April 2012

Gentlemen of ‘62

Well, now we find ourselves creeping up on May at a rapid rate. Did you have to read that sentence more than once to try to make sense of it? This is what I am trying to say. The month of May is only a few days away and will be upon us before we know it. But we, as a class, are creeping along, apparently yielding to our 70 something age, toward accomplishing what we need to do before our fiftieth reunion.

It is April 3 as I write this. It will be a few more days before you receive it. Here are a few facts. When contacted by our living unit representatives, nearly 50 of us expressed our intention to attend the Big Bash, if at all possible. As of today, only 24 have actually registered. I know several of you, in fact, still plan to attend. Now is the time to register and make your room reservations. Remember, the hotels will be releasing the hold on all of the Wabash reserved rooms on May 1. Don’t be left out.

One other important point—Well maybe not too important, but I need some company at the golf outing. When I checked, only 2 from our class had signed up to play. So, you guys in Florida and Arizona who play every day or so, this is your chance to win big money from those of us who don’t play often.

Last year 60 members from our class made a financial contribution, in some amount, to the College. This year, we are up to only 44 so far. If everyone, who has given something at least once over the last four years, contributes this year, we will exceed 70. I know some of you are still working out the details of your contribution to our major gift campaign for our 50th reunion. I know others typically make your contribution near the end of the College fiscal year in June. However, to all, please remember that in order for us to win the increased donor contest, and be awarded a free open bar at our class specific dinner, we must exceed the 60 number by the close of business, May 23rd the check or pledge must be in the hands of Supreme Free Bar Commander, Tom Runge by that date and not a minute later. A check in the mail, or a good intention, even fulfilled, will not count. This we know because of our embarrassing miss for our 45th reunion when we fell short by only one. For this purpose, any amount will do. Even if you can’t attend or if you normally are not a contributor, just toss $10 or $25 in the envelope included with this letter and send it to the College at least 3 or 4 days before May 23. Help us out, please. You will also do a great deal for the College in the many areas in which percentage of Alumni support counts.

We are also a bit slow in ordering reunion shirts. Thus far only 16 guys have ordered shirts. I would like to have your order by April 15, however, that date is not so firm. I just need a few days to put the order
together in time for my deadline to get the order to the manufacturer. That date is May 1 which, as far as I know, is firm. Another order form is enclosed, so please send one in right away if you want a shirt. Every year, some guys show up at the reunion who did not order a shirt. After seeing them, and how nice they look on their classmates, they wish they had one too. No luck! There won’t be extras available on site.

Here is a list of the orders I have so far. If you have sent an order in and your name is not on the list, please contact me right away so we can try to find out what the problem is and get it corrected. The orders of 1 or 2 shirts are from Blackburn, Mendenhall, Jim Johnson, Kerner, Rogers, Sinex, McNeely, Feit, Templin, Reams, Houk, Fuller, Duncan Thomas, Lauritzen, Stephenson, and Fewell.

For those attending, don’t forget to sign the registration book. I know this has been oft repeated, but it is important that you actually sign the book to be counted as “in attendance” for purposes of winning the class award for greatest percentage of Alumni at the Big Bash. This according to the rules set forth by the Supreme Commander of Big Bash Attendance, Tom Runge.

Finally be sure to practice both verses of “Old Wabash.” We want to put on a good show for the Supreme Commander and sole judge for the winner of the Chapel Sing who is——Oh, Never mind!

I have enclosed a few pictures with this letter. This is my subtle attempt to convince those of you who may still be on the fence that there is much to learn and remember if you return to Wabash this year. You have received the Memory Book. Thom Feit worked very hard on that and produced a great book. As you read the autobiographies, you might have said, “I remember that, and I can add something to that story” or “Oh boy, what he did was interesting, I sure would like to hear more about that.” If you have never attended a Big Bash, you won’t believe how great it is. If you have, you already know you should come back for this one. This will be our last chance for a big get together and undoubtedly, the first time in fifty years you will have seen someone you really cared about on campus. It will also be the last chance to see others of your friends or fraternity brothers. Don’t miss it.

For some of you who have been able to get back on campus regularly, the pictures won’t be new. To others, some of them, the chapel, the clock tower, the library, you will remember. However, much on campus has been built, updated or modified since we were there. I didn’t identify the pictures. You will have to come back, take the campus tour, look, listen and learn. You will be glad you did. By the way, there are even more new buildings and sights than I included with this selection. Wabash has expanded and continues to improve.

