



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1968

Class Agent

Jim Roper

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September 15, 2017

Dear Friends in the Class of 1968,

Well, here we are again. Looking at Homecoming soon. Jim Millikin is sending out letters, and our unit reps are starting to make phone calls to remind you of our big 50th Anniversary Big Bash June 1. **I hope to see everyone there!!!** If you are ambulatory, please roll on down to Crawfordsville June 1.

I plan to visit Wabash for Homecoming and practice reuniting with some Beta friends and whoever else shows up. I truly enjoy seeing friends from those tumultuous years of the 1960's. Good ol' days? Maybe not. But the people who return remind me of the good times. Too many smiles available to pass up. Come on by the Hospitality Room at the Hampton on Thursday or Friday night, September 20, 21. Bring merlot. We'll laugh and cry and remember.

I received this nice note from **Harry McGonigle**:

Jim,

Great letter, thanks,

Dianne and I are planning on making the trip out for the 50th. The 700 mile trip will take me back to the 60's. I had two really bad heart attacks within 5 months last year, but amazingly made it through the other side with the unbelievable help and care of my amazing wife, Dianne. After 46 years of varsity coaching, the doctors said I was done coaching. I would get so involved with the kids on my team, I know the doctors were right. I'm getting stronger every day, and I feel great.

My best to all,

Harry McGonigle

I received this note from **Bruce Gras**:



Hi Jim, just a quick update. Basically, it's a case of "Found and Lost, and somewhat Found again." I have had to fight a two front war since last March. In February, I was feeling fine. Then, I got hit by not one, but two Mack trucks. First, my cancer has crept back into Stage 1. Second, I have had four heart attacks in the same period. I have been hospitalized eight times since March too. I even had a stent put in my left ventricle in June to clear a 90% blockage. It didn't make much difference. All in all, I was still sinking pretty fast.

Then, I got a new cardiologist. He went over all my labs and imagery, did some more of his own, and concluded that my right ventricle was in even greater need of a stent with a 95+ blockage. So, last week, he inserted a stent there too. Now, I feel

reborn already in this first week after the procedure. Next up? Beat the cancer (again). Maybe, I need a new oncologist too?

Hope all is well with you and the family. I love the pic updates of the boys and their baseball activities.

Best, Bruce

We have lost another classmate. Bill Schwab was a Chem Major and we shared many hours at Goodrich Hall. On Father's Day, June 18, 2017 at the age of 71, Dr. William Schwab went to be with his Heavenly Father. As in everything Bill did, even this, he did well and with grace. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Nancy Schwab, children Jay (Kelley) Luttrull, Bill (Giuliana) Schwab, Kumar Schwab, Lisa Friske, Amy (Justin) Schwab-Morgensen, eight grandchildren, beloved brother John (Carla) Schwab, mother-in-law Mary Cook and many special nieces and nephews. For over 40 years Bill was an orthopaedic surgeon in Grand Rapids. After retiring from surgery at Orthopaedic Associates of Michigan, he became the Orthopaedic Residency Director at Metro Health University of Michigan Health Hospital. Bill had a strong faith and a passion for science. He was a loving husband, father, colleague, mentor and friend who will be deeply missed. The memorial service was held Friday June 23, 2017 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to support the UMCCC Leukemia Program. Checks may be made to "University of Michigan" and sent to Medical Development, 1000 Oakbrook, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. You may also call 734-764-6777 or visit the website <http://victors.us/williamwschwab> to make your gift.



Cheers to our good friend. We are enjoying our cruise!
— with [Bill McCluskey](#). 8-19-17



Van Butler enjoyed a birthday in August. Many more, my friend!

Steve Johnson- Big Sky Montana

I recently learned that Steve works with veterans, using fly fishing as a tool to calm the soul. One of my military friends, a retired Marine Colonel and concert pianist, is a friend of Steve's in this great cause.

