November 2011

Gentlemen of ‘62

An important part of our Big Bash 50 reunion shall be a Memory Book. This publication will contain not only a retrospective of Wabash including: physical structures, activities, news articles from The Bachelor and Wabash magazine, faculty and staff, but also a page for each of us to capture what we have done during these past 50 years. For those of you with Internet access, the personal information form will be on-line at the Wabash College website. The web address will be: http://www.wabash.edu/50reunionform/ and it will come online quite soon. To give you an idea of the finished product, my DRAFT version of this form is included on a separate page. We encourage photos: self, family, pets – whatever you wish to include, but recall all will be only on one page.

For those who do not have Internet, I ask that you complete the enclosed form and then mail it to me. Our goal is to mail a copy of this Memory to each member of our class during late March. To accomplish that, I need your information by January 6th. Thusly you will have the book prior to the Big Bash; indeed you will have the book with still time available to make both reunion and housing reservations. But do not wait until then. January will see the Big Bash registration form becoming available on the college web site: www.wabash.edu.

Already some lodging rooms have been snapped up by fellow classmates. Two motels will be our headquarters for the Class of ‘62. The Quality Inn (read former Holiday Inn) and next door the new Holiday Inn Express. Reunion rates are $69 and $89 respectively. For reservations, you must call directly to the local Crawfordsville motel of choice and indicate you are part of the Wabash College Reunion group. Contact information:

Quality Inn 2500 N. Lafayette Road, Ph: (765) 362-8700

Holiday Inn Express 2506 N Lafayette Road, Ph: (765) 323-4575

Remember call directly to the motel of choice – do not use any other reservation method.
You see they are literally next door separated only by a parking lot, and there is a walkway between. As of this writing a hospitality room for members of our class will be in the Holiday Inn Express. Both Terry and I have visited the spaces and with aid of the college, secured these arrangements. The blocks of rooms at both hotels go away May 1st. so early reservations are highly recommended. Already the class of '67 has 33 members committed to return. We need to get busy.

Reunion To Do List –

- Commit to attend
- Fill out, on line, the Memory Book page, (with photo) on or before 1/6/12
- Make lodging reservations
- Respond to Dave, Terry and my letter regarding our class gift.
- Begin to recall the words to “Old Wabash”
- Begin to enjoy the memories – pleasant along with the bitter sweet – of life at Wabash.

As part of the weekend, there are a wide variety of activities including a series of Colloquium session. Here faculty and fellow graduate share insight into a field of their expertise. Tom Runge indicates the following:

Right now we have some already set.
Faculty - Martin Madsen with his Mythbusters (Science for econ majors) course. This was a home run last year.
Faculty - Rick Warner talking about his immersion experiences.
1982 - Bill Luckey on serving as a college president.
1977 - John Kerezy on what the internet is doing to our brains.

Very possible
1997 - Marcus Doshi on SNL and other programs

Five years ago, Barb and I talked about the operation of a Bed & Breakfast in the near downtown area of Indianapolis. We were joined by other innkeeper/graduates including Cindy and Steve Gollither ’67 who have a B&B in Crawfordsville – The Davis House. This time I propose a session centered on those of us who live for extended times during a year in some form of recreational vehicle. For us it is a forty foot motorhome that for up to six months a year we use to travel the U.S., Canada and Mexico. In talking with Tom Runge, he likes the idea. If you also travel using an RV or 5th Wheel or travel trailer, let me know and I shall offer this as a program.
Now some class news: As I have called fellow Independents concerning coming to Big Bash 50, I've learned a few things.

Bob Koontz, retired from the high school teaching of mathematics – but does not use the Internet. So our correspondence has been by phone and that old school method of hand delivered mail. Robert, in many ways I envy you.

Larry Williams, retired from the education field – twice – has taken up writing mystery stories. Larry indicates he has two books published, and is currently working on a third. I hope he brings some copies to the Big Bash. Not often can we have signed editions of mystery stories by a fellow classmate.

