July 2006

Dear Classmates,

We hope this letter finds you doing well. This spring brought a number of graduations, marriages, births, and new jobs. We want to hear what you are doing, and share that news with the rest of our class. Please keep updating your profiles on www.wabash.edu

One of the biggest news pieces has been the start of three new administrators at Wabash College. Dr. Patrick White began his tenure as the 15th President of Wabash College, Dr. Gary Phillips began as the new academic dean, and Larry Griffith was named CFO and treasurer. Below is a press release from Jim Amidon about our new administrators.

New Administrators Begin Wabash Tenure

Jim Amidon — Dr. Patrick White was elected the 15th president of Wabash College at the end of January. About a month later Dr. White worked with President Andy Ford and an on-campus search committee to appoint Dr. Gary Phillips the academic dean of the college. About a month after that, Larry Griffith was named Wabash’s chief financial officer and treasurer.

This is the week when the three new administrators finally take office, and each greeted the Wabash community at a reception on Friday.

If you think about it, that’s a lot of transition for one summer: three of the six senior administrators have boxes stacked floor to ceiling in their offices (not to mention a few boxes on the floors of their new homes). And less than six weeks remain before students start returning to campus.

It’s been an emotional few months since all of the pieces fell into place. Knowing the three new members of the administration had been selected, the notion that the Ford era was coming to an end became reality.

Wabash experienced a prosperous 13 years under Andy’s leadership, and the college is now poised to build on those remarkable successes.

For example, it is President White’s hope to make the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts — founded during Andy’s presidency the place where higher education turns for research and data on the efficacy of the liberal arts.

While the Malcolm X Institute is 35 years old, its new building was part of Wabash’s Campaign for Leadership. With a new leader in Tim Lake, President White hopes to make
the MXI more than a cultural center; to make it a nationally recognized center for serious study of the African American experience.

The new construction and renovation of Wabash’s nine fraternity houses was begun under President Ford and will be completed by Pat White and his team.

Immersion Learning programs — from weeklong study abroad trips to the Ecuadorian Studies Program — will be further developed and funded by President White and Dean Phillips.

The national climate regarding single sex education has changed greatly in the last 10 years. Research indicates that the percentage of men on liberal arts college campuses is dropping; more than six in 10 college students are women. Wabash, which has steadfastly remained a college for men, is poised now to play a powerful role in the national conversation on how to best educate young men.

Much of the heavy lifting — fund raising and construction —†was completed in the Ford era. It will be President White’s opportunity to take what Wabash is and make it stronger; to make the Wabash Center, Center of Inquiry, and MXI nationally recognized institutes of research and study; to further develop innovative teaching and learning programs; and to be an active player in the exceedingly important discussion of the education of young men.

And using their imagination, President White and his team will no doubt develop programs we’ve not yet considered.

Indeed, it is an exciting time at Wabash. There will be a few bumps in the road, but there also is widespread enthusiasm and support for the new leadership and the opportunities such change provides.

Graduation was on Sunday, May 14th, and saw 203 men get their diplomas. Honorary degrees were given to Bruce R. Baker ’65 and Alexander A. Miller ’71. The Board of Trustees had a surprise honorary degree for Dr. Andy Ford. We want to congratulate all of the 2006 graduates, and wish them well in their futures.

Dr. Patrick White will ring-in his first class, the Class of 2010, on August 19th. The first day of classes is August 24th.

A few updates from our classmates:

Wes Ket ’03: Has been serving as a 2nd Lieutenant, Medical Platoon Leader in the US military operation in Iraq. Despite his very busy schedule, Wes managed to take a moment and “spread the fame of her honored name” above one of the fire stations on his base in Iraq.
Jason Hopper '03 recently proposed to Jessica Morgan a '04 graduate of Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA. Jessica and I are both in our 3rd year at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, MI and plan to relocate to Indianapolis, IN after graduating. We're planning on a wedding in May 2008.

Peter DeYoung '03: My wife Rachel and I celebrated our two-year anniversary on May 15, 2006.

Scott Medsker '03 will marry Lauren Sealey on August 5, 2006 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. After a honeymoon in Bermuda they will live at 7335 Pioneers Blvd, #209, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Jon Warner '03: On May 6th I graduated from law school at IU-Bloomington. In August I will begin working as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Edward W. Najam, Jr., on the Indiana Court of Appeals. My wife Lisa, who was recently inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, will also be graduating in May with a B.A. in Sociology. In August, she will be entering IU-Bloomington's graduate program in Sociology.

Reminders:

Please remember to continue giving to Wabash College both with time and financially. Certain gifts are tax-deductible. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to the many generations of Wabash men who gave to the school to help us enjoy the many special opportunities we had before us while in school. It’s our turn now to help this new generation of Wabash students!

In Wabash,

Karl, Kip and Scott