Late May 2006

“Hello from Wabash!” by David Waldman, ‘93
It has been a long time since you have received a letter from your Class Agents. For this I apologize. It wasn’t that I don’t like to write in fact, I rather enjoy it. It was more related with the plethora of other responsibilities that tend to be kicking my ass on a regular basis. Life is busy and it is easy to get distracted.

So, I get a call early in the afternoon from a wise old Wabash Class Agent. He called me to “nudge me” in regards to the letter. “You know that you and your fellow Class Agents haven’t written a letter during this fiscal year.” “Uh, huh,” I said. “The COLLEGE would very much like to see a letter sent before June 30, 2006, the end of the FISCAL YEAR.” “Okay,” I said, “I will get out a letter soon.” “VERY SOON,” he said, “And, tell them,” he said, “HELLO FROM WABASH!”

BIG BASH 2006! JUNE 2-4, 2006
With a little over 1 week remaining before the Big Bash Reunion Weekend and registration coming to a close we already know that this 3rd Big Bash will have the largest crowd. We have OVER 300 alumni registered from the reunion classes alone, not to mention other alumni attending to see some guys from classes around them and the alumni faculty and staff. Details for the weekend can be found online at https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion. You can catch a glimpse of the fun and excitement by keeping an eye on the college website throughout Big Bash weekend as many stories and photos will be posted.

“What’s happening?”
Kari and Eric Schoettle would like to introduce the newest member of their family Samuel Joseph Schoettle; born: 5-19-06; 2:28 PM; Weight: 6 lbs. 7 oz. [Eric hopes “this will keep him off the O-Line for now, thank God…no offense to you former O-Lineman”]; Height: 19 inches. Mom and baby are doing exceptionally well.

Adam Michael Bures has reconnected with Wabash. He is living with his Wife Dr. Michelle Sauer and can be contacted at 516 Forest Road, Minot, ND 58701, (701) 852-1971. Adam is employed by Investors Management & Marketing.

Mike Crnkovich and his wife Nancy and I are proud to announce the birth of their first child, daughter Ellory Kate Crnkovich. She was born on 12/13/05 at 12:46am. Weighing in at 8lbs 10ozs, and 21 inches long.
Admissions
Another strong freshman class will arrive on campus in August. The Admissions Office received 1,356 applications this year, the second highest total ever. Through May 22, we have received 275 deposits and the profile of the Class of 2010 is consistent with previous years with one exception. This class has the highest percentage of students ranking in the top twenty percent of their graduating classes on any freshman class according to our records. You can meet the Class of 2010 by visiting their website (www.wabash.edu/class2010). We created the page to help introduce our freshman to the entire Wabash community and each other. New pictures are posted daily, so visit the site often.

IMENTOR - Alumni Ready to Help Entrepreneurs
Starting a business in Indiana? Want some advice from a Wabash man with experience in a particular area of business - sales, marketing, human resources, finance, technology, law, or other areas important for your start-up? IMENTOR (Indiana Mentors) is a new network of Wabash men designed to provide that assistance. Call Lu Hamilton (765) 361-6168 or hamiltol@wabash.edu for that IMENTOR connection. IMENTOR is one of the programs sponsored by the Lilly Endowment Initiative to Promote Opportunity through Educational Collaborations, designed to help Wabash promote Indiana as a great place to start a new business or career. IMENTOR Initiative details can be found in the "I Need Help With" page on the website (http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/help - linked from the Alumni & Parents page). From this page you can also get details on things like finding a specific alumnus, finding an alumni group, volunteering for Wabash, and many others

Fraternity Partnership Update
Phi Gamma Delta - Construction of the new Phi Gam house is on schedule and the Phi Gams should be able to move into their new house in August, 2006. Phi Kappa Psi - Renovation of the Phi Psi house began on March 21, 2006 and it is scheduled for completion in December, 2006. The Phi Psis will remain in their house for the remainder of this semester, but they will move into the old Phi Gam house in the fall until December, 2006. Tau Kappa Epsilon - The Tekes are interested in building a new house for a capacity of approximately forty men. They are considering two sites at this time: the first is the location of the old Sigma Chi house on West Wabash Avenue (currently called Crawford Hall and occupied by independent men); the second site is just west of their current house on Jenison Street. Delta Tau Delta - The Delts are nearing completion of their renovation plans/construction documents, and they have been working hard on value engineering to reduce the total project cost of the renovation. They will meet with College officials in the near future to request approval of their plans and the total project cost. Kappa Sigma - The Kappa Sigs have been given a total project cost limit by the College. They are now working with their architects to determine whether to renovate their current facility, renovate a portion of the old house and build a new portion, or build a completely new house.
Dean of Students Office - by Tom Bambrey, '68 – Dean of Students
For as long as anyone at the College can remember, the Dean of Students has conducted "Sophomore Interviews." These interviews--each sophomore with the Dean for about 15 minutes during the first half of the spring semester--make up part of the sophomore-year ritual at the College. Collectively, the interviews offer the Dean a glimpse into the thinking of this generation of Wabash students after about a year and a half on campus, and after the initial adjustment of the freshman year and settling in of the second year. Also, it is during the sophomore interview that the College asks for the first time about each student's intended major and minor. Even though many students come to Wabash knowing, or thinking about, a specific major, we do not require official declaration of the major and minor until the sophomore interview. Following the interview, the student's major and minor go on file in the Registrars Office. Then, of course, some students still change the major and/or minor at a later time. This tradition of waiting until the second semester of the sophomore year to declare academic intentions, allows students to think about possibilities and consider options as they take a variety of courses in the best liberal arts manner. The most popular majors among sophomores this year are biology, economics, psychology, history, and religion. But, of course, students major in disciplines across the College. This year, five students declared a major in Classics; three students chose Latin; four chose Art; three picked a major in music and three more in Rhetoric two declared Physics and also Greek; two more plan to major in theater--and so it goes.

