August 2006

Here’s a report on giving for fiscal 2006. Alumni gifts totaled an astonishing $5,252,217 (including corporate matching gifts)! 48.9% of the class of ’42 gave $74,848. Donors were Baumgartel, Byerrum, Carter, Chamberlain, Chase, Degitz, Denk, Forbes, Annabelle Foust, Harris, Helmen, Ireland, Lee, Lockhart, Matthews, Mielke, Moore, Mary Lou Prieb, Randak, Rettig, Rich, Romine, Scharf and Schroeder.

Giving for ’43 was at 53.3%, with a total of $31,262. Donors were Anderson, Austin, Benz, Bond, Boyer, Bracken, Chaney, Collett, Judy Evans, Frazee, Freeman, Harrison, Hubbard, Kelley, Janet Krache, Laufenburger, Lewis, Mary Luzader, Jeanne Meyer, Martha Million, Moynahan, O’Rear, Mary Ann Ormes, Phillips, Pulver, Riley, Marty Jacoby Stafford, Evelyn Tandy, Watson, Joyce Whitney, Whitridge and Young.

Eleven widows are among our donors, bringing that to 12 if we count Martha van Deusen, who is generous to the College in celebrating attachments to both our classes. I offer my personal thanks for your support, both financial and spiritual. I enjoy working with both classes. Dick Ristine has now agreed to include 1941 in my letters.

Freshmen Show Early Success at Football Camp [story from our web site]

In the big picture it may not mean much, but freshman football players scored a huge victory over the seniors in the tug-of-war competition (see photo on the right) at the 2006 Wabash Football Camp. Both coaches and the media give Wabash the preseason nod for repeating their dominance over the NCAC. As expected, Coach Creighton sets little store by such predictions, letting performance speak for itself. Our first game will be at Franklin on September 9.

On Saturday, August 19, 270 freshman arrived. They are from 35 states and nearly two dozen foreign countries, marking the fifth straight year that Wabash has met or exceeded its admissions goal. They join approximately 600 returning upperclassmen for the 2006-07 school year. You may think that Wabash will be bursting at its seams with 870 students, but many of them will be off campus on internships or studies abroad.
Dean of Admissions Steven Klein reported that there are 37 legacies in the new class, men whose fathers, grandfathers, uncles, cousins or brothers have attended Wabash. The average high school GPA is 3.70 and 40% of the men graduated in the top 10% of their class.

In welcoming them President White said, “I take great pride in being part of your class, for as you know, this is the beginning of my first year at Wabash as well. But I feel, as I hope you do, that my entire life up to this moment has led me, drawn me, and guided me to this place at this time. As we get to know one another, as we will, I invite you to join me in honoring the great traditions of Wabash and imagining anew the possibilities and promise before us. Let us together dream big dreams for Wabash.”

To their parents he said, “I ask you to trust your son, just as you have trusted his choice to come to Wabash. Trust this College, which since 1832 has provided men with an extraordinary education for life and has led men to the enactment of their best sense of themselves.” Constantly referring to the men of the class as his brothers, he imagined a vision for his presidency and challenged the students to help him realize that vision. Then he said, “As we dream together we recognize with the poet William Butler Yeats that ‘in dreams begins responsibility’. As we imagine the best we can be as individuals and as a College, we have the responsibility to bring our dreams to life.”

Finally he said, “We do not know what awaits us as individuals, as a College, as a nation, or as members of many nations. I do know that we will be stronger, smarter, braver and greater for our time together at Wabash. So I greet you with the words that Shakespeare’s Henry V used to urge on his men at Agincourt: ‘We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.’”

Then in his first official act as 15th president of Wabash College, President White rang in the Class of 2010 with the same hand bell used by Caleb Mills when calling the first Wabash students to class in the 1830s.

Cheers! PTM 8/21/06