Oh yes, the last page. I took those pictures at the 2011 Homecoming. The “Queen” contest has also expanded, but I am not sure whether “improved” is the appropriate word. Anyway it seems all of the living units had an entry. There is a contest to select the winning entry. I am not sure who the judge is!

That’s it. See you all soon. Until then.

Good luck and good living,

Terry
Donald J. Kerner

7819 S. Belmont St., Indianapolis, IN 46217
H: 317-882-2397 • C: 317-437-6006 • wabash62@aol.com

Spouse/Partner/Family: Wife, Shirley; Son, Kevin; Son, Jeff; Daughter, Jennifer

Education since Wabash: Indiana University School of Medicine, 1966; Family Medicine Residency, 1969

Military Service: US Navy - Naval Medical Officer, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba 1969-1971

Work/Career/Professional: Returned from Cuba to Southside of Indianapolis in 1971. Established a private practice (Southside Family Practice) and remained in private practice for 22 years. In 1993 left the practice and became the Chief Medical Officer of St Francis Hospital in Indianapolis for 15 years. Retired in 2009 except for six months as interim president, St Francis Medical Group. Re-retired in Feb, 2011.

Volunteer/Avocational activities I have enjoyed: Two tours with the Volunteer Physicians of VietNam in 1967 and 1969 treating South Vietnamese civilians in provincial hospitals and in remote villages on the Mekong river with the Navy Swift boat crews. Have participated in medical mission trips to Ecuador and Jamaica. Helped establish and volunteer at St Francis Neighborhood Health Center. Play activities: Fishing in the Boundary Water Canoe Area. Played tennis for many years until joints wore out. Now bicycle as often as possible. Enjoy kayak fishing, especially in Southwest Florida.

Memorable travels: 2006 - bicycled thru South Viet Nam with my daughter, Jennifer, for three weeks. Then took overnight railcar to Hanoi and kayaked in Ha Long bay. Took a pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy and followed the path of St Francis to Rome. Traveled thru Greece, Greek islands and also spent three weeks touring China and Tibet.

Influence of the College on my life, work: It was serendipitous that I arrived at Wabash in 1958 with very little resources. I found the classwork challenging and the College environment nuturing. Over time I gained confidence in my abilities and developed some leadership skills. I am not sure how to describe the “process” that occurs at Wabash which transforms boys into men at the end of four years, but it worked for me. Medical school was much easier than Wabash and I graduated at the top of my class (no chance that would have happened at Wabash!). Wabash taught me to “think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely”. For that I will forever be grateful. My most special memory of faculty occurred when Dean Rogge called me into his office late in our senior year. He had found out that I did not have the funds for medical school tuition. I confirmed the problem and he said the College will send a check to IU School of Medicine - which was done.

Ways I have changed since my college days: Less hair, artificial knee joint, forty pounds heavier.

I probably will attend the 50th Class Reunion: yes

If I do come, I most look forward to: Most interested in how the College has improved the living/study conditions of students and how the College encourages students to go beyond the undergrad degree.
Spouse/Partner/Family: Spouse: Mia Romero (civil engineer), children: Ry (architect) Sweden, Onik: (biologist) Costa Rica, Rony (chef) N. Carolina

Education since Wabash: Bradley University, M.A. Clinical Psychology

Work/Career/Professional: After returning and finishing Wabash, then a Master’s Degree at Bradley U. (where I was accepted into the graduate Clinical psychology program with no undergrad courses, simply because I had graduated from Wabash!), it was goodbye Midwest, Hello, New York where I worked as a psychologist for 5 years before getting the inane idea to go hitching on boats through the Caribbean islands, with a girlfriend, trying to get to South America (again impossible), but we somehow got there and stayed a year. We continued backpacking and traveling up the Amazon on a paddle wheeler, sleeping in the ruins of Macho Picho, Chan Chan and Tikal, etc., visiting almost every country in South and Central America and getting back to NYC in one piece, without knowing much Spanish. Talk about foolhardy. But, two years later, it set the stage for an epiphany which changed my life forever. When, at the age of 35, I thought of leaving NYC to live in Costa Rica (one of those Banana Republics) and setting myself up as a fine furniture designer and maker. Something for which I had absolutely no experience, ability, or up to that point, interest. For the next 35 years I lived here, learned woodworking from scratch, also how to run a business, and design original, usually one-of-a-kind pieces of furniture (inspired somewhat by George Nakashima and Isamu Noguchi) using beautiful tropical hardwoods, got married and prospered. Also did a lot of native species reforestation of former pasture land. Even tried mango and avocado farming.

