



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Office of Alumni Affairs

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### Class of 1968

#### Class Agent

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**Hello from the Friendly New Guy:** Too many years have passed since a legitimate update has been published for the great Class of 1968. How great it is to regain contact with friends who helped me smile through the academic grind at Wabash. I promise one of these letters per quarter, but I need your help. Reaching out, I find high interest in reclaiming the pride and sense of community we showed when we ripped the rhynie pot from atop the greased pole, successfully defended that filthy pole as sophomores, stole the Monon bell, and smashed the Dannies in the Mud Bowl. *Please send me your updates today and plan for the big reunion!*

**40th Reunion:** An enthusiastic cohort has stepped up to organize the Mother of All 40<sup>th</sup> Reunions on **June 6-8, 2008**. **Bruce Gras** [bgras@trirock.com](mailto:bgras@trirock.com) chairs the committee. Living unit representatives have been designated with a goal of contacting every member. Circle your calendars and follow the progress as the 2008 weekend of June 6-8 develops on [www.Wabash68.org](http://www.Wabash68.org), a website for tracking the reunion. Bookmark it and watch it evolve. Send Bruce your photos, stories and suggestions. We have trusted time for too long. See you there.

Reunion Chairman **Bruce Gras** adds: "We are naturally and thankfully drawn back to our old Wabash and other friends as we age, not just finding time for them, but now making time to connect and revisit those things that we find so satisfying in our own life histories. I do remember that practically on the first day of classes at Wabash, Deans Moore and Kurtz both told us to enjoy our four years at Wabash despite the rigors of getting our degrees, because these would be the most highly treasured years we will remember throughout our lives. I quietly scoffed at that time, but it has proven to be just like that, and I couldn't be more proud to have 'cut it' at Wabash. I think we will find our classmates are likely to awaken to that too as we bring them back to the fold."

**Campus News:** Wabash College inaugurated a new president. Read all about Dr. Patrick White in the *Bachelor* <http://bachelor.wabash.edu/>. Click on the January 25 issue to see biographies of all fifteen Wabash presidents. And much more. Lots of housing changes going on at Wabash.

**Donations:** To donate to Wabash, click on <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift>. **Tom Runge** advises that **a gift to the Annual Fund helps every single man on campus**. It funds scholarships, student life initiatives, teaching and learning initiatives which directly support our faculty, and out-of-classroom learning experiences like our immersion trips. Every gift=every guy. This really is "giving back."

Now for the good stuff—**class member updates**. If you don't see your name here, please contact me with observations and comments on your life since Wabash. You can reunite with most of the folks below in Crawfordsville in June 2008:

**Mark Sutton:** I finished up thirty-one years as a high school teacher in 2000 with the last twenty-six at Carmel. Now I'm a "full time" antique dealer. One certainly couldn't afford to spend his time chasing the hope of finding "buried treasure" every day without being partially subsidized by a teacher's pension, but I do thoroughly enjoy the chase and the discoveries.

**Nicholas Pitz:** I also received my draft notice in 1968. I liked to quip that I received my B.A. from Wabash on June 1 and my 1-A on June 2. Then I had an offer of an NDEA fellowship to pursue graduate studies at Northwestern, but the German department had had two awardees drafted, so they offered me a teaching assistantship instead, hoping that would help me beat the draft. Result? I had basic training at Ft. Campbell in the fall and was sent to Edgewood Arsenal, MD in December. Luckily, contrary to all military logic, I was later sent to Germany and worked as a translator and protocol specialist in a headquarters. To all those who served, fought, and died in Vietnam I feel the deepest gratitude. There but for the grace of God go I. Northwestern allowed me to enter grad school after my release from the army, and I spent four good years there, met my wife, and we have both pursued careers in education. No regrets, and we continue to work.

