



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Alumni and Parent Relations

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### Class of 1967

#### Class Agents

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Classmates --

The 50th reunion is now history...and thanks to you all, our class made some history as Duane reported last month. (What he didn't share was that, thanks to your participation and support for the 50th, he and I got a raise for our class rep jobs - we now get two Atta boys for each letter we publish instead of just one!) From the comments we received at the event and after, seems like everyone had a good time and came away glad that they attended. A couple comments we received seem to characterize the major sentiments:

From **Steve Coons**: "Obviously we had a great turnout, and everyone I talked to had a wonderful time -myself included (if only for a day). Good friends, good food, and plenty of libation are certainly a winning formula. The Bash was truly a once-in-a-lifetime event. Super job!"

From **Tom Brown**: I appreciate immensely your efforts at keeping the Class of 67 a vital entity. Since I was at Wabash only 2 years I did not recognize many of the faces, even in the yearbook when they were young, Nor did many recognize me. On Thursday and Friday I met as many men as I could. On Saturday, meeting still more, I was starting to feel a part of group. On Sunday I felt totally integrated. Virtual strangers became like old friends. It was also delightful to be reunited with the few that I did remember well. One of the lines from Old Wabash is "Honors won by each loyal son in highest rank shall instate her, forevermore as in days of yore their deeds be noble and grand." Our group is characterized by impressive careers, but the two noble deeds that resonate with me most at the moment are Earl's work at getting fleeing Vietnamese into the United States and Roger Smith's account of his role in the military informing relatives of an MIA or KIA and assisting and counseling the bereaved families. Out of the 92 living classmates in the Memory Book I counted 40 having done military service. No surprise—the draft was in effect. Unlike most of the Oxford Grads in WW I we came back. Lewis Salter was on sabbatical our freshman year so we didn't get his instruction in Phys-Chem, but he has stood out in my memory as a true polymath. He once considered a career as a concert pianist, he was a Rhodes Scholar, and his career was in theoretical physics. He is

memorialized with Salter Hall in the Fine Arts Center. Dr. Hess said that Wabash continues to be male only not just because of its tradition but because it is committed to developing young men. That is quite a statement considering that men are now the neglected, even disparaged, part of the educational milieu. But while maintaining the tradition, one improvement is the presence of mature married women in the faculty and staff. Men need interaction with women, the more mature the better. Needless to say it was a highly memorable reunion. Warmly, Tom"

Tom's comments speak highly of both our class and the Wabash "connection". When he noted that he had only attended 2 years, but felt connected and part of the group after a day or so with our classmates speaks volumes for the "connection" we all share as Wabash men and the strength of the Wabash experience. It was really great to see so many of you there and reconnect with old and new friends. Back to Tom's comments, I remember Lew Salter, too. He was there for my Phys-Chem lab (I was an English major so Phys-Chem was a bit of a stretch for me.) One day before the afternoon lab, a fraternity brother talked me into splitting a bottle of champagne at lunch. I was rolling at lab time, but Dr. Salter patiently stayed with me, until we were the only ones left in the lab, and made sure I finished it all. In addition to his other talents and interests he was also an excellent photographer and provided me with constructive critique and various tips to make my photography attempts better. And a real gentleman. We had some great role models at Wabash.

And speaking of "history" -- I was cleaning out a bookshelf last week and came across a bunch of old cookbooks. One was titled "Dining With Democrats, Favorite Recipes of Famous Democrats". The author/editor/collector was Vera O'Lessker. Some of you will remember Karl O'Lessker, her husband and PoliSci professor who made a run for congress during our time at Wabash. (Indiana wasn't ready to elect a Karl with a K at that time, I guess.) I was in the Young Democrats/Tom Marshall club and I spent a couple evenings in Crawfordsville at a street fair hawking those cookbooks for \$2.00 a copy to raise money for O'lessker's campaign. If you'd like a copy of Lady Bird Johnson's Pedernales River chili recipe or Pierre Salinger's Chicken Pierre recipe or Mrs. Birch Bayh's Green Bean Casserole recipe, drop me a line and I'll forward it to you. Mrs. Edmund Muskie's Maine Baked Stuffed Lobster is a simple and delicious one as well. It makes me wonder what recipes we might get from today's Democrats...or Republicans...or Independents. (For the record, I saw no recipes for Crow.)

So, since the 50th reunion is over, several of you probably heaved a sigh of relief and thought that you would not be hearing from Duane, or Clark, or me for some time...but....We are still here and have the goal of keeping us all connected. So let us hear from you. For those who submitted updates to Phil Coons for the addendum to the Memory Book, you should be seeing that in the near future. For all of you ... if you keep Duane and I posted of events in your lives,

we will gladly share them with the class. As we all "come of age", let's keep in touch with one another. And let's stay connected to Wabash - our common denominator.

Hope you are all having a pleasant summer. (It's been hot here in North Carolina!) In past letters I've told you about my wife's efforts in bringing various rescue animals into our lives - dogs, cats, horses and donkeys. Her latest is fostering dogs for a local shelter. Since I got back from the reunion, we've fostered four different dogs. Two of them were just for a week or so until they could find forever homes. One was three weeks and just as I was getting attached, she found a home. Our latest was only two days - he came to our house shaking and very timid of people. After two days with our three dogs and our visiting grandkids (6, 4, and 2), he was running around the yard, getting belly rubs, and cuddling with the kids. Then we got a phone call from a prospective adopter and he was gone to a forever home four hours later. And life goes on. We'll probably have another in a few days.

Be well. Be kind. And let us hear from you so we can share with our classmates. (And don't hesitate to drop a line to Alumni Office with thanks for a great reunion!)

WAF

Earl