Pactoracles
Class Agent’s Letter For The Wabash College Class of 1971
May 21, 2012

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Dr. David Hadley Retires;
He Was Last Active Professor Of Our Era

The Class of 1971 reached a milestone when Dr. David Hadley, one of the longest serving professors in Wabash history, recently retired after 43 years of teaching political science. He was the last active faculty member who taught us.

Several faculty, alumni, and other friends gathered for a retirement party on campus, May 19. Retired professors from our era in attendance included Bill Bonifield, Bill Doemel, Phil Mikesell, Robin Pebworth, John Zimmerman, David Phillips, and Austin Brooks. Classmates Brad Johnson and Jon Pactor were among the throng estimated at 150 people.

Dr. Hadley has long been active in Democratic politics. Among other roles, he chaired the Indiana State Ethics Commission from 1995 to 1998. He also doggedly persisted for the Democratic cause in the Republican stranglehold of Crawfordsville and Montgomery County.

But, the evening was bipartisan. Todd Rokita ’92, U.S. Congressman and a Republican, sent his congratulations by letter which was read by Dr. Melissa Butler, 37-year colleague of Dr. Hadley. Also present were Carlos May ’01, who won the Indiana Republican primary to run for a Congressional seat; Mark Moore ’79 who worked for Democratic Gov. Evan Bayh; Steve Campbell ’92, former deputy mayor of Indianapolis; and Adam Kirsch ’07, Executive Director of the Marion County (Indianapolis) Democratic party.

Todd Barton ’00, Republican mayor of Crawfordsville, personally delivered a proclamation declaring May 21 David J. Hadley Day.

In one respect, the celebration was partisan. All were partisan for Dr. Hadley and the great professors throughout the history of Wabash College.

Wabash Athletes Don’t Wear Jocks

Wabash athletes do not wear jocks. I admit that this news flash is hearsay, but I got it from an anonymous tip (perhaps that’s not the correct word). Instead, they wear some other type of support. You won’t find behind-the-scenes news like this on the college’s website. So this is another compelling reason to read the Pactoracles. (I am sorry that I don’t have a photo to illustrate.)
With Our Classmates...

Skip Adams became a first-time grandfather on August 22, 2011. The mother is daughter Kristin, who has been serving her last year of active duty with the Air Force as an anesthesiologist at Wright Patterson AFB. Skip works for Ice Miller LLP in Indianapolis.

Brad Johnson was re-elected to the board of the National Association of Wabash Men.

Skip Long. Skip’s father, class of 1939, died. Read Skip’s beautiful memory of his dad Robert Hargrave Long at page 73 of the most recent issue of Wabash Magazine.

Tim Perry could not make the reunion last June, but he sent me the following e-mail message. “I live in the Napa Valley and have for thirteen years in St Helena, that is a town like Crawfordsville when we were at Wabash....except there is no Wabash. Everyday, I am astonished at the lack of critical thinkers as I sit and talk to people in different walks of life that pass through here. What we learned to do at Wabash is obviously something that is not pervasive in the real world and I am always astonished at the narrow mindedness of people and their ability to think through situations. Of course, when you went to a school with professors named Tall Hall Peebles, Gentle Ben Rogge, Bugsy Williams, or Heavy Ed Hanesch one learns a wide variety of information and the brain retains a lot of information that surfaces years later when you are working on things that come across your desk.”

News From Campus...

Track Team Takes Conference Titles. Wabash captured both the indoor and outdoor conference championships in track and field this year.

Wabash Runner Is National Champ In Indoor Mile. Kevin McCarthy ’12 won the 1500 indoor mile race in the NCAA Indoor Track And Field Championships. His time was a blazing 4:08.19, which is faster than most of us can get off the sofa, go to the fridge, open a beer, and return to the sofa. An independent and biology major, he graduated cum laude and received the Scholar-Athlete Award from the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men.

Little Giant Named Conference Baseball Player Of Year. John Holm ’12 was named conference player of the year for the second year. He hit 11 homeruns, putting him seventh place in Division III nationally. He graduated with at least 10 all-time Wabash records outright and tied for a couple of others. He was also a star in football. He is a Beta.

Bachelor Journalists Win State Acclaim. Indiana Collegiate Press Association awarded 18 awards to 13 staffers of the Bachelor at its April convention. The staff captured second place overall for Division III newspaper of the year.

College Names New MXI Director. Dr. Michael Brown, who taught at Wabash form 1995-1999 and at Emory University for the next 12 years, returned to Wabash as the new Director of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies.
Classmates Vic Ransom and Keith Nelson helped to found institute which celebrated its 40th anniversary last fall. The organization has morphed much over the years. Today, members are of various racial and ethnic backgrounds or identities.
Dr. Brown earned his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt and his master’s degree in divinity and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.
Three Great Wabash Professors Have Died In Recent Months

Dr. Hall Peebles, Dr. Vic Powell, and Dr. Ed McLean have passed away in the past several months.

