Late February 2015

“You are our greatest story, the great truth of the wonderful things we do here at Wabash.” President Gregory Hess told alumni gathered for the homecoming Alumni Chapel last September, which celebrated the spirit of Barney Hollett ’36 and paid tribute to outstanding alumni and their service to the College, their communities, and the world. “This is a celebration of all the College’s loyal sons.”

Among the nine Wabash alumni who received special recognition that day was our fellow classmate Dudley Burgess, who received the Frank W. Misch Alumni Service Award. As reported in the recent issue of Wabash Magazine, the award reads as follows: “Your love and service to this College provides a model for all Wabash men to follow. You have given so selflessly to Wabash for half a century and never asked for anything in return.” Our congratulations to Dudley and to his loving and supportive wife of many years, Judy.

The accompanying photo shows Dudley in his “Hold on – I didn’t ask for the check” pose.
We recently learned of the passing of Jan Patterson, wife of Jay Patterson ’65. Jay had taken a break as Class Agent to care for Jan, and we offer our condolences and support for Jay and his family. Jay is a member of Kappa Sigma and his loss comes on the heels of the passing of his fraternity brother and our Class Agent Jim Durham. More about Jim in the next class letter.

We have also been informed of the death of Professor Richard Strawn at the age of 91. Several of us studied French under Mort Celler and I have shared a tale or two about him in the past, but if any of you would like to share a memory of Professor Strawn please forward them to me.

One more loss in our Wabash family. Tom Runge has advised us of the passing of Dick Griesser, class of 1951. Dick was a long time Class Agent and was the first recipient of the Warren Shearer Class Agent Award. His wife Beth would appreciate a note or phone call at: 4608 Grand Meadows Drive. Appleton, WI 54915 – ph. 920.832.0639. I have just spoken with Beth and she expressed how much Dick loved serving as class agent and how he enjoyed interacting with his classmates- a lesson for us all. My wife Connie has family in the Appleton area and if this winter ever ends I plan to visit Beth in the spring. She said she would enjoy that very much.

One final note: last week I reserved a room for the weekend of September 4-6 for the Wabash vs. Hampden-Sydney game. For all the details follow this link from Tom Runge. Keep in mind that weekend is Labor Day weekend so plan ahead if you would like to attend.

http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/docs/Hampden-Sydney_Travel_Information.pdf

You may have noticed that I have not mentioned gifts to Wabash College in this letter, so be prepared for the next communication. I hope all is well with you and your families.

YOURS IN WABASH,

Ron Nichols ’64