**Mike Gallagher:** Kathy and I got in a car at the end of the Summer of '68 and drove to California never to return to live in Indiana. Along the way we got my PhD in Engineering at Stanford, lived in the SF Bay Area for 33 years till 01- fell in love with the Sierra that you first told me about, raised two children, became an Officer at a couple large engineering companies, developed a passion for energy and environmental issues, moved to Vancouver BC in 01, and for the past 4+ years have been President (the #2 guy) at a publicly traded environmental technology company (Westport Innovations), where I am now. We have developed a new technology to replace oil with an alternate fuel in bus and truck engines- using natural gas and eventually hydrogen. Ironically I am working from Vancouver with Indiana-based Cummins on that. Last year we were named the second fastest growing tech co in NA. And I chair a board on Canadian Climate Change policy now too. I'm sure I'll stop working one day... All the best. Mike

**Bruce Gras:** I'll be happy to organize our 40th Reunion. ...in addition to running my own company ([www.trirock.com](http://www.trirock.com)), I am also a full-time employee of SRA International, Inc., a Federal contractor (aka beltway bandit). ... Aside from grandchildren on the personal side, the most interesting thing might be that I am also playing harmonica in a Celtic and Old-Time music band which has just cut its first CD (aka album from the old days). It's called the Possum Ridge String Band and plays local and regional gigs as well...

**Steve Goldsmith:** Steve sent his *Curriculum Vitae*: Michigan Law School, six years of private practice, Marion County Prosecutor for 12 years, two terms as Mayor of Indianapolis, domestic advisor to the Bush Presidential campaign. Currently Steve serves as the Dan Paul Professor of Government and Director, Innovations in American Government at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

**Jim Millikin:** I retired as a full professor from Rockford College in 2005—down to one full-time job. I'm the senior partner (meaning the oldest) in a small CPA firm here in Rockford. I started the firm in 1984 after leaving Peat, Marwick and Mitchell. Helen and I got married in 1968, 10 days after I graduated from the Fort Benning School for Boys. Got a MBA from Notre Dame and started with Peat before the Army caught up with me. Got lucky and spent my time in a R&D unit—worked on the Cheyenne helicopter and the Abrams tank. I have three daughters and one grandson—finally!! Jim

**Ed Meisenheimer:** Is spending his retirement (from a career with IBM) working full-time for First Security Systems in "Instructional Technology." He and Suzy live down the street from Rev. Jason Reed '68 in Naperville, IL. Their three grown sons are all married and living in Northern Illinois - one is a Financial Planner, one works for Zondervan Publishing, and one teaches high school. They're looking forward to both the Glee Club Reunion Homecoming Weekend this year (September 28/29, 2007) and to the Big Bash in 2008!

**Adeo Nicolai:** Adeo lives the quiet life of a poet in his native Italy. Email: [apnicolai@hotmail.com](mailto:apnicolai@hotmail.com)

**Michael Dybel:** Life has been good since leaving Wabash. I went to graduate school in biochemistry at Northwestern U. (M.S. biochemistry/organic chemistry) and the U. of Notre Dame (Interdisciplinary Program in Biochemistry, Biophysics and Microbiology), and then earned a MBA (marketing/finance) from the U. of Chicago. I worked as a chemist for International Mineral and Chemical and Abbott Laboratories. After completing my MBA, I joined Technonic Consultants in Chicago which was a technically oriented consulting firm, and then 25 years ago, I founded my own consulting firm, Strategic Technologies International, Inc, and have provided business planning, technology assessments, and market research services to over 90 of the world's leading pharmaceutical, clinical diagnostic, specialty chemical, and biotechnology companies worldwide.

As highlights, I was invited by the Peoples Republic of China to visit and speak at the Shanghai Institute of Planned Parenthood Research, by the USSR Academy of Sciences to visit Soviet biotech facilities in Moscow, Kiev, and Riga to promote technology exchange, and have been featured on the CNN program, This Week in Japan, as an example of a small American company that has successfully consulted for many years with Japan's leading corporate giants. I also provided a divisional strategic plan to a major German conglomerate regarding the then-emerging technologies of DNA biochips (lab-on-a chip), nanotechnology, and related nucleic acid technologies.