Dr. Peebles taught religion from 1958 until his retirement in 1998. He had a distinctive manner of speech and gesticulation, compounded with deep knowledge and intelligence which made his nickname “Yahweh” so fitting for young Wabash men. Like so many great Wabash professors, he was a professor for the students. He enjoyed being with alumni. He delivered his amusing “Tribe of Dan” roast to DePauw at the annual Monon Bell Stag at least twice.

In 1998, the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men honored and thanked Dr. Peebles. Its proclamation said:

“As we stand here today, the miracle of Wabash lies in her ability to inspire greatness in successive generations, and the role of each is to move the bar higher. You have shared yourself with four generations of us, from saint to sinner…”

Dr. Peebles, 81, died January 5, 2012.

Dr. McLean was a scholar, teacher, and lawyer. He began his tenure at Wabash in 1968 after earning his undergraduate degree, master’s degree, and Ph.D. from Indiana University. He earned his law degree in 1975. He was a law school contemporary of Skip Adams and other members of the Class of 1971.

He was known and respected because he would pounce on any student who was guilty of muddled thinking or no thinking at all. Perhaps for that reason, he earned the nickname “Fast Eddie.”

Like all great Wabash professors, his personal views did not interfere with his teaching. Politically, Dr. McLean was conservative, but not in its current ideation. He was not so much anti-government as he was pro-individual. He respected the individual, and he was a gentleman.

He was active in local and state politics. He served on the Indiana Civil Rights Commission.

He chaired the political science department at Wabash from 1973 until 1984. He was a great advocate for pre-law students at Wabash. For years, he taught political science at Wabash and served as deputy prosecutor of Montgomery County.

Dr. McLean was a big influence, perhaps even a mentor, to Todd Rokita ‘92, who is currently a U.S. Representative from Indiana. Rep. Rokita attended the funeral and gave the following remarks to Congress upon Dr. McLean’s death:

“He was an inspiration on my path to serving the people of Indiana, and his teachings have become my primary motivation for seeking to reduce the size and scope of government here in Washington. He was my college professor, my counselor, and my friend. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, he was exactly the same person to countless men who associate with Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana…

“Dr. McLean was both loved and feared as a man who challenged students to hone their critical thinking skills. He used the Socratic method to assist students in recognizing and correcting flaws in their arguments, and somewhere along the line, he earned the nickname “Fast Eddie.”

He died on September 12, 2011 at the age of 82.

I will write about Vic Powell in the next issue of the Pactoracles. He died on October 6, 2011 at the age of 91.
“Here Comes A Wabash Man!”

I heard "Here comes a Wabash Man!" from a teen-ager, who was working the polls, as I sauntered to vote in the Indiana primary on May 8. As I got closer, I recognized him as one of my recruits for next year and then heard: “Will you vote for me”?

Kurt, who will be a Little Giant freshman next fall, informed me that he was running for delegate to the state Republican convention. He did well but not well enough to win. But, he was later appointed to be a delegate. (Yes, I voted for him.)

We vote for Wabash when we recruit good men like Kurt to Wabash. It is easy, important, and rewarding for us to refer good students to Wabash. Simply mail the name and contact information of your recruit to the Dean of Admissions, P. O. Box 352, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or go online at wabash.edu/alumni/alumni/refer. I encourage all of us to get out the vote for Wabash.

Please Donate To The Annual Fund Before July 1

These gentlemen have contributed to Wabash this fiscal year as of May 20, 2012. Thanks to each classmate. The fiscal year ends June 30. When we contribute, we say “thanks” for our own good fortune for our great Wabash professors and Wabash friendships. Please contribute by mailing a check to Wabash College, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or on online at wabash.edu/alumni/egift.

Skip Adams  Steve Hays  Alvin McElfresh
Greg Allen    Cloyce Hedge  Dick Morford
Jerry Anderson Dan Holderbaum Dennis Myers
Jim Ball      Trey Holland  Keith Nelson
Bruce Bradway Dave Husted  Jon Pactor
Jim Bromley   Rich Jaffke  Garrett Paul
John Brown    Clark Johnson Jim Peters
Rufus Burton  Brad Johnson  Larry Phelps
Kai Chin      Bruce Julian  Ed Pitkin
Ed Corley     Jim Kamplain Bob Prentiss
Steve Covey   Sam Kazdan  Mark Randak
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Dave Gray     John Lathrop  Tom Runge
Rick Gregory  Mike Lemon  John Ryder
Fred Haase    Skip Long  Orlo Shoop
Gary Hansen  Dave Main  John Street
Bob Harlan    Tom Martella Steve Wildman
Pete Hawley  Steve McDaniel

Thanks for reading Pactorales. It is my honor to serve the Class of 1971. Please contact me with news, comments, questions, or cures for wrinkles at pactorlaw@iquest.net, 317-636-0686 (w), or 317-695-2555 (cell).

Jon Pactor ’71 (that’s my class; not my age)  
Class Agent