the cost.

Do give my best to everyone.

David

* I do have the bio on Mike, and he'd love it if you would introduce him. The following is what he sent me for bio info: After graduating in 1961, Mike attended the U. of Nebraska on an NIMH fellowship. His first post-degree job was as a community clinical psychologist in South Central Wisconsin, and after 8 years there, he moved to Beloit, WI, where he continues to practice on a part-time basis. He recently ended 26 years of association with a county hospital. Currently he works at a memory diagnostic center, on the grief support team at the local hospice, and does some clinical supervision. He and his wife Rosie like to travel, walk, paddle, and pamper grandkids, and Mike plays bodhran (drum) with a Celtic band out of Madison, WI.

See you next weekend!

Nancy Doemel

P.S. I'm not sure whether the paddling (above) refers to canoeing or to disciplining his
grandchildren. Might want to rephrase that -- or not, depending on your sense of humor with the audience!!!!

From John Birdzell:

Hi JB

Just wanted to send along my thanks to you (and Barb) for a JOB WELL DONE in terms of all you did to make the 45th such a successful and memorable weekend! It was sure good to see you and so many of our classmates. I'm convinced we are, in many ways, a unique class in terms of loyalty and devotion to Wabash....Wabash truly is a special place and the "Many Milers" are truly a special group of alums.....Hope you'll get a little time to catch your breath and rest up from the rigors of the weekend.....

John & JoAnn

*From Doug Burns who was unable to stay for the Sunday awards banquet.....

JB,

Did we take the prize for number of returning alums?

It was a great weekend. I was especially glad to see Bill Pullen and Rusty Cleland -- first time since graduation. You did a great job, brother, and many thanks also to the Hildebrands, the Brooks, and the Barnettes.

Doug

*Gentlemen: Well, we came away without any hardware as to awards. The 25th reunion class (1981) had one more than we did. We lost Lippard, Carlson, Andreas, Nichols and Behling at the last minute! But, nobody had any more fun that we did, for sure!
The Piggy Bank had $379.39 (plus Earl Talbot's check which will go into the Alumni Fund for this year!) Thank you, everyone. Sam & Susie and Aus and Lucy provided special venues to relax and visit. Charlene and Joe provided such a lovely setting and a scrumptious dinner. Thanks to John Birdzell for providing a gift for Joe and Charlene, and to Sam for arranging for my personalized MontBlanc pen. Thanks to all who wandered in the Hospitality Suite...it was great fun to visit. Beesley complained that it wasn't open early enough......but I pleaded that Sam's bartender over served me!
Bless you all! I will start on our Fiftieth this month!

Hugs,
J B

*Dear John

I have the same glow about our weekend at Wabash. It was truly wonderful, John, one of the best weekends that I have had anywhere for many years. I was reminded again of what a fine College and what great men I have known though Wabash, and how profoundly Wabash has shaped my life.

You especially should be very proud of keeping us together, keeping us informed and luring us back to our alma mater, even those of us who haven’t been as faithful as we should be. Your loyalty to the College and to our Class have been outstanding, and we are deeply grateful for it.

I'm pleased we got started on our 50th gift with a few dollars. Jim Talcott and I thought it was a symbolic way of saying to the whole class that we all need to get involved in making this Gift to
the College, including those of us who haven’t done too much so far.

I'm already looking forward to the 50th.

Many Miles before the Night.

Jere (Wysong)

*From Tom Runge, Director of Alumni and Parent Affairs:

J B,
Don't let the absence of "hardware" bother you - you did a great job. The Class of 1961 is truly special and connected and they owe a great deal of that to you!

As we get into the 50th planning, we'll stay in touch. My hope is that your class will decide to celebrate their 50th on campus - it's much easier for us to document. But I understand how that goes.

Keep the faith, my friend - thanks for all you do for Wabash!

Tom

*JB & Barb.
Sue & I had a wonderful time and thanks to you, this was the best reunion EVER! Although I didn’t stick it out to the end with you guys back in 1961, I now more than ever, really feel a part of that “special something." I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Many Milers who are, to a man, truly gentlemen. My only regret is that you and I didn’t have a cigar together and get into that bottle of Single Malt Scotch. Alas, the time will come.

Denny Sheridan

*Thanks again, JB and Barbara, for all your efforts in making the 45th reunion of the class of 61 Many Milers a huge success.

Hal & Sara (Sommer)

*Hey JB, and Hi again to Barbara,
Just wanted you to know how much we appreciate all you do for us. It's fantastic how you have helped meld us since 1961. The familiarity you have infused us with in your letters sure makes it easy to have fun together, after all the years. I think I now have a better sense of how hard you have worked, and some of the things (like red tape) you have been challenged with over time. And I appreciate you more for it. And I want to let you know how much I appreciate your support for the idea of sharing the sage-ing materials with our classmates, and others. The preparation was fun, and the presentation experience was even funner. I got a lot of good feedback and affirmation for the ideas, so I don't feel I'm just off on a toot by myself. (I'm just sending some stuff I copied for 2 different people who were there.) Your efforts have paid off in all of us salting away good shared information and experiences over the years. We may not currently have Wabash "hardware", but you've sure contributed to the formation and updating of our personal "hard drives". Thanks again. I really hope you have some idea of how much we all love you.

Many miles...
Hi John,

Susie and I really enjoyed the 45th class reunion weekend. It was really good to see you and our other classmates again and we always enjoy visiting the campus. I can't believe that the old rooming house on Grant Ave. that Heckman and I occupied in 1958-59 is still there and still being rented out. Probably has the same ring around the bathtub, only much thicker now. Some things never change. That reminds me, I've got to give Heckman and call and see how he's doing and why he didn't make the reunion.