When I was at Wabash, I was a chem major and a biology minor, but I had 3.5 years of German (Delta Phi Alpha) and two years of Russian. I did not realize how useful those two languages would prove to be in my business, and I am convinced that the ability to communicate in German and Russian on a personal level were the reasons I was selected over my competitors for the business opportunities in Germany and Russia. I also have learned some Japanese after more than 80 trips to Japan, and can bring down the house singing Japanese enka (traditional songs), much to the surprise and amusement of my Japanese clients. I guess that is one value of a liberal arts education. The opportunities in Germany and Russia have paid for my Wabash education many times over, and yet the exposure that I had to art history and music, ancient history, psychology, and other required subjects, as well as top-notch professors, have greatly enriched my life. I have carried the advice of Ed Haenisch (Moles!!!) and Petris Silins (Make hay while the sun shines!), and "Wabash always fights!!!" as guiding principles in my life. I tell you the above not to brag, and you can disregard what you want.

I am married to my wife, Beverly, for 30 years, and we have three children, Matthew (25), Adam (22), and Laura (19). Adam is a TKE senior at Wabash College double majoring in psychology and music (violin). Adam attended a summer session at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, studying Polish language and culture after his freshman year. Laura is a freshman at Augustana College. Matt attended the music conservatory (violin) at Lawrence University and is now living in Milwaukee.

Our family enjoys international travel, and we have been able in various combinations to visit Japan, China, Thailand, UK, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Russia. I hope they will remember our trips and value these experiences--maybe they even learned something on their forced marches to museums and archeological sites!!

Since 1996, I have been serving on the Board of Trustees of the National Youth Science Foundation ([www.nysf.com](http://www.nysf.com)). The NYSF promotes science education and science career development both in the USA and internationally. We do this by sponsoring the National Youth Science Camp (two highly motivated students from each U.S. state), the Youth Science Leadership Institute (top students from each country of Western Hemisphere), and the (West Virginia) Governor's School for Mathematics and Science. Our goal in each program is to encourage high potential students entering their first year of college to choose science, medicine, and technology majors as a career objective. Our programs include guest lecturers, hands-on directed studies programs, field studies, and fine arts and cultural programs. Since I was an Indiana delegate back in 1964, it has been very rewarding to continue the efforts of this foundation.

If I have been too wordy here, please use caution the next time you ask me to comment on my activities since leaving Wabash!!

**Ken Koepke:** After almost 34 years with Cooper Tires, I retired a year ago and am now foot loose and fancy free. Son and daughter are grown and successful. Hobbies are fitness, golf, skiing.

**Bill McCluskey:** After graduation Bill worked for IBM in Indiana and New Jersey. He moved to Atlanta in 1985 and loves it. His kids graduate from college this year. He has a five-week old grandchild and is considering retirement next year. And he's considering the reunion, too!

**John Lord:** Had a great conversation with John. He sold his insurance agency and retired in Tennessee. Monster-linebacker days caught up and he recently had knee replacement surgery. Enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his granddaughter.

**Dick Callaway:** After graduation he went to OCS and then III Corps, Vietnam, in the Field Artillery. Then he entered the investment business and settled in Indianapolis. Retirement not on the horizon, he and Tina have three daughters and one granddaughter.

**Steve Scheidt:** Reports from Maryland, "I value the experience and relationships with both the faculty and my classmates at Wabash College ... the most important years of my life." Steve said he'd be happy to back that up with a contribution to the College. Thanks, Steve.

**Chuck Kraft:** Becky and I are living 4 miles from where I grew up - I've been commuting from NW suburbs to downtown Chicago since 1968, about to stop. Since graduation I was with Jim Millikin's firm (now KPMG) from 1968 through 1982 (with timeout for three years in the Navy). For the last 24 years I have been Treasurer for AMLI Residential Properties (apartment REIT). Becky and I are marking our 35th anniversary this June, while daughter Laura is completing her grad work in Arch/Civil Eng at U of I. Becky is the daughter of Les and Mary Remley and is an artist. Les was Athletic Director at Wabash. Becky and I were married in the Wabash Chapel.