Small world, made better by these guys,

Roper adds: *I'll never forget my return from Cambodia in 1975. At O'hare, and unknown to me, waited John Hudson, Ken Koepke, Dan Stauber, Bill Vanderhaar. Who did I forget? A van full of beer with canoes on top. Fishing trip to Michigan. Perfect.*

Here's Wayne Kornas, my bud from Gavit High School and across-the-street Neighbor at the Delt House at Wabash. I thought this was an excellent photo. Really nice.



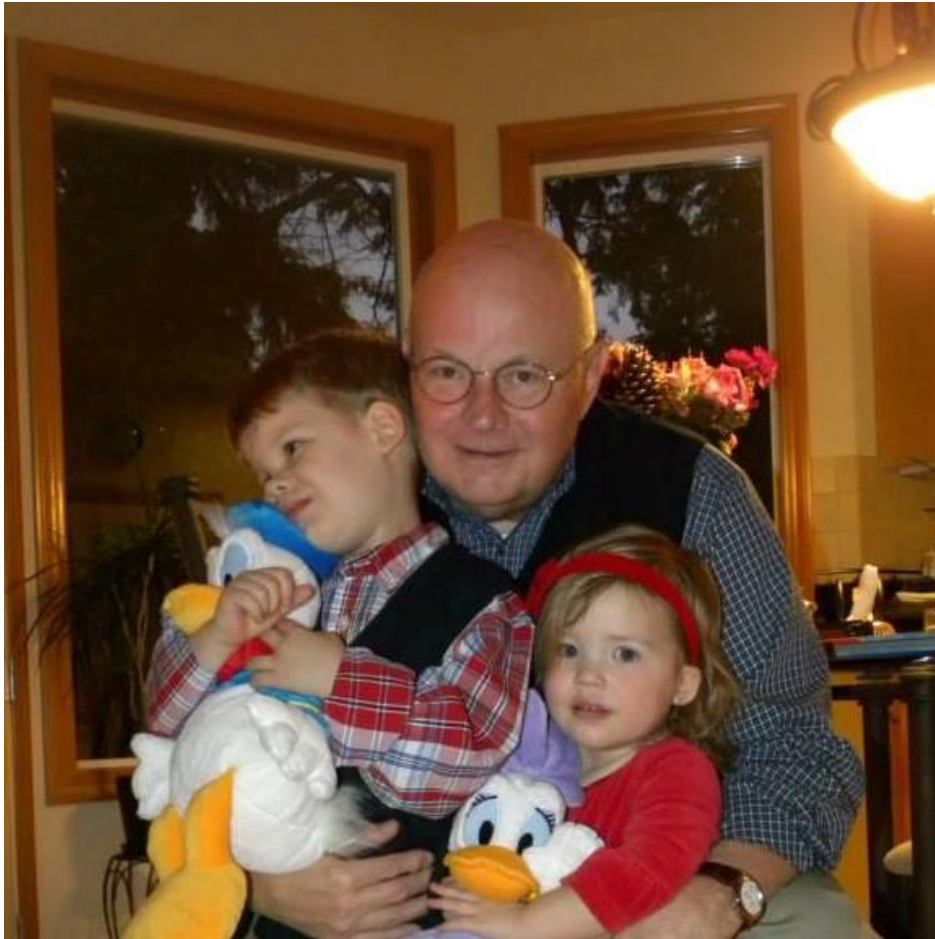
Hey, Michele. Please pass this one to Grunge! (Our friend, Tom Runge '71, served a tour of Air Force duty in the Fighter Assignments Shop.)



LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — Due to manning cuts and years of major airliners paying higher wages for sweet abs, the U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command may begin allowing normal-looking people become fighter pilots as early as 2020, sources report.

Read more: <http://www.duffelblog.com/2017/02/fighter-pilot-shortage-results-in-recruitment-of-average-looking-uncool-people/#ixzz4qY7qjyC9>

(This is actually a spoof from Duffle Blog on FB. When I flew the A-10, people described that airplane as “simple and tough, just like the men who fly it.”)