Volunteer/Avocational activities I have enjoyed: Working with children in local orphanage, doing English conversation classes in the evenings, for adults

Memorable travels: Mostly with my daughter. Thailand, Cambodia (Angkor Vat), Myanmar (Mandalay to Yangon), China (with wife and son), Cuba, Morocco, Galapagos Islands, Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar, Rajasthan India, Sweden, Yucatan Peninsula and Chiapas (for the lesser known Mayan sites). And, of course Europe and U.S.A. several times. Special activities: Lots of cave exploration (Wisc. C.R.) and brown and white water canoeing (N.J. and C.R.). Sports: tennis, volleyball, badminton.

Influence of the College on my life, work: Lots, especially living with a great bunch of guys as an independent in Scott House, and later joining the newly started up TKE chapter, with another great bunch of wild guys. Special teachers: Dr. Elliot Williams, and the Dean of Students Norman Moore.

I probably will attend the 50th Class Reunion: No

If I do come, I most look forward to: Big Bash Reunion: Probably not, But I’d love to visit with anyone from the class who finds himself coming to Costa Rica.
50th REUNION SHIRTS!

Charles River® 100% polyester pique knit with moisture management treatment. Rib collar with white trim, taped neckline, 2 button placket on men's and 5 button placket on women's. Price includes shirt and all embroidery. Terry Fewell will distribute at the Big Bash. (For shipping to a specific address, please see pricing and fill in address blank at bottom of page.)

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Special Shipment Requests

Name: __________________________________________

Special Shipment Requests: ____________________________

Address: __________________________________________

(Add $12) __________________

______________________________________________

Total Number of Items: _____________

Total Order Cost: _____________

Please make check payable to and send payment by April 15 to:

Terry Fewell
420 Austin Lane
Greenwood, Indiana 46142
Old Wabash

From the hills of Maine to the western plain, Or where the cotton is blowing;
From the gloomy shade of the northern pine, To the light of the southern seas;
There's a name held dear and a color we cheer, Wherever we find it glowing
And the tears will rise to our longing eyes, As it floats on the evening breeze.
When the day is done and the western sun Is painting in flashing glory
Across the skies with gorgeous dyes, The Color we love so well,
We love to sit as the shadows flit, And praise it in song and story,
We love to shout as the light dies out, A good old Wabash yell.

REFRAIN

Our Prayers are always thine, Our voices and hearts combine
To sing thy praise when future days Shall bring thy name before us.
When college days are past, As long as life shall last,
Our greatest joy will be to shout the chorus.

CHORUS

Dear Old Wabash, thy loyal sons shall ever love thee,
And o'er thy classic halls, the scarlet flag shall proudly flash;
Long in our hearts we'll bear the sweetest mem'ries of thee,
Long shall we sing thy praises, Old Wabash.

And loud and long shall echo the song, Till hill and valley are ringing
And spread the fame of her honored, name, Wherever the breezes blow.
Till sweet and clear the world shall hear, The sons of Wabash singing,
And flying free the world shall see, Our scarlet banner go.
The honors won by each loyal son, In highest rank shall instate her.
Forever more as in days of yore Their deeds be noble and grand.
Then once again ye Wabash men, Three cheers for Alma Mater
What e'er befall, revered by all, May she unequaled stand.

Alma Mater

Dear Alma Mater at thy shrine of cherished memory,
The hosts of Wabash meet to pledge undying loyalty.
Within these sacred portals thy fires shall brightly flame
And herald our devotion to thy most honored name.

These fleeting years we tarry here beneath the Scarlet sway
Beguile us with their subtle charms, then quickly steal away.
Do thou, our Alma Mater, turn back the hands of time
Give us this joy forever and keep our faith sublime.

Dear Alma Mater, in thy hands rest all our hopes and fears,
Thou Counsellor in College days-thou guide in riper years.
Grant now thy benediction; vouchsafe thy care benign,
That worthy, we may follow the precepts that are thine.