**Dan Susie:** I am a partner at Winstead P.C., a 300 attorney firm with offices in Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, The Woodlands (Texas), and Washington, D.C. I represent lenders in financial transactions. Its fun to negotiate always from the power position....my clients have the money. My bio is on the firm's website at [www.winstead.com](http://www.winstead.com). I am an 18 handicap

despite spending "the ranch" on golf lessons and equipment. I drive a '57 Chevy Bellaire to the golf course. At cocktail parties, I talk about exciting stuff like the Uniform Commercial Code and venue provisions... We have an active alum group in Dallas. Surprisingly there are over 200 alums in North Texas. About 10 to 15 of us get together on a regular basis to tell lies about how cool we were in college. It is a good group.

**Tom Hill:** Served in the Navy after Wabash, including a Vietnam tour. Now he's an attorney near Moline, Illinois. He has two successful sons, Jonathan and Jeffrey. He recently bought a home in Munster and plans to retire there with family and his new bride.

**Steve Johnson:** Mailing address is PO Box 160127, Big Sky, MT 59716. Jeanne and I retired here in 2001, after 29 years with Andersen Consulting/Accenture, mostly in the Chicago area. We had been coming to Big Sky on skiing and summer vacations since the early 90's, and decided to make it our retirement home. Here we are active in skiing, hiking, riding, fly fishing and all sorts of other outdoor activities - you don't retire to Montana for the dining, theater or social swirl. I have also done some medical training, and am a licensed EMT here, working as a volunteer with the local fire department, search & rescue team, and ski patrol. Keeps me active, reasonably fit, and even feeling like I may be doing something worthwhile as a retired slug.

**Dan Vannatter:** Dan passed through the War College when I was on the faculty. His resume notes, "Viet Nam era draftee; rose to rank of Colonel; served two combat tours: Viet Nam and Panama; Battalion Commander; War College graduate; handpicked to be first U.S. Army Officer to occupy Director-level position in the National Reconnaissance Office." In update, he writes: "Jim, I retired in 1996 when I saw that I would not get to command a Brigade and therefore would not be competitive for 07; had great time at War College and enjoyed reuniting with you as well as establishing friendships that continue today. I went from Montgomery to DC where I was the Director on the NRO's Operational Support Office, their customer support effort. After retirement I went to Scottsdale and worked at a small commo company until they left govt work; did some consulting, then moved to DC after divorce and am now working for BAE Systems. I got married on Valentine's Day to my HS classmate from Muncie; she lives in Valpo and works in Chicago (we met at 40th reunion); we will be selling her house in Valpo and moving her here and buying a house here this summer. I will be interviewing at several places over next few weeks, for I am looking for a more 'fun' job. Looking forward to seeing you again; I get back to Wabash several times each year; was there for the President's inauguration, a wonderful event. Am a Doctoral student at GWU and am hanging on by a thread. Have included my resume, so you can see what type of mischief I have caused. Dan"

**Dr. Harry Staley:** I often reflect on those days in the purple hooded robes and the antics at the FIJI house that kept life interesting and invigorating. Pouring gasoline into the rat holes in the front yard always comes to mind.

I am practicing rheumatology with four exceptional partners in Indy. Officially we are: Rheumatology Associates, 8802 N. Meridian St. Suite 108, Indy, 46260. I have been with this group for 21 years (seems like more). I am married to Lisa. There are two daughters ages 36 and 31, both married, no grandchildren.

Home address: 8946 Jules Lane, Indy, 46278. Phone: 317 329-2780.

I regret that I have not seen many of the Brothers lately. Jon VanScyoc is in Family Practice in Noblesville with America Health Network, 110 Lakeview Dr., Noblesville, 46060. I would love to attend the 40th. I will look over my schedule and keep you informed. Perge!

