January 5, 2015

Dear Friends in the Class of 1968,

Time to report the activities of our dear classmates with a bit of humble opinion stirred in.

I received a nice note and this update from Dr. Robert Faul. Thank you, Bob!

John Greves and I recently returned to our roots in Evansville to celebrate our 50th high school reunions on the same weekend: he from Harrison, and I from Bosse. We and our wives got together at John Schroeder’s house for an afternoon of conversation and catching up (Schroeder was Class of 1969 and is a Wabash Trustee.) All of us seemed to be alive and generally healthy, although none of us wanted to try to get through organic chemistry again or to try to survive the preseason two-a-day football practices. Greves still works half-time as a cardiologist at the Vancouver Clinic in Vancouver, WA. I remain happily retired from general surgery practice, but I teach gross human anatomy at Xavier University here in Cincinnati. I have 2 grandsons who have already decided on a career in medicine, and I casually mention the merits of a Wabash liberal arts education whenever I can get away with doing so. Their mothers both went to Hanover; so it could be a losing
battle. Both of my daughters are still a little pissed that they couldn't pass the physical to attend Wabash themselves.
Have attached a photo of Greves and me and our wives from that weekend. I am also attaching an old photo I ran across from September, 1967. It shows the Wabash football players from Evansville that year. Dave Shane (Wabash Trustee) is on the far left. Greves is second from left, and I am second from right. Everyone looks about the same, don't you think?

Glad you are doing well and enjoying life with your young family. Thanks for such a great job with the class letter.
All the best--
Bob

(JR adds: You haven’t changed a bit! Looks like Du-rand Edwards '69 on the right of the Evansville footballers photo.)

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Iron Mike Gallagher and his bride Kathy took a swing through New York. They saw the show, Beautiful, based on the Life and Music of Carole King. I’ll be looking for that soundtrack!

Congratulations to this year's Athletics Hall of Fame inductees:

John Hollett ’59
Tennis
Steve Mihalko ’69
Football, Swimming and Diving, Track
Andy Luckey ’93
Swimming and Diving
Eric Schoettle ’93
Football
Eric Snively ’94
Football, Baseball
Chris Wiesehan ’94
Football
Chris Healy '05  
Wrestling  
Adi Pynenberg '08  
Football  
Gene Miiller '75  
Special Inductee

Also seen (near Terry Smith and/or Terry Schuck) on Facebook:  “I was addicted to the Hokey Pokey, but I turned myself around.”

Did you hear about the mathematician who’s afraid of negative numbers?  
He’ll stop at nothing to avoid them.

A linguistics professor was lecturing his class the other day. “In English,” he said, “a double negative forms a positive. However, in some languages, such as Russian, a double negative remains a negative. But there isn’t a single language, not one, in which a double positive can express a negative.”

A voice from the back of the room piped up, “Yeah, right.”

Wabash Soccer Coach Chris Keller named NCAC Coach of Year. Keller led Little Giants to a 13-3-3 record. The 13 wins were most for the team since joining the conference.

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Remember the Snacker?  In the sixties, the only building open in Crawfordsville at 2 a.m. was that run-down diner with chrome trim. A bit smoky, but you could get eggs anytime. Long gone, of course. Does anyone know when the hands of time took the Snacker? Did someone purchase it, or did it just fall apart in place? After Wabash I lived in some remote climes, and each had its version of that wee hour breakfast joint. When you send me your update to post here, please send a Snacker story or tell us about the best/nearest place in your town to scarf up an omelet at 2 a.m. I recall that Bill VanderHaar loved that Snacker. Why, Bill?

Wabash Archivist Beth Swift adds:  “The Snacker was sold and the land used to build a Wal-Greens. There is a “new” place just across the street called; "Diggers" and I swear the equipment is vintage Snacker.”  Another check reveals, alas, Diggers is now closed!