Lee Grogg had a Happy Birthday!

John and Dot Hudson are struggling along. Dot has had successful surgeries, and John is now struggling with some aches and pains that might even dare to interfere with our standard ski plans. Drop a line to them if you can. If you don't have his email address, send to me, and I will forward it. I met their son, Danny, a coach at Cherry Creek HS in my baseball travels in Denver this summer with my son, Matthew.

Did anyone else view the eclipse totality? John sent me these shots with a note: “We drove to Lingle, Wyoming, and watched from a small city park. I took Danny’s kids and they loved it.”



Steve Johnson finishing the 11K.

Oh yeah. Let's hear it for Montana!

Go for it, Steve!

Hardman Joins Wabash Wrestling Staff

When looking for a new assistant wrestling coach, Wabash College head coach [Brian Anderson](#) could not find a better fit than [Josh Hardman](#).

Hardman takes over the assistant coaching position vacated by Danny Irwin, who was named head coach at Wheeling Jesuit University after nine years with the Little Giants' program.

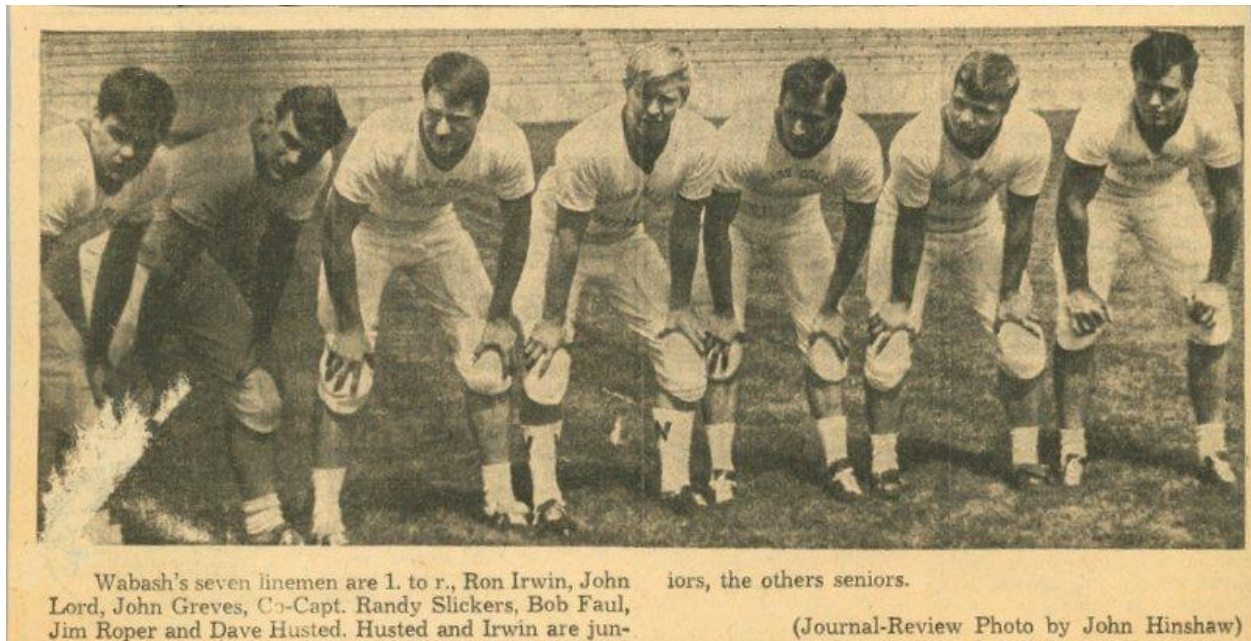


Hardman comes to Wabash from Morningside College in Iowa. He served three seasons with the Mustangs as an assistant coach, helping the program post winning numbers each year and earn a second-place finish in the Great Plains Athletic Conference last season.