**Phil Green:** I definitely will be at the reunion, my first. Looking forward to seeing everyone. P. Green, Leawood, Ks and Paradise Valley, AZ (and formerly, Naples, FL.)

**Ben Austin:** Just retired after 34 years in the teaching profession—32 in Valparaiso. He taught physics, and his final class asked him to speak at their commencement. Said he was nervous, Ben Rogge's best efforts notwithstanding. He will attend the 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

**Dr. Jon VanScyoc:** After med school and a couple years in the Army Medical Corps, I set up practice in family medicine in Noblesville, IN. That's a little over an hour away from Crawfordsville. I plan to work a few more years. I'm married to Emalee...we've been together since Wabash. Our daughter is a biochemist in Houston. Our son works on the circle in Indy for an IT company. We enjoy travel, and I play golf regularly...though I just can't improve my 20 hndcp. Guess I'm working too much. That's the abbreviated basics of my life since Wabash. For Bruce...I expect to come to the reunion, Jon VanScyoc MD, [j.vanscyoc@insightbb.com](mailto:j.vanscyoc@insightbb.com) 317-773-1509

**Phil Dzurilla:** (Letter to Buzz Madsen) I just got your letter and it was nice to hear from you. It looks like you already have my correct address – 235 Amherst Dr, Bartlett, IL 60103. So here's the “personal” info you wanted.

1. I have been married for a little over 30 years to my wife Debbie.
2. We tried for many years to have children but were not successful. So in 2000 we adopted a girl from Russia her name is Amanda and she is now 8 years old. Then in 2001 we adopted a boy from Russia his name is Andrew and he is now 6 years old. I'm sure if you do the math you'll be able to figure out that I was 55 when we got Amanda (I won't reveal Debbie's age but suffice it to say that she is 6 years younger than I am). Both children are keeping us young.
3. I work for ADP Dealer Services which is a division of ADP Inc that sells Hardware and Software to Automobile and Truck Dealers. I teach our Associates how to install and support the software. Since our software uses UNIX, Linux and Microsoft Operating Systems I am well versed in all of these areas. I am a MCSE and a MCDBA. I have been working for ADP for a little over 30 years.
4. At this point I don't have any particular retirement plans.
5. Since I just received you letter concerning the reunion I haven't made any decision about attending. It really was nice to hear from you and I'm really sorry to hear about Tom and Ray.

Phil “Dizzy” Dzurilla

PS: Nobody calls me Dizzy anymore but my FIJI brothers can call me that anytime.

**Ron Hill:** Retired after thirty-five years of corporate law practice in St. Louis. He and Gerri spend a lot of time caring for parents and enjoying grandchildren.

**Van Butler:** Entered the retail business after Wabash, starting with Ayres and finishing as Senior Vice President of Toys-R-Us. Retired in Durango, Colorado, Van likes to golf and ski. He sings in church and local groups and enjoys two grandkids, another on the way.

**Dr. John Hudson:** Just called from an escape in Hawaii! He and Dorothy are doing well in Boulder. Still working—his practice is Coal Creek Family Medicine. Tried the administrative side, but came back to doctoring. His three kids have all moved back to Colorado. Enjoys his four grandkids and skis Copper Mountain when he has time.

**Dr. Doug Jones:** Served in the Army after graduation. Says vet school was easy after Wabash. He is still deeply involved in Small Animal Veterinary Medicine. Has a clinic in Orlando and loves it. Just got a grandson and has a granddaughter on the way. Will try for the reunion.

**Carl Madsen:** Brief recap of last forty years: Wabash, IU, Wabash, marriage, IU, son, Navy, U Md., work, U VA, work, graduate GMU, work, "retire," enjoy life. (You can ask Buzz to 'splain the details.)