After the reunion, we headed up to Warsaw to help my Mom celebrate her 92nd birthday and visit with my brother and sister. Had a good time up there and then drove back to Indy Thursday PM and flew back to Portland yesterday. It's always good to get home.

JB, thanks again for all your good work as our class agent. I really enjoy the class letter and appreciate all the effort you put into it.

Enjoy the summer and keep in touch. Give us a call if you ever get to Portland.

Many Miles Before the Night------

Jack (Gakstatter)

Hi JB   Thanks for the pictures. I am not sure who the guy is in the picture. It is not Terry Ingram. He did pay for the dinner in advance but did not come out on the patio until dinner was almost over. I think he told Charlene he did not graduate and thought he would just observe. I think he sat with Rusty. Sorry I am not much help. I hope all is well.

Joe (Barnette)

Thank you for the Class Letter which was rich in recounting the highlights of the Reunion and reporting on our classmates and how life is treating them.

Mary Beth (MB) and I are sorry we missed the weekend back in Indiana. We did have beautiful weather and memorable gatherings with our California friends, and celebrated our 39th Wedding Anniversary in Carmel, MB's favorite place. My conference with St. Vincent de Paul in the San Francisco area was well programmed and instructional for me, a neophyte in the organization.

You have done a super job of binding us all together as a community that cares about each other. That takes continuity, persistence and time—and I, for one, appreciate all the hours you have logged in conveying information about Wabash, our classmates and their doings.

Best Regards, Tim (Conlon)

From June Templin

John, it was fun reading your Class Agents Letter ... brought back lots of fun memories. I wish we/Jon could have been there to enjoy it. (But he wouldn't have known what it was about.) You mentioned that you were going to share in a later letter some of the emails and updates you've received. I thought I should update you on Jon. His Alzheimer's is marching along at what seems like a rapid rate. He'd been fairly stable for a long time, but this fall the bottom started falling out, especially when he'd have seizures. They're the quiet kind, but do their damage nonetheless. Currently he's pretty much unable to do much of anything for himself, needs someone with him at all times. I have him at home, and hope to be able to continue to do so until the end. I recently signed us up for hospice, which should help me be able to do so if at all possible. With Alzheimer's, hospice doesn't mean the commonly thought of "6 months left". For AD, it has to do with communication, ADL's (Activities of Daily Living), ability to walk without help, etc. It is breaking my heart to see him like this. But he seems to be happy, enjoys the grandkids (1 1/2 and 3 1/2) that are nearby, Kiwanis (thanks to the kindness of the
members), and his once weekly outing at an AD Caregivers' Respite that he goes to. He continues to enjoy being with people and is gentle and sweet, very appreciative of everything anyone does for him. These things make my job much easier than it might be. Our oldest daughter and her family (the ones mentioned above) live about 10 minutes from us, and our youngest is in Laredo, about 4 hours away. We see both of them a lot, and that keeps life fun and helps me keep my perspective. Our son lives in Wilmette with his wife and 3 little girls (twins and their "big sister" who's 13 months older, otherwise known as "Irish Triplets"). We don't see them a lot, but with hospice providing respite, I hope to be able to get up there more often than in the past. And now that the girls are getting out of the baby stage, they will be able to visit here more often. We had 5 grandchildren in less than 2 years ... once we figured out how to get them, they came rapidly. That's about all the news from here ... you can cut and rewrite this as you wish. But I wanted to fill you in. I'm glad the reunion was such a success ... over serving and all!

June (Templin)

JB,

Good to hear from you. I do hope we can get more of our pledge brothers back for the 50th. Tina and I are in New Orleans for the weekend. Today we went over to Bay St. Louis, MS where her family had a small summer cottage. As you probably know this part of Mississippi was the worst hit area by Katrina. A 30+ foot storm surge went up the Bay and destroyed every house on the beach and also many others within several hundred yards of the water. All that is left are concrete slabs or the concrete stilts the houses were sitting on. The trees were snapped in two and the whole area looks like a war zone where a lot of bombs went off. We were here at the end of October and there has been very little change since then. Clearly it is going to take many years for significant recovery.

Tina's family cottage was far enough from the water that it was not destroyed but it was knocked off its foundation and had over 8 feet of water in it and will probably have to be torn down. We spent some time going through the wreckage looking for mementoes that should be saved. It is really very sad because this is a beautiful part of the country.

New Orleans itself is making slow progress but there are still large areas that are largely abandoned. Fortunately the area near the river where her two brothers live is high ground that never flooded so their houses are fine. The city still has its special charm and we are going out to one of the special restaurants this evening - I can't wait.

I hope you are doing well and we hope to see you in Washington one of these days.

Rusty (Cleland)

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GAMES FOR WHEN WE ARE OLDER

1. Sag, you're It.
2. Hide and go pee.
3. 20 questions shouted into your good ear.
4. Kick the bucket
5. Red Rover, Red Rover, the nurse says Bend Over.
7. Simon says something incoherent.
8. Pin the Toupee on the bald guy.

**SIGNS OF MENOPAUSE:**
1. You sell your home heating system at a yard sale.
2. You have to write post-it notes with your kids' names on them.
3. You change your underwear after a sneeze.

**OLD IS WHEN:**
1. Going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.
2. You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.
3. Getting a little action means I don't need fiber today.
4. Getting lucky means you find your car in the parking lot.
5. An all-nighter means not getting up to pee!

Thoughts for the weekend

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!
When I was young we used to go "skinny dipping," now I just "chunky dunk."
Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?
Stress is when you wake up screaming and then you realize you haven't fallen a sleep yet.
My husband says I never listen to him. At least I think that's what he said.
Just remember...If the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.
If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have started with something called labor!
Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.
But Most Of All, Remember !

A Friend Is Like A Good Bra. Hard to Find, Supportive, Comfortable, And Always Close To Your Heart