

WABASH COLLEGE

CLASS OF 2004 – CLASS AGENT LETTER

Jacob Pactor
Mark Shreve

February 23, 2005

Dear Classmates,

So much has happened since our last Class Agent letter, which you should have received in December. Students are now halfway into the second semester, with spring break falling early next month. As you recall, this semester travels fast for seniors.

I also know that much has happened for you, the recent alumni of the College. I have heard reports from some of you, which I have listed below. But there are some of you who have not written an update or shared an address change with us. Please send all changes to us so we can keep you posted on College events and classmate updates. For more information on Wabash, visit the College's redesigned and improved website, www.wabash.edu.



Rocking the Chadwick...

Ben Folds performed for a sold-out crowd in Chadwick Court, Feb. 12, as the College's National Act. Folds, who performed with Ben Kweller, was on stage for more than two hours. Tickets to the show became the subject of many all-campus emails and apparently were being sold on eBay.

Due to popularity of the acts, tickets sold out more than one month in advance of the performance.

Photo, left, by Brock Johnson '07

In touch with vaginas...

In honor of V-Day, the Vagina Monologues was performed across the nation at hundreds of colleges and universities. Wabash not only landed a performance but also a special session with Eve Ensler, the author of the *VM*. For more than three hours, Wabash students, faculty, staff members, and visitors listened to the performance by Valparaiso students and several Wabash guests. The Q&A which followed allowed students to question how—as men—they fit into the message, to ask questions of Eve Ensler, and for some, to voice displeasure. Ensler signed autographs until midnight following the performance. Despite the reactions, I hope everyone agreed that the VM engaged us in discussions about a range of issues—not just for women. Also, the VM raised over \$400 for local charities as part of the V-Day celebration.



Eve Ensler, author of Vagina Monologues, met with students, attended the performance to a standing-room only Ball Theater, led a discussion following the performance, and signed autographs until midnight. This was the first time the VM was performed at an all-male college.



Peace it Back Together

Twin students Tahir and Zuber Ahmed were shocked by the news of the tsunami which devastated hundreds of thousands of people. For these students, however, the news was much too real as their family and friends live in India. To make a difference from this far away, they sold t-shirts to benefit the Red Cross. To buy a shirt, contact David Clapp in the Intl. Studies Office at clappd@wabash.edu or 765.361.6078. \$15

Man Behind the Camera Honored...

The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men (IAWM) honored Steve Charles, director of publications and editor of *Wabash Magazine*, as its Man of the Year 2005. Steve has been a mentor to many students through his work on the Magazine and advisory role with student publications. Charles, shown here with Joe Warfel '04, received the well-deserved award at the IAWM's Valentine's Party. The IAWM is just one of many regional alumni associations around the world which sponsor events to bring alumni together.

To be put in contact with a regional association near your home, contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at alumni@wabash.edu.



Wabash Coach Gets the Nod...

Coach Peter Casares, shown here with senior swimmers Ben Hewitt, Jeremy West, Brad Williams, and Colin Fahey, was named NCAC Coach of the Year at the annual conference meet. This award recognized Casares for his coaching methods and his team's success. This honor also placed Casares above the coaches from Kenyon and Denison who have dominated the league for years. "This award is really representative of the hard work of my team all season long," said Casares, who is in his third year of coaching at Wabash. Casares is the first Wabash coach to receive the conference award in swimming and diving, which is voted on by all nine coaches of the NCAC. The team finished third overall in the 3-day meet.

There's much more happening at Wabash. The basketball team ended their season with a win at home 56-54, thanks to a shot at the buzzer by Kyle Medeiros. The wrestling team took 3 individual titles at the Midstates Wrestling League Championship. The winter sports continue into the postseason as the spring sports begin. Next week, the Art Department will open a new exhibit which features selections from IU's Kinsey Insititue...and much more.

Check the Wabash website (www.wabash.edu) for scores and stories.

Giving to Wabash: Many of us have senior pledges with the College. You will receive reminder letters, if not already, in the coming months. Some of our classmates have already made a gift to the College this year: Patrick Barrett, Brian Clem, Reece Collins, Dustin DeNeal, Sean Gallagher, Adan Garcia, Jim Hull II, Arti Montes IV, Chris Morris, Wes Overturf, Jacob Pactor, Adam Pope, Mike Reidy H'04, Peter Rohlfer, Bob Shaver, Mark Shreve, Matt Storm, and Seth Zirkle.

If you would like to make a gift, please visit the online giving site or contact Mark Shreve at shrevem@wabash.edu. He'll gladly take your money for the College's Annual Fund.

Future Wabash Generations: Do you work with high school students? Do you have a cousin looking at colleges? Does your girlfriend have a little brother? The Admissions Office is always looking for young men who can fill the next entering class. They have found that those students referred by alumni are more likely to come to Wabash and more likely to be engaged with the College. If you know of young men who would make an impact at Wabash, please pass their names along to Steve Marcou '93 (marcou@wabash.edu) or refer them on the College's alumni website.

Classmate Updates:

Chris Jones returned to campus last weekend to play in the annual Alumni Basketball Game. Jones, shown below after a tough game and at right in form, scored 122 points.