Wabash College Archives
Hugh Vandivier, Class Agent for the Class of 1991, has had the opportunity to spend much time in the College Archives over the past six months or so. During one particular conversation with Archivist Beth Swift, she mentioned that the archives were missing the bound copies of the Bachelor from some of the years he was in school. The Archives routinely collects 2 copies of each edition of the Bachelor and binds them all together. She specifically noted missing issues from the Fall 1990, Spring and Fall 1991, and Spring 1992. So, as you partake in the annual ritual of spring cleaning around your home, we ask that you help locate any editions of Bachelors. It's a crucial part of the school's history that needs to be restored. While these specific time frames for missing Bachelors have been noted, the Archives are always interested in any Wabash memorabilia you might have to offer. If you have something you believe might be of interest please contact Beth Swift in the Ramsey Archives at 765-361-6378 or swiftb@wabash.edu.

Violent Storm Rips Through Campus by Jim Amidon (April 15, 2006)
A violent spring thunderstorm ripped through campus late Friday (4/14) night, falling several trees and ripping the roof off Kingery Hall. No injuries from the storm have been reported. Kingery Hall will be closed through the remainder of the school year. Campus services crews, along with faculty and staff, quickly moved out boxes of books, computers, and phones before more storms arrived in Montgomery County on Friday night. More than a dozen trees fell across the Wabash campus, including one of the largest white oak trees in Montgomery County; several pine and hemlock trees; and a maple tree fell on a College-owned house on Crawford Street. Crews worked overtime through the weekend, and continued on Monday cleaning up from one of the worst storms to hit Wabash in decades.

The Gentleman's Rule
The student is expected to conduct himself, at all times, both on and off the campus as a gentleman and a responsible citizen.
Israel, February 2006 by David Waldman, '93

Since my return to the U.S. after my February 2006 trip to Israel, I have had many opportunities to talk about my experiences traveling there.

I studied many topics including: The 5 modern tribes of Israel, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, Models for Entrepreneurial Encouragement and the Development of Hi Tech Israel, the re-interpretation of the role of the Holocaust in Israeli Society, re-defining of heroes in modern Israeli Society, among others. Being a huge music fan, I started my own independent study on "Themes in Hip Hop Yisraeli," or Israeli Hip Hop.

Instead, I wanted to share my personal experience. I found the trip had a very profound effect on me. An effect that is difficult to put into words.

On his new album “Youth,” Hassidic Reggae star Matisyahu has a song called Jerusalem. In the song, Matisyahu sings “Jerusalem, if I forget you, let no fire come from my tongue. Jerusalem, if I forget you, may my right hand forget what it’s supposed to do…” His lyrics echo the Yiddish saying, “Im eshka – kheikh yerushalayim,” “If I forget you, O Jerusalem,” the rest of the saying goes “may my right hand wither and my tongue stick to my palate.” Something about the song struck a chord and loosened my own tongue relating to my experience.

I am generally not at a loss for words and as an English major I have always been confident in my voice. Part of my inability to express my thoughts comes from the amazing pace that was set for the group. Between the seminars, excursions and activities, we had a total of about 4 hours free time in 13 days. There was far more data than could be processed and I am still “unpacking” a lot of what I learned.

This was my second trip to Israel, the first one being approximately 20 years ago. I was a kid the last time I went. Now, I have a kid. Israel has changed drastically in 20 years.

Visiting some of the locales that I traveled to during the last trip made these changes very apparent. Jerusalem the center of "Western Religion" has seen amazing change in the last twenty years. The modern city of Jerusalem has an impressive amount of construction going on currently, while the "Old City" has seen very little change since 1967 when it was liberated from Jordan. It is a city that simultaneously looks forward and backwards. Part of Jerusalem is what everyone imagines the “Old City” to be, with the Kotel, the “Western Wall,” Al Aksah Masque, “The Dome of the Rock,” the many gates mentioned in the Torah and the Christian Bible and the Jewish and Arab Markets. At the same time, Jerusalem has some of the most amazing modern architecture, growing high tech industry and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Tel Aviv is a “City that Never Takes a Break.” We spent only 30 hours there, but the city is one that runs non-stop. It is home to amazing cultural, social and entertainment opportunities.
I found that many times when I looked backward in the history of a particular place I was looking backwards at my own history, as well. It was an opportunity to look at my own life journey. It was an amazing opportunity to look deeply at where I am in my life at this point and ascertain whether it was where I thought I was going to be. It was also an opportunity to challenge the ideas, thoughts and beliefs that I hold to be true. In many ways my trip became a voyage of new discovery, an opportunity to discover the modern Israel, as well as a modern me.

