March 2006

Dear Classmates:

Here is some news from the class I have been storing up over the last few months.

While attending the wedding of a fraternity brother in Evansville last November (Todd Shellenbarger, '87), I had a chance to catch up with Mike Hodges. Mike serves as Corporate Vice President and Treasurer at Hyatt Hotels in Chicago. Mike's wife Corrine is studying for the ministry in the Episcopal Church at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. Corrine is wonderful; she is already assisting with chaplaincy work at a hospital.

Corrine told me that one of her seminary classmates is our very own C. Davies Reed. Dave began his studies at Seabury-Western during the Fall of 2004 and as of last Fall was about half way through his program there. Dave is projected to complete his ministerial studies in the Spring of 2007 and should be ordained to the priesthood about 6 months thereafter. Dave reports that on December 11, 2005, he preached about John the Baptist at all three English language services at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis. This was his first opportunity to preach at the Cathedral, which is also his home parish. Cool, Dave.

Brian Shinkle is a candidate for Circuit Judge of Illinois' Second Judicial Circuit. Brian's experience as a lawyer has been concentrated in criminal law for over a decade, including jury trial experience as a prosecutor involving capital murder and child sexual abuse cases. Brian has also served as Trial Counsel and Chief Government Counsel for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. Brian recently served a seven-month tour of duty in Iraq. Wow. Brian and his wife Lorie have two children, Victoria and Thomas. Good luck in the election, Brian.

Chris Dailey and his wife Katie were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Claire Marie Dailey, on May 26, 2005. Chris reports she "is beautiful" because she "received her looks from her Mother." Claire joins her two (2) brothers, Danny, age 4.5 and Jack, age 3. Chris continues his general civil and criminal law practice in Terre Haute. In August, 2005, Katie assumed new professional duties as the Media Specialist at Marshall High School in Marshall, Illinois. She is enjoying her new role.

And here is some news from Wabash.

As you all probably know, our Board of Trustees recently elected Dr. Patrick E. White as Wabash's 15th President. Dr. White is currently Vice President of St. Mary's College in South Bend. I had the opportunity to meet Dr. White at an alumni luncheon during the selection process. He impressed us as a thoughtful and mature leader who would respect Wabash's
traditions; he also conveyed a sense of the humor and humility that are essential for the job too. Dr. White will take office July 1. In addition, Dr. Gary Phillips, current Chair of the Religion Department at the University of the South (in Tennessee), will begin service on July 1 as our new Dean of the College.

Seniors have finished their comprehensive exams with a loud, collective sigh of relief. The basketball team pleased the crowd in Chadwick Court again this season, and our swimmers have done well too. We are half-way through the semester's academic work. I have 32 students in a new course I'm teaching on the intriguing subject of Religious Freedom. My students' willingness to work hard and boldly to offer creative solutions to the timeless challenges of religion in the public square impresses me every week. I've also had the opportunity to co-teach a few sessions of the class with fellow faculty members Bill Placher '71 and Steve Webb '83. It is most humbling, but also very inspiring, to see such magnificent teachers in action.

Bill and Steve have recently published books that have earned professional acclaim. The Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment asked Bill Placher to put together a book that will help clarify the idea of a religious calling particularly for college students, but for others as well. It is titled, simply, Callings (Eerdmans 2005). Steve Webb published The Divine Voice: Christian Proclamation and the Theology of Sound (Brazos Press, 2005). It received the Religious Communication Association Book of the Year Award and was also on the top ten list of Christianity Today. In addition, Wabash English Professor Joy Castro recently published a gripping memoir titled The Truth Book that received a very favorable notice in the New York Times Book Review. In short, Bill, Steve, and Joy's work shows that our faculty not only continues to impress with its teaching but also with its publishing.

Please stay in touch. Take a moment to shoot Kyle Carr (kcarr@mhc.net) or me (Scott.Himsel@bakerd.com) an email with your latest news or news about one of our classmates. Take care.

Yours in Wabash,

Scott Himsel