

WABASH '99

Class Agent Letter

December 12, 2016

Gentlemen:

Happy Holidays! I hope this letter finds you well. I have been derelict in my letter writing the past few months. We built and moved into a new house this year and between that, work and kids' activities, the months just seem to slip by.

I did have a chance to make it back to campus this fall. I got to see the new housing on Crawford Street and the newly renovated Martindale Hall. The outside of Martindale looks pretty similar, but you wouldn't believe the changes inside—two story entrance area/common room, walk out patio in the back, microwaves and mini-fridges in every room...they really did a nice job. A Martindale alumnus noted that the only thing that looked the same were the stairs.

Unfortunately, for the first time in my daughter's lifetime, Wabash did not win the Bell this year. It was a great game to watch and the first really competitive contest in quite a few years. Still, it was hard to swallow when the one DePauw alumnus at our telecast party got to celebrate in front of us. A down end to an otherwise good season for first-year head coach Don Morel.

On a more positive note, Wabash once again fared very well in the Princeton Review's annual assessment of colleges. Wabash ranked in the top 20 institutions in the country in nine different categories.

http://www.journalreview.com/news/article_c15830ea-6f14-11e6-9592-57975fd5f9c1.html

Since it's been so long, I would be remiss not to thank everyone who gave to the Annual Fund for the 2015-16 fiscal year:

Brandon Armstrong
Andrew Arnold
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Dave Bowen
Aman Brar
Matt Buche
Gary Campbell
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Alex Will
Ryan Will
Matt Zopel

The Wabash Archivist, Beth Swift had sent this out, and being a medical geek and from Peoria, I had to pass it along:

Penicillin and D-Day – *Penicillin was discovered in England in 1929 by Alexander Fleming who knew that it killed bacteria, but could not get it to grow in sufficient quantities to enable the treatment of even one patient. When England was under attack from the German bombers, it was decided that this penicillin research should be moved to a safer location. It was brought to Peoria, IL where our man **Andrew J. Moyer [W1922]** was working in a USDA lab. He was working on growing molds using large scale fermentation equipment. Moyer was assigned the task of getting Fleming’s penicillin to grow in sufficient quantities to enable it to be produced for wartime use. In four months Moyer had produced a ten-fold increase in production. He then increased yields again and by 1944 Pfizer began mass production, in time for penicillin to be used as the first antibiotic. It was carried with the troops onto the beaches at D-Day.*

Class Notes

Earlier this year, **Dr. Derek Nelson '99** was featured on the *HuffPost Religion* blog *Sinai and Synapses*, discussing “the role of wonder, creativity, and curiosity when approaching religion and science.” You can view the transcript here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-creativity-of-wonder_b_9773042.html Derek is a theologian and historian of Christianity and an Associate Professor of Religion at Wabash.

Last year, **Joshua Patty** and Sara Wilcox were married on at Lee's Summit Christian Church in Lee's Summit, MO. Sara is also an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). John Sowers was part of the wedding party. Josh and Sara live in Blue Springs, MO and work in the Kansas City metro area.

Ryan Will is now in Olympia Washington. He has five children and recently moved into private practice (Orthopedic Surgery) for the first time in his career.

On a personal note my wife and I moved out to ten acres in the country in August. While there’s a bit more work to do (and a few new toys—a tractor among others—to do it), it is wonderfully quiet and peaceful. If you’re ever in central Illinois, let me know and please keep sending updates, so I can keep the letters interesting.

Yours in Wabash,

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