Norman T Woo, at first we thought was a “lost graduate”, but he called me and indicates he is quite well, living in Orange county CA. Norman retired from teaching at the university level in the California University system. He shared that as he recalls, the courses and professors at Wabash were more demanding than he later experienced in graduate work. But of course, we already knew that. Thanks Norm for that confirmation.

And now, for that information for the Memory Book. Here are the series of topic headings you may expand upon:

- Name:
- Address:
- Address 2:
- City/Town, State/Province, ZIP/Postal Code, Country:
- Home Phone, Cell Phone, Email:
- Spouse/Partner/Family information:
- Education since Wabash College:
- Military Service:
- Work/Career/Professional:
- Volunteer activities I have enjoyed:
- I’m proud of (professional / community recognition):
- Memorable travels:
- About my days at Wabash:
- Influence of the College on my life:
- Ways I have changed since my college days:
- I probably will attend the 50th Class Reunion:
- If I do come, I most look forward to:
- Picture(s) of me:
Start thinking, or as Professor J. Harry Cotton, lighting his pipe with a wooded match, would say: "Gentlemen gird your loins."

Wabash Always Fights

Thom

Thom Feit, Co-Class Agent '62
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Education since Wabash College: Masters Theatre Education – Indiana University 1968; Honorary Doctorate Humane Letters – Wabash College 1993

Work/Career: I began my career in Indiana at Peru High School as teacher of Speech and History along with coach for the Speech and Debate teams. With good fortune, it lead to two trips to the National Forensic League National Championships. After 5 years, a move to Indianapolis and Warren Central High School. There I began as teacher of Theatre and Speech. The theatre program grew from 2 classes to one that offered 11 different classes using 2.5 teachers. Our school year theatre season offered 5 productions with an additional 3 during the summer season. During 21 of those years I was also an adjunct instructor in Speech Communication at I.U.P.U.I. In 2001 I retired from teaching, only to return to the MSD of Warren School District for 8 years as a Program Manager for an assortment of Pre-K through Adult education programs funding through a grant from Lilly Endowment. I truly enjoyed teaching, especially the areas of Speech and Theatre. Both disciplines offer the student opportunities for personal growth and confidence. My joy was guiding those students through the process while watching them mature.

Volunteer Activities: While in Peru, IN I was part of the founding group for Ole Olsen Memorial Theatre, a community theatre group in that town. While directing a play for the group I met my wife Barbara. Later in my career I became active in: Indiana Speech Association, Indiana Theatre Association, American Theatre Association, Secondary School Theatre Association and the American Alliance for Theatre & Education. For several years I served on a committee for the Indiana Department of Education writing the first version of Standards and Assessments for Theatre Education in Indiana.

I’m proud of: Those activities lead to a variety of awards: ITA Theatre Person, MSD of Warren Teacher of the Year, AATE National High School Theatre Teacher and others. However in my heart those honors pale to the award, at the dedication of the Wabash Fine Arts Building, of the L.H.D. in recognition of my work in theatre education from my alma mater.

Memorable travels: While we have been fortunate to travel to Europe, and enjoy several cruises, these last several years of taking up to six month journeys in our RV though parts the U.S., Canada and Mexico have been especially rewarding. Both the geographic locations and the people there have been amazing.

About my days at Wabash: I was fortunate to have both Brigance and Powell as I majored in Speech. Those experiences served well during my career. The chats I had with Dean Norman Moore also proved prophetic, for he knew it would take me more than four years to complete my Wabash experience.

Ways I have changed: I am just a garden variety high school teacher who has been touched by the spirit that is Wabash. It is my desire to always respect: “Wabash College educates men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.”

I probably will attend the 50th Class Reunion: Yes

If I do come, I most look forward to: The reconnecting with fellow classmates, walking the grounds of Wabash and listening to others who had this Wabash experience.