June 26, 2006

Dear Class,

There are important items to report to you. Trouble is……some of them are not timely anymore so you may already be up to speed. But here goes:

President Andy Ford and wife Anne will leave campus soon for the Chicago area (I’m told Wheaton). I don’t know what they’ll be up to other than their proximity to family, specifically grandchildren. Hats off to the Fords!

Patrick White will replace Andy effective July 1st. We welcome him into an office where shoes will be difficult to fill. The good news for him as well as the Wabash community is that the school is in great shape.

Gary Phillips will assume the office of Dean of the College. If that’s not quite his title you get the drift. He comes to us from Sewanee, also known as the University of the South, from its religion department.

The Wabash Big Bash Weekend, June 2-4, was a big success with well over 200 alums back on campus celebrating reunions. Is the Big Bash a big deal? Yes, because the College Alumni Office headed up by Tom Runge devotes all its energy to make the weekend a success for each class. There are no other campus activities to compete with returning alumni. Our Big Bash 45th falls in June, 2008. It will undoubtedly be the first weekend in June.

Admissions continues to prosper. There was another 1500 – plus applicants for the class of 2010. The College works very hard to generate this activity. It is necessary for survival. What’s the size of the new class?……251. Our help to foster future classes will be most welcome.

Many of us are no longer active in positions we once occupied. This could mean we have retired or are doing something related or unrelated from this former position. Of course others are continuing in their professions. It’s really a mixed bag! So what’s my point!?

The retirement of President, Russell, (Rusty) Nichols from Hanover College at the end of this month. He is one of many in our class who has distinguished himself over the years. How? Because he has been instrumental in making a good college an even better one over the past 20 years. Hanover has: 1) Increased its endowment from some 41 to over 200 million; 2) Fund raising has grown from 3.26 million in 1987 to 20 million in 2005; 3) the faculty has increased
from 74 to 110; 4) SAT scores have increased by 15% or by some 180 points; and 5) 45 million in campus construction has been spent on new or renovated buildings. Plus, Hanover is now ranked by US News in the top 100 of liberal arts colleges and universities on a national basis.

Before Hanover, Rusty served Hillsdale College for 12 years. He left as VP of Academic and Student Affairs. He even coached Basketball at Wabash! Remember? In 1993 he was inducted into the Wabash College Hall of Fame. I remember him “on court” as having the fastest hands of all his teammates. Nice going, Rusty,…….you make us proud!

Word of encouragement! Take some time to read what’s in the Wabash Magazine, Spring 2006. In case you didn’t know, the Wabash College Magazine is available online at www.wabash.edu/magazine/.

The 2006 Fiscal Year ends on June 30th so if you haven’t already contributed to Wabash this year please consider doing so before the 30th. You can make a gift online today at www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift.

Have a great summer….and to coin a couple of words from a major advertiser………
…………CONTRIBUTORS WANTED………

Best to All,

Tom