Hardman has been reunited with Anderson after the two competed as teammates at Manchester College. Hardman graduated from Manchester in 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree of Science. He earned a Master's Degree in sports pedagogy from South Dakota State where he spent two seasons as an assistant coach.

"This is an awesome opportunity for the Wabash wrestling program," Anderson said. "Coach Hardman was a college teammate of mine, and I've followed where he's been since we graduated. He's been a lot of different places and has learned from a lot of great coaches. He fits our program perfectly. To be able to reunite with a college teammate and to get to work with one of your best friends is going to be an awesome experience."

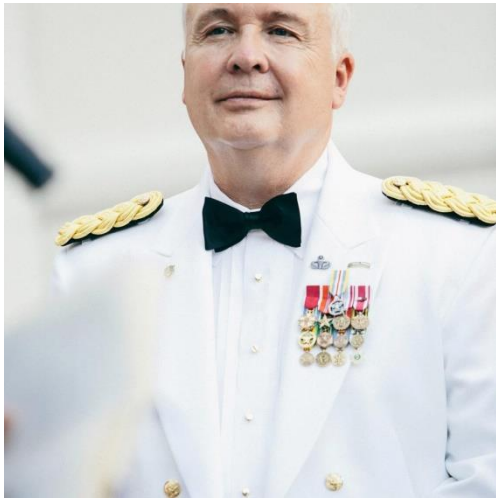
In addition to his time at Morningside and South Dakota State, Hardman spent four years as head coach at Dakota Wesleyan University where he was also director of the sports management program.



Wabash's seven linemen are 1. to r., Ron Irwin, John Lord, John Greves, Co-Capt. Randy Slickers, Bob Faul, Jim Roper and Dave Husted. Husted and Irwin are juniors, the others seniors.

(Journal-Review Photo by John Hinshaw)

Look what I found in an old box in the garage! Good old days!!!?



Dan Vannatter celebrates a birthday!

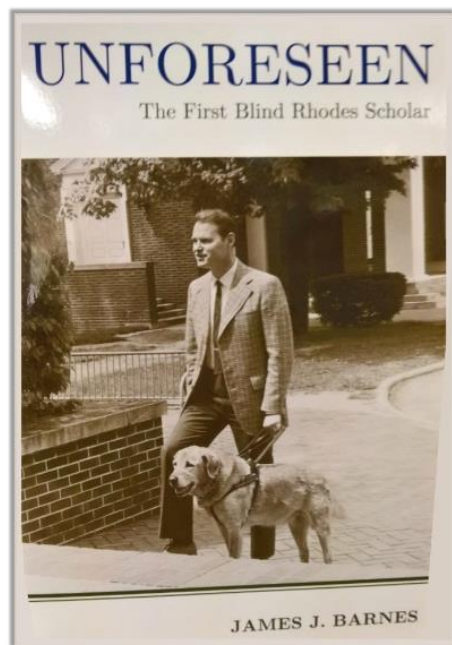
NOW AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKSTORE!

UNFORESEEN—The First Blind Rhodes Scholar

by James J. Barnes

Professor of History Emeritus

Wabash College Department of History 1962–2006



"James J. Barnes has never let the absence of sight define him. Born with limited vision, from a young age he was singled out for his love of hard work both in the classroom and on the sports field. As an undergraduate he was named *First Citizen of Amherst College* and was then awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, only to lose his sight entirely during his first year in Oxford. Now an eminent historian and a beloved teacher, this is not a tale of triumph over adversity, but rather one man's account of how he has responded to what life has given him by giving back to others."

I'm calling this a wrap. I have called some different folks for updates, so we will see what comes in from that. I will attend Homecoming Sep 22 weekend, so I'll blast away with the Nikon for the next letter.

Remember: Donate to Wabash: 377-743-4545

 Recommend a young man: 1-800-345-5385

But the main task is to circle June 1, 2018, on your calendar, and plan to join us for the 50th anniversary Big Bash. Ya-hoo!

With best regards,
Jim Roper '68