**Dr. Bob Faul:** I am still married (38 years) to Susan, whom you knew at Wabash. She can still sing all the words of "Old Wabash" and a good portion of "Alma Mater". Our two daughters are educated, grown, married, and (thank God) self-supporting. Both are Hanover College graduates. (They couldn't pass the Wabash physical.) We have four grandchildren. I am retired from private practice in general surgery. Since retirement, I have worked in a clinic in Honduras and assisted at one of the local hospitals in cardiac surgery. I also try to sleep at least 6 or 7 hours each night in my own bed and eat three meals a day at the appropriate times, both activities having been luxuries through most of my career as a surgeon. I managed to attend the inauguration of President White and was very impressed by the campus and the events of the weekend. I'm looking forward to the reunion.

**Dr. John Greves:** Whoa, Guys (in particular Carl "Buzz"), It has been awhile. Great to hear from you and to start thinking about the 40th. Where has all this time gone? I think about the College every day and regret that living in the NW it is difficult to participate more in all the goings on. Buzz, I think the College has all my info. up to date but I will relate here just in case: Home Address: John H Greves, MD; 4506 Oregon Drive; Vancouver, Washington 98661 Home Phone: 360-693-4449 . Office Phone: 360-397-3174 (rings to my desk at The Vancouver Clinic)--easy to leave a voice mail. Cell Phone: 360-608-6822 Email [jgreves@thevancouverclinic.com](mailto:jgreves@thevancouverclinic.com) Okay, we will stay in touch and I am planning to make the reunion but I haven't put the final on that plan. WAF, JHG '68

**Terry Smith:** Just caught a current photo of Terry in Wabash Magazine, celebrating his induction into the Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame. Congratulations, Terry. I used to go to basketball games just to watch him shoot. **Terry** sends: I am still alive and in good health. Glad to see that we have a class agent again, and let me know if there is anything that I can do to help. New address: 4125 Pfeifer Farm Rd, Lafayette, IN 47909 phone 765-572-2732. I am just a stone's throw from the Bash, but am sad to say that I haven't been back much and have lost touch with almost everyone, although I have made contact with a few of my FIJI brothers in the last year.

**Reverend Harold Jason Reed:** Still going strong as a Methodist Minister in Naperville. Still married to Annie. Ski trips to stay in touch with Wabash pals have become less frequent in recent years. He plans to attend the reunion in 2008.

**Dr. Randy Slickers:** How great to talk to my linebacker pal after thirty-eight years! Randy is still working hard in Twin Falls, Idaho, in the field of Family Practice. His first grandchild was born in January. Ask him for details at the 2008 reunion.

**Steve Bowen:** Jim: I am now a Senior Partner with the law firm of Latham & Watkins and am the managing partner of its Chicago office. I have specialized all these years in the federal income taxation of corporations and shareholders and have worked mainly on mergers and other acquisition transactions. I'm still having fun with all of it and have no plans to retire. I have two kids: a son who graduated from Wabash in 1999 and a daughter who is now at Stanford working on

a PhD in English. You will be pleased to know, I'm sure, that my son was a Beta and proud of it. He is now in the consulting business in Chicago. My major 'extra curricular' activity is my work as a trustee of the college. I have been on the board for about 10 years now, and I have enjoyed it more than I can say. I am looking forward to the reunion and to working with you and Bruce and Buzz and all the others in planning it. I hope you were finally able to get hold of Goldsmith. I'll talk to you soon. –Steve

