



**Pactoracles  
Class Agent's Letter  
For The Wabash College Class of 1971  
June 21, 2019**



## **48 Years And Counting: Class of 1971 Heads Toward 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion**

We will celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 2021. Put it on your calendar now. It should be the first weekend in June.

Reunion weekend is Big Bash. I have attended everyone since it started. You do not have to be in a reunion class to attend. This year, four members of our class attended: Mike Lowe, Phil Rifner, Tom Runge, and me. Our class has always had a grand time at our reunions, and we will have the grandest time at the 50<sup>th</sup>.

In 2018, a fraternity brother who was a member of the class of 1969 told me with no lack of conviction that he would no way, no how attend his 50<sup>th</sup> reunion the next year. I believed him. However, he showed up at his 50<sup>th</sup> reunion a few weeks ago, and I am sure that he was glad that he did. I was.

So, whether you have attended all of our reunions or none of them, put our 50<sup>th</sup> on your things to do.



*Mike Lowe of Pueblo, Colorado, enjoys Big Bash, May 31, 2019*

## **Classmate John Ryder Receives Peck Medal, Reflects On Wabash**

John Ryder '71 received the David W. Peck Senior Medal, honoring him for his long and distinguished career in the law on March 18, 2019. The Peck award is an annual award in the memory of David W. Peck '22, an esteemed Wabash alumnus and attorney. John has had a successful career in bankruptcy law and in election and campaign law. He recently served as general counsel to the Republican National Committee. John spoke earlier in the day in Baxter 101. Steve Kennedy '71 and I were in attendance. After he received the award that night at a dinner, he delivered some reflections which connect with the Class of 1971. Here are his prepared remarks delivered to students, alumni, faculty, and the college president.



*John Ryder with Peck medal.*

Thank you, President Hess.

I am deeply honored to accept this award.

As a student at Wabash, from Memphis, Tennessee, I found the winters here to be a bit harsh. In fact, when I graduated, I swore that I would not cross the Ohio river again before April 1 or after October 1. Only an honor of this magnitude could induce me to break that vow.

When I was a student, Thaddeus Seymour was President of the College. He used to say that our school motto: *Scientiae et virtuti* should be translated as "knowledge and guts."

It is appropriate to quote President Seymour, since David Peck was Chairman of the

**John Ryder Reflects (continued)**

Search Committee which recommended Seymour to the Board of Trustees. David Peck was born in Crawfordsville, graduated from Wabash Phi Beta Kappa, received his law degree from Harvard, was a distinguished judge and a partner at Sullivan & Cromwell. He was also a political activist, working diligently for Thomas Dewey in his Presidential campaigns. It is an honor to receive an award that is given in the name of David Peck.



*John and wife Lane at the Peck Dinner.*

If you will indulge me, I want to take a moment to remember another Wabash alumnus: my father, Jack Ryder, class of 1940, who throughout his life exhibited the qualities of knowledge and guts. Dad graduated in 1940. On December 8, 1941, he joined the US Navy. On March 19, 1945, 74 years ago tomorrow, he was serving aboard the aircraft carrier Franklin. On that day, the Franklin was attacked by a Japanese dive bomber, which dropped an armor piercing bomb on the ship. It penetrated the flight deck and exploded in the hanger deck, along with the fuel and ammunition. Over half the crew of 1300 men were killed in the ensuing fire. That was a situation which called for knowledge and guts.

Throughout his life, my father provided me a living example of *scientiae et virtuti*.

The liberal arts education that Wabash provides, gives the student a base of knowledge—about subjects, but also about the process of learning new subjects. The virtue that one learns at Wabash, epitomized by the “gentleman’s rule” means having the guts to the right thing.

These are skills and abilities which the law demands. Knowledge and the knowledge of how to obtain knowledge are critical as each case walks through the door presenting a new range of facts and problems. We are called upon to learn quickly the nuances of a field of business or human endeavor previously unknown to us. We are called upon to master a set of facts surrounding an event, a transaction, or a relationship.

*Virtuti* is not just the sum of the ABA Code of Professional Responsibility. It is the spirit of that Code. It is having the guts to do the right thing—maybe firing a client who fails to tell the truth or refuses to comply with orders of the Court; maybe accepting engagement in case which puts you at odds with powerful forces or social prejudice; maybe declining a case in which you cannot in good conscience seek the result your client wants, even though he is willing to pay substantial money to get that result.

