June 2014

Dear Class of 1981:

The Wabash academic year just ended and the fiscal year ends very shortly. President Hess’ first year at Wabash started quickly and has been a year of many achievements.

Since our last letter the College has started on a long overdue project of the construction of new independent student housing. The $15 million plan includes the construction of two 38-bed halls, two 16-bed lodges, and two duplex-style townhomes with 12 beds each. The project was given final approval by the College’s Board of Trustees during the recently completed graduation weekend. The residential units will be built on Crawford street. Following construction of these new housing units, expected to be during the 2015-2016 academic year, Martindale Hall will undergo a substantial renovation and have 80-90 beds.

The Board of Trustees approved the faculty recommendations to create new interdisciplinary (a) majors in Financial Economics and Hispanic Studies and (b) minors in Asian Studies and Business.

Wabash has a new basketball coach, Kyle Brumett, who comes to Wabash from Defiance College, where he had a winning record, including a NCAA Division III Tournament appearance. He was an assistant at DePauw in the early 2000s. He is a 1998 graduate of Hanover.

Certainly one of the highlights of the 2013-2014 year was Day of Giving (430 on 4/30) held April 30, 2014. The original target for the day was 430 donors for the day. The target was quickly exceeded in the morning. The total donated to Wabash that day was $465,421 of which 86 percent was allocated to the Annual Fund. This was the largest single day of giving in school history. It was roughly one-eighth of the Annual Fund’s goal for the entire year. On this incredible day 2,329 gifts were made. Of those gifts, there were 2,214 unique donors that included 1,626 alumni, 211 current students and more than 170 faculty and staff gifts. The College received an average of two gifts a minute and the average was a whopping $199.84 per gift. For those of us who “watched” the progress of day on social media and e-mail it was an exciting celebration of support for our alma mater.

If you have not had the opportunity to make your gift for the 2013 - 2014 year, please consider doing so before June 30. There are three easy ways to make your gift and join your brothers below on the Honor Roll:
1. Online at www.wabash.edu/egift
2. By phone at 877-743-4545
3. By mail to:
   Wabash College
   Annual Giving
   PO Box 352
   Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Class Notes

- Peter Wright had the chance to visit with Brian Dixon and his wife, Clokie, in Nashville and learned about the continuing expansion of his business Dickens Turf & Landscape Supply.
- Michael and Molly Kraus celebrated their 31st wedding Anniversary on May 21st! Congratulations!
- Mark McGrady had an up-close and personal encounter with a vulture. From FB: “I have had an unwanted guest in my car for three days. On Saturday morning, I was about two hours from home when I hit a vulture that was eating some road kill. I assumed I had killed the bird. Yesterday morning when I was getting ready to go to work I heard some rustling which I thought was under my car. I expected to see a possum under the car. Instead, I saw the vulture was in my car between the grill and the radiator. It went with me to work yesterday. I tried to pry the grill further open so it would leave last night but it was still there this morning. As I started the car up this morning, I heard it scurrying around under the hood. As I got to the end of the driveway, it climbed out of the grill and flew away. There was a car driving towards me. That must have been a sight.”
- John Weaver just completed Medical School. He will now start his residency program at Baylor Garland Family Medicine in Dallas.
- David Dingley is summering in Colorado and had a great bike ride on Father’s Day. (Amazing what you can keep up with on FB!) David sings in his Visitation Choir at his Catholic Church in Kansas City. They toured Northern Italy and sang in Como, Cortona and Verona and go to Europe every 3 years or so. This was their 3rd after a Rome/Tuscany and Spain tour the last 5 years. “It’s great to visit these incredible cities, going with a bunch of very good friends makes it even more fun, and singing in some of the most beautiful buildings in the world adds yet more to the experience. I feel very fortunate to have done it. I just can’t figure out why I didn’t join the Glee Club at Wabash as much as I like the choir. What was I thinking?”

I told David that as far as I know, there is no prohibition about coming back to Glee Club Reunions even if you weren't in Glee Club.

Honor Roll

Kevin Altman        Chris Braun        Tom Elliott
John Ashworth III   Jim Cooper         Eric Faires
Joe Boomhower       Doug Coplen        Lou Fenoglio
John Bostick        Bryan Daniels      Larry Frye
Gus Galante
Randy Grimes
Steve Hartenstein
Doug Haywood, CPA
Dan Heiser
John Helm
John Hilbrich
Cris Johnston
Scott Jones
Terry Jones
Fred Kendall
Carl Kipp III
Jim Kipp, Jr.
Mike Kraus, FACP
Doug Kvachkoff
Mark Lazar
Mike Leagre
David Lewis
Dennis Lindauer
Rolf Loescher, M.D.
Bill Macon, Jr.
Mark McGrady
Doug McKay
Don Miller
Kirk Miller
Carl Myers, O.D.
Jon Myers
Bill Myers
Dave Neal, Jr.
Bill Nesbitt
Jerry Noll
Stephen Pavy
Tom Phillips
Steve Pruett
Phil Purcell
Steven Riggs
Bill Rippy, Jr.
Mike Robak
Pete Schiavone
Curt Schmitt
Ned Segelken
Rick Skertic
Dave Steiner, PE
Rolland Strasser
Jeff Struewung
Stan Thompson
Ron Vogel
Jay Want
Tom Weber
Carlos Woodward
Monty Woodward
Pete Wright
Brian Wynneken
Kevin Young
Randy Zromkoski

Yours in Wabash,

Peter, and Stephen