**Peter Foster**, Class of 1968 as many of you know, I left the "bash to finish my senior year at Butler University for marital and financial reasons, then did IU Med School, Internship, Residency and a 3 year Cardiology Research and Clinical Fellowship specializing in Electrophysiology. After 3 years on the faculty at IUMC (while my first wife was "looking for love in all the wrong places), I joined a solo Cardiologist and helped build a group Cardiology Practice based at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis (doing Electrophysiology before anyone knew what that meant). I retired in 2002 and now live on Marco Island, Florida with my wife of 26 years, Jean, who was my "right hand" at the office, hospital and in the Cath / EP Lab. We raised 3 sons (2 are in various aspects of computers and one is a chef with Thomas Keller). Never having been sick a day in my life, I wasn't ready for 2006, much of which I "don't remember". I got a bizarre infection and abscess on my Epidural Spine following an infection (huge wood splinter in my foot walking barefoot through the "mulch" which culminated in cellulitis and sepsis). I had two spinal surgeries, a 3 level laminectomy, abscesses drained twice, and a total of 4 months of IV and 9 months of oral antibiotics for the abscesses and a nasty vertebral osteomyelitis. Thank God that is over! At least 2006 wasn't a problem from the hurricane standpoint like 2004 and 2005 were. But life in general has smiled on me and I live in Paradise with the love of my life and our first grandchild was born in December 2005. Any classmates/roommates that want to contact me may do so via: [epdoc74@yahoo.com](mailto:epdoc74@yahoo.com).

**Robert Evans**, Dear Guys, after Wabash in 1968, I was determined to be a peacenik and neither get drafted nor go to Nam. Preparing to become a CO through my Lutheran pastor, I then learned that I could get deferred by teaching in a high-need low-staffed inner city school. Though I'd been an English major with no courses in education, I did take a crash course in summer '68 to train to become a teacher of 4th grade in Indianapolis, at a school near Indiana Avenue. My opening teacher salary then was \$6,000 per year. I was a teacher for 7 years, 4th, then 5th, then 2nd grades. Many guys did this to avoid being drafted, but only a few of us really liked it and stayed with it. In 1973, I took a course in psychology for teachers at IUPUI in Indianapolis. I really liked ed psych, and in 1974 I applied to 12 different school psychology programs around the country, studying hard for my GREs (especially the Verbal). I was admitted to several programs, but I chose to attend a doctoral program at Teachers College, Columbia University because they offered a nice fellowship from NIMH in those good old days (National Institute for Mental Health). I finally finished my Ph.D. in 1989. As students in school psych, most of us were expected to become professors ourselves and/or go into research.

However, I became a school psychologist at a middle school in western Harlem, for the period of about 1979 to 2006. Few of my students were anything but black, as it had been in Indianapolis, and my school has continued to show the legendary achievement gap, despite No Child Left Behind.

The role of a school psychologist became only more burdensome and didn't seem to be assisting handicapped youngsters to achieve that well in life, except for lucky exceptions. Several other school psychologists and spouses around New York State urged me to retire at the tender age of 59, and I did. Now I'm trying to enjoy retirement, still living in Washington Heights in NYC (a largely Dominican neighborhood). I'd considered moving back to Indianapolis, and that is still not out of the question.

I'd love to hear from anyone with memories of me and my Independent pals. I know that my three black chums from Wabash '68 have all been deceased, which is unfortunate, as I kept in touch with each after Wabash (Roscoe Campbell, Ron Clark, and Bill Morrow). I used to read and occasionally write into a Wabash alumni list-serve, and I remember writing that if President G.W. Bush ordered the invasion into Iraq on the suspicion of Saddam Hussein's pursuing of Weapons of Mass Destruction that turned out to be unfounded, then he might be indicted as an international war criminal. This hasn't happened yet.

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As I wrote and addressed this message, I now hear an interview on NPR showing how, despite NCLB, classrooms in urban vs. suburban schools are still quite different. The woman in the interview focuses on schools in Hartford. I didn't catch her name, but she's written a book called "The Children In E4: American Education on Trial." Her name is Susan Eaton. I remember reading Jonathan Kozol's "Death at an Early Age" and other of his books when I began teaching, and it seems that not that much has changed. I would refer you to "Beyond the Classroom" by an author whose name I forget, a great study of achievement gaps among different ethnicities in the U.S. (His name is Laurence Steinberg.) I found both names on Amazon.com, where both "E4" and "Beyond" are available. Probably Kozol's great books, too. I've seen him speak at Columbia.

Submitted with warm regards to all,

Jim Roper '68