In the Rabbinic writings related to contracts, the Rabbis said that “a person may compel his entire household to go up with him to the Land of Israel, but none may be compelled to leave there.” This is one of thousands of references about the important place that Israel possesses both historically and religiously and how important it is to visit there. I found my personal experience no less impressive and perhaps even overwhelming on a number of levels. I will not forget my experience or Jerusalem and I will carry them with me always.

Tel-Aviv Brew Pub (across the street from the Hall of Independence)

I would relay one story that speaks to the power of this experience: In 1971, Neil Armstrong, traveled to Israel and was touring the country with a noted Jewish professor from Ben-Gurion University. Mr. Armstrong was an international celebrity at that time and he had to have a special private tour, so this particular professor volunteered to lead the tour. Neil Armstrong is, of course, the first person to walk on the moon and is quoted with saying, “That is one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind.” Armstrong is also a very devout Christian. So he is standing in the “Old City of Jerusalem,” near the Kotel, the Western Wall on steps that at one time lead to the Temple Mount. The professor is talking about the steps and the entrances and exits to the Temple Mount and Robinson’s Arch and other architectural aspects of the area when Armstrong asks, “So, did Jesus walk here?” The professor was a little taken aback and thinks for a moment and says, “Yes, I am sure that he walked these steps. In the Gospels it describes Jesus preaching on the steps of the Temple and these would have been the steps.” So, Neil Armstrong thinks for a moment and says, “You know it is more impressive to me to walk here where Jesus might have walked than it was to walk on the moon. It is more powerful for me to touch history than to make history.”
That pretty much sums it up.

David Waldman, ’93 and colleague Chad Pelz at Kotel (Western Wall), Old City Jerusalem, Israel

Wabash College Annual Fund
Thank you to the more than 3,000 alumni, parents, and friends who have made a gift to the Wabash Annual Fund so far this fiscal year.
You may recall that gifts to the Annual Fund have a direct impact on students through-
• Scholarships—The Annual Fund supports opportunities like President’s Scholarships, Honor Scholarships and several other merit- and need-based programs.
• Technology—Wabash maintains over 300 computers across campus dedicated for student use. Gifts to the Annual Fund enable Wabash to provide students with the best technology available.
• Immersion Learning Trips—This year alone, nearly a quarter of all Wabash students will tour the globe to gain an in-depth understanding of their classroom studies. Annual gifts enable Wabash men to embark on immersion learning trips at little or no additional cost to the student.
• Facility Upkeep—The Wabash landscape has changed over the past few years with new and renovated buildings. There is an ongoing need to keep these facilities looking their best for Wabash men and gifts to the Annual Fund make this possible.
These are just a few of the many examples of how an Annual Fund contribution makes a difference for Wabash students. If you have yet to make a gift to Wabash this year, then please consider making your gift online today https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift or by calling 877-743-4545. **The 2005-2006 fiscal year runs through June 30, 2006.**

2006 Indiana License Plate Forms Now Available
Don’t forget that parents and current students with vehicles registered in the State of Indiana are also eligible to participate in the Indiana Wabash College license plate program with a gift to the Annual Fund. Visit www.wabash.edu/alumni/plates for more information.
Schroeder Center for Career Development
Career Services is beginning a marketing/outreach effort to employers and graduate schools to encourage them to take a look at Wabash College for recruiting and involvement purposes. If you would like a Recruiting Packet or would like us to send one to your organization, please contact Scott Crawford at crawfors@wabash.edu. Include your name, organization address and website, and contact name for recruiting/human resources.

Career Services would also like to invite all alumni who are interested in being a resource for our current students to join our online Alumni/Student Networking System. This replaces all previous incarnations of such a system through our office and it's a good bet that you’re not signed up (we have only 53 alumni signed up). We need your participation! Contact Toni McKinney at mckinnet@wabash.edu to get your username/password. She'll also send complete instructions. It's easy to sign up and can help ensure the success of our current students, which keeps Wabash and our reputation strong!

Writers Wanted!
Your Class Agents are asking for individuals who are interested in making written contributions to Class Agents Letters. Are you looking for an outlet for those creative juices? Join us as a writer or contributing editor. Drop us a line at djmungfish@aol.com.

Contact your class agents
V. Eric Verduin
1600 W Forest Road, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
H) 765-364-6897  W) 765-362-3500 X281
E-Mail: verduin@tctc.com

David M. Waldman
803 W. 43rd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208
H) 317-920-0494  W) 317-686-4146
E-Mail: djmungfish@aol.com

Michael P. Wells
8337 SW 187th Avenue, Beaverton, OR 97007-5514
H) 503-848-3653  W) 503-613-7835
E-Mail: mpwells@verizon.net