When I started the practice of law, I was mentored by an older lawyer who liked to say he was “called to the bar.” It is a lovely phrase. The implication is that law, like the priesthood, is a calling. It is a vocation. It is not just a business.

We are called to make ourselves available to use the knowledge and training we have received to help others.

The symbol of the law has always been Lady Justice, blindfolded, holding the scales of justice.

I think that the symbol of lawyers should be Duct Tape. We are called upon to deal with things that are broken and need mending—broken contracts, broken laws, broken hearts.

To mend the broken things in our society effectively requires knowledge and guts, *scientiae et virtuti*. Knowing what to do and doing the right thing.

When you find yourself on the border of structure and chaos, as we discussed earlier, whether it is in trial, in the operating room, in the classroom, in a convention, or on the deck of a burning ship, what will guide you through is *scientiae et virtuti*, knowledge and guts.

Thank you, President Hess, and thank you Wabash College,  
I am honored to accept this award and I am proud to be a lawyer.

## With Our Classmates. . .

**Jack Gould** is the president of J.D. Gould Co., Inc. in Indianapolis. The company has been making and selling bronze and stainless steel solenoid valves since 1951. Jack has been running the business since 1989. The Indiana Manufacturer's Association inducted J. D. Gould Company, Inc. into their Hall of Fame.

**Charles Metzler** died on February 24, 2019. Chuck was a Beta Theta Pi and the brother of Mickey, Class of 1965.

## News From Campus,

**Basketball.** The Wabash team had an exciting year, finishing 21-6. Sophomore guard Jack Davidson set an all-time, all-divisions record for most consecutive free throws in competition. He hit 95 in a row, a feat that Steve Alford, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, and no other college player had achieved. Davidson did not miss in 14 games. He was named conference player of the year and first team All-American by the National Basketball Coaches Association. He scored 30 or more points seven times during the season. He scored a career-best 47 points against Hiram. Despite his accomplishments, it was not a one-man team. In the photo, he takes and makes the 95<sup>th</sup> consecutive free throw. He missed the next one. Trey Holland '71 and I were in the crowd when he set the record.



**Wabash ranks high in the Princeton Review again.** Wabash received an overall academic rating of 95 with scores of 99 in the categories associated with teaching, faculty interest, and accessibility. It was ranked No. 4 for the "Most Accessible Professors" and No. 10 for "Professors Get High Marks." Wabash also earned recognition for "Best-Run Colleges" (No. 20) and a place with "Lots of Greek Life" (No. 4). The College's Schroeder Center for Career Development received high marks for its efforts, ranking No. 2 nationally in "Best School for Internships" to go with a No. 6 placement in "Best Career Services." Wabash was listed No. 2 nationally in "Best Alumni Network."

**Wabash Housing.** With the start of 2018-2019 academic year, all students, with some exceptions, are required to live in college-owned housing. There are pros and cons to this policy, but I generally favor it.

**Wabash Sports History.** Are you interested in Wabash sports history? In this history, this might mean your time as a student. The college has a new source of information on the website. It's so new that I have not checked it out yet.

**Glee Club.** The Glee Club took a tour to Taiwan a few weeks ago.

**Professor Bernie Manker Dies.** Bernie Manker, a professor of Spanish during our era, passed away on May 30, 2019. Before joining the faculty, he lived and worked in the foreign service in South America, Central America, and Spain. He served as professor of Spanish and tennis coach for over 35 years.

**Pactoracles**  
**Class Agent Letter of Class of 1971—June 21, 2019**

**Thanks To Classmates Who Have Donated To Wabash;  
Fiscal Year Ends June 30**

These gentlemen and ladies have contributed to the annual fund so far this fiscal year, which will end June 30, 2019. Thanks to each donor. When we contribute, we say "thanks" for our own good fortune, for our great Wabash professors, and our Wabash friendships. If you are not on the list, join the list, which is current through June 20. Please contribute by mailing a check to Wabash College, Annual Giving, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or by contributing online at [wabash.edu/egift](http://wabash.edu/egift), or by calling the college at 877-743-4545.

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**Thanks for reading *Pactoracles*. It is my honor and responsibility to serve the Class of 1971. Please contact me with news, comments, questions, or beauty tips. If you are receiving this missive electronically, please print it and share it with your family and friends.**



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