Jeremy Robinson on Commencement Sunday, with brothers Ben '01 and Josh '97.

Spotlight on: Jeremy Robinson

Jeremy Robinson recently returned to campus to encourage students to apply for the Teach For America program. Jeremy joined TFA last summer and is working in a school in south-side Chicago. Realizing the inequalities of the education system, TFA aims to recruit the most talented college graduates in the nation and place them in the classroom for two-year positions. To hear Jeremy talk about his job is inspiring; I have yet to hear someone who has such a grasp on the impact they are making through their career and life. For those who know Jeremy, this selfless service is not surprising. He was also featured in part of Warren Rosenberg's Chapel speech last week (see below for selections).

You can contact Jeremy at robinsoj@wabash.edu.

Ben Reichner moved to New York City in August with his girlfriend, Lindsay. Soon after, Reichner accepted a position with MetLife in the Technical Accounting Services Unit. He writes: "I am having a blast, and actually met up with Tony Quandt and Mike Lynch last weekend in Philly. The East Coast is fantastic, and I have always wanted to live here. I miss everyone and I hope everyone is

fantastic." You can contact Ben at 466 W. 141 Street, Apt. 3, New York, NY 10031, or by phone at 212.281.2247, or by email at reichnbe@wabash.edu.

Justin Bauserman is currently in his second semester of Graduate School at Indiana State University. His new email address is jbauserman@mymail.indstate.edu.

Nathan Lundquist is no longer a bachelor after being one of the first few classmates to marry. He writes: "Hey all- Just letting everyone know that Charrie and I finally got married on Jan. 1, 2005. After dating for 6.5 years, we had a non-religious ceremony devoid of any engendering vows (anyone who knows Charrie or I will understand both). Then we spent a week in Cancun 'recovering.'" Nathan will send photos when they become available so we can share them with the class. Congratulations, Nathan and Charrie!

Jacob Pactor finished his student teaching at Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis, and is currently filling in as a substitute teacher. As he waits for a full-time teaching position to open, he accepted a part-time position to serve as Director of Special Projects for the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation Religious School, with duties of developing and implementing two large scale programs. *You can contact Jacob at jacobpactor@msdlit.k12.in.us*



Brandon Peacock will soon give up bachelor status when he marries longtime girlfriend, Leslie Francis. Brandon and Leslie will be married this June in the Wabash College Chapel. Currently, Brandon works for CP Morgan and lives in the Eagle Creek area of Indianapolis. *You can contact him at brandonpeacock@yahoo.com.*

Shown, at The Rathskeller in Indianapolis: Brandon and Leslie, James Litton, Adam Pope, Mark Shreve, and Grant Goshorn '02.

You may recall receiving a post-graduate survey a couple weeks ago. Thank you to the few dozen classmates who returned that survey. As promised, we randomly selected a classmate for a \$50 gift certificate to the bookstore—the winner was Bill Conley. We will share the results of that survey in the next Class Agent letter.

Please continue to send emails, address and career updates, and send along some photos too. Otherwise, these letters—and the friendships we have made—will dissolve. You may also visit Wabash eServices online to access information from other alumni. If you still have not registered with your username and password, contact Michele Tatar in the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at 765.361.6369 or tatarm@wabash.edu.

In Wabash,

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"My Heroes: From Robinson to Robinson, Jackie to Jeremy"

*Selections from a Chapel Talk by Dr. Warren Rosenberg, February 17, 2005
(reprinted with permission)*

From Jackie to Jeremy Robinson, my final hero graduated Wabash last spring with the class of 2004. He was an English/Spanish double major who graduated 14th in his class with over a 3.8 index, and was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. Jeremy has most recently joined the ranks of my heroes, but he was definitely not in there during our class immersion trip to New York City last spring. Whether it was wise or not, I set a midnight curfew for the first 2-3 nights. I didn't want the guys too exhausted to be up for and appreciate our morning activities, and I didn't want them to burn out by the end of the week. Now I know bringing 15 20-23 year olds to New York City and then asking them to be in by midnight may be a fool's errand, but I thought I had made my reasons clear. Well, by the end of the week Jeremy admitted to me, I don't know why, that he had actually been out almost all of the first two nights clubbing. I was not happy. I let him know it. I suppose he was guilty, but I'm not sure. I tell this part of the story to illustrate that for me heroes don't need to be saints. In fact, since I see heroism as a somewhat elevated state of everyday life, it would be pretty impossible to come up with one that is a saint. But Jeremy earned his heroic status for me through what he decided to do after graduation. He signed up for the Teach for America program and he's currently teaching 5 freshman English courses a day at Harper High in South Chicago. Jeremy's students are on average reading well below grade level, writing very poorly, and attending school sporadically. He described one confrontation he's already had in class with a student who refused to stay in his seat and called Jeremy the "F" word in front of his class. Jeremy said he got the student into the hall and after what he called "a scuffle" he got him down to the Dean's office. If anyone remembers Jeremy, the image of him scuffling with anyone seems bizarre. But Jeremy told me he loves what he does everyday. He loves his