Hi Classmates.

February, 2014

As most of us waive so long to the first half of winter, we now set our sights on the second half with hopes we get a break from the snow and cold. The natives in upstate South Carolina have been grumbling as much as those in northern communities.

Here’s a brief rundown on some news items. If you had an opportunity to read Steve Bowen’s letter to Alumni covering topics discussed at the recent Board of Trustees Meeting, then some of the items will already be familiar to you.

New President, Gregory Hess, has a focus of direction to grow Wabash by increasing enrollment up to 1,000. It will be done by expanding freshman classes beginning with next fall’s class. It is believed the college can operate just as efficiently at this level as it does now with some 900 enrolled. In fact, the added enrollment might increase revenues if there’s an increase in those who can pay tuition as opposed to those who need financial aid.

New housing for Independents is projected to be built west of Crawford St. Since Martindale was the last dorm built some 52 years ago, new housing is a necessity to help attract prospective students. It is planned to be multiple units and provide 150 beds.

Professor of Chemistry and Division I Chair, Scott Feller, has been named Dean of the College beginning July 1, 2014. He replaces Gary Phillips who has been Dean since 2006. Word has it that Feller is a very popular choice to fill this key position.

Winter Sport success has been a mixed bag. Our basketball team is now at 9 wins and 14 losses, overall, and 8-9 in our conference. After a horrendous winless streak to start the...
season, the team has played some good ball in recent games. The high-light has been a home victory over a good Ohio Wesleyan team. Unfortunately, the low-light was a blow out at Denison on Saturday, February 15th, 92-57. Maybe we can knock off DePauw at Greencastle before the season ends? Good luck against the Dannies!

Our Wrestling team has been strong for many seasons and this one is no exception. Swimming in dual meet competition has been only fair but there are several performers who have excelled to set new Wabash records.

Our Indoor Track team has and will participate in “Invitational” meets at IU, Purdue and DePauw and our Tennis team has played well on the winter circuit. Soon, spring sports, baseball and golf, will launch play in the south during semester break.

Contributions to the Alumni Fund have been slightly under projections as of January, 2014. After our record setting Big Bash year, our class is down 10% in the number of donors from the same period a year ago. To date, 37 have sent gifts this year as opposed to 48 last year. This includes money from all sources including non-grads (1) and widows (1) so far this year. Our class role is 128. Please plan on making another gift prior to June 30th.

What else can we do? Spot a potential kid who would be a good candidate to attend Wabash. We know Wabash will be a great candidate for the kid!

By the way, we are very happy that classmate, Steve Ferguson, will be recognized with an Honorary Degree at this year’s Commencement in May. Steve, you’re Some Little Giant!

Regards,

Al, Bruce and Tom