Why the interest in the Snacker, you might ask?  Well, I see that place as a significant part of our Wabash experience, and I do wonder if students still enjoy such places. It went hand in hand with some of the all-night groveling to attend academic rigor. The Air Force sent me to places like Enid, Selma, Clovis. Each had a joint like the Snacker, and each served up some of the best coffee, just when you needed it. I also need the updates to share with the class. Here’s a story:

In Clovis, New Mexico, that "Snacker" place in the 1970's was the Snazzy Pig. One night, one of our (522 Fighter Squadron) lieutenants, Kirk, parked his 23-year-old Ford Galaxy a bit close to a phone booth next to the Pig. He crushed it. But somehow he escaped justice. Years later during Kirk’s bachelor party, a police officer knocked on
the door and read him specifications and charges of destruction of public property (the phone booth),uffed him, and hauled him away. Kirk could say nothing. He was guilty. After a ride around the city, the cop (also a friendly neighbor) brought him back to the party with a stern warning. Hard to stop laughing. Ah, the good old days! JR

For the entire Wabash College calendar, control/click here.

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The Wabash wrestling team was ranked third in the 2014-15 preseason poll. However, the Little Giants have set their sights on one goal—winning the entire enchilada—the national championship. http://bit.ly/1s4IJ3d. They just won Little State and the North Central Wrestling tournaments, and are currently ranked second in the nation.

MUSIC, MAESTRO BILL!

Remember when the Beatles were cranking out a new #1 song every few weeks? It took Bill VanderHaar and me about 10 minutes to figure out the chords. Those “oldies” radio stations are playing OUR songs now! I use the Bose over-ear phones with an iPod shuffle to push me through my gym routines several times a week. I sent a note about some specific music to Bill VanderHaar, since I had not heard from him in a while, and happily, I received a very nice message in return:

Happy Thanksgiving!! Life is good here in NC! Livin’ the dream!! Yeah, we missed the 45th, but plan on a good celebration for the 50th. Let me know if you want any help in planning. You should know music has always been a part of my life, although I stopped barbershop quartetting a couple of years ago. The chorus I was directing here folded, and I could not meet the
commitments of several choruses an hour away. Continued to sing in a mass quartet weekend (we call it “brigading”) until last year, so singing is no longer here. But music interest is...

By the way, last night while searching for Christmas songs by which to decorate our tree, we found by chance a group called Pentatronix, again a cappella singing a variety of songs with a wonderful blend of voices. Give it a listen.

Back to Gabi and me, you may remember we moved from one Mooresville NC house to another about 2 miles away last December. And then we got a dog, perfect for us and the house that has a private forest behind it. So, those are the new things in our lives, both of which have given us expanded joy and love. Other than that, not too much new to report – I’m still playing lots of golf, doing tax returns during the dreaded season, and working at a private golf course (Trump International Charlotte) the rest of the year. Went skiing in West Virginia with the grandkids and had a blast, even though it’s not the Rockies. Not too much traveling to report – kind of good to stay home after so many years of international travel while working. Both physical and mental health are still good. (I’ll let Gabi comment on my emotional health!!)

Enjoy your music! A cappella is the purest form!!!

Peace
Bill

DO WE WANT HELIOTROPE? I have always loved Division III football—the “love of the game” Division. Seems the higher you go, the more that crime and drama become part of the picture. After traveling to the Wabash home opener this year, I sat at my computer on Saturdays and watched the football team go all the way to the second round of the playoffs. Did you see the Wisconsin-Whitewater game? Wabash trailed 10-7 at halftime, then made some mistakes that opened the door for the eventual #1Warhawks victory. You may need to use Chrome versus IE to view those streams, but amazingly, most sports events today at Wabash have some kind of electronic feed for us to enjoy. http://sports.wabash.edu/coverage.aspx  Quality is good! Whitewater even had a female reporter on the sidelines!

Our Little Giant Football team was strong, especially the defense. And they pounded the Dannies for the sixth year in a row. I did not like the delay in passing the offensive plays in from the sidelines. As a highly experienced 8th grade assistant line coach, I prefer keeping constant aerobic pressure on those big defensive linemen. All in all, a fantastic job by Coach Raeburn and his staff. See you next year at Homecoming! October 2-3 weekend, 2015.
Post-season awards continue to roll in for senior defensive end Cody Buresh. The American Football Coaches Association named Buresh as one of 25 DIII Football All-America selections. http://bit.ly/1ulMxym  Sounds like Dave Husted ’69 who played defensive end and was drafted by Oakland. One of my jobs as linebacker on that side was to “aim David.”

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Refer a Student: http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/student/refer

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Senior Jacob Burnett Named Rhodes Scholar
Jacob Burnett ’15 was recently selected as a Rhodes Scholar, Wabash’s 9th in history.

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Mary Langer Butler with Van Butler at The John Dory Oyster Bar. Looks like Van is not in Durango at the moment! (NY?)
And how could we call this letter complete without a FB Howdy from Funnybone Jim Dashiell and some of his beautiful grandkids!

Wabash College President Gregory D. Hess and Dean of the College Scott E. Feller announced the promotion and tenure of three members of the faculty. Professors Christie Byun (economics), Jane Hardy (Spanish), and Walter Novak (chemistry) all successfully completed the tenure process and in July will assume the rank of associate professor at the 182-year-old liberal arts institution.

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I enjoyed skiing with **John Hudson** before Christmas. Snow was perfect at Arapahoe Basin. Montezuma Bowl was not open yet, so no exploring the woods this time! John and Dot stopped at our house for some Looziana gumbo after Christmas.

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From Facebook: **Michael Dybel** seems to have friends in high places. Care to elaborate, Mike?

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I received this very nice note from Pledge Brother **Charlie (Chuck) Kraft**. Remember his brother John, a Phi Delt, as I recall? He was snagged by a C’ville policeman who stepped into the middle of a water fight? Collateral damage. That night the entire
campus took a study break downtown. Some negotiations by Dean Moore sent us home and got John off with a cleaning bill. Great to hear from our dear friend Charlie:

Jim, we really appreciated hearing from you, and seeing how your boys have grown! We have been staying close to home recently, and were able to be with my 98 year old mother and Brother John and his family for Christmas! Daughter Laura and her husband Jonathan were in St Louis with his folks...we will celebrate Christmas with them next week. Jan 15 we leave for ten days in AZ/NM, and then we’ll take the first week in Feb to go to FLA before we come back to await the birth of our first grandchild (Andrew David) in early March. Jonathan and Laura live in Elmhurst and are both deep into their careers in Engineering. Becky is painting, involved in two watercolor societies, and in charge of the Altar Guild at church. In 2015 I am finally moving from mostly retired to fully retired from working at AMLI for that DPU grad - hard to believe I have been there for 32 years. Church work will be keeping me busy the next few years - it’s a lot of fun, and personally rewarding...and at this stage of life, what better time to deepen our personal relationships with our Lord and with others!

Went to Cville Nov 15 with Brother-in-law Dan to watch Little Giants whup DPU for the sixth year in a row. Two weeks later Brother John and I attended the Play Off game at Whitewater (the eventual national champ of NCAA Division III). We had done this same exercise 3-4 years ago. At least this time Wabash was able to get within four touchdowns, losing 38-14.

I have already heard from Jim Milligan about our 50th Reunion coming up in 2018...stay tuned. It would be nice if time started slowing down a little now, but that hasn’t started quite yet...and I suspect it may never.

God Bless You both, and your kids. And thanks for staying in touch!

All our best,
Becky and Charlie

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Roger Senkbeil, who enjoys working in local theater in South Bend, celebrates his wife’s birthday on Facebook, with “Wow, what a happy birthday to my special loving young wifey!”

Great classmate, great couple.
And we all wish you many more happy ones!
I just got cleared for another year on the planet—finished my physical exam. I used to resist submitting to the medicos, but at my age I have transitioned that attitude to a quest for the thing that’s gonna kill me. Familiar? So many ills can be cured with early detection. Hope to see EVERYONE smiling back at Homecoming this year!

Wabash Always Fights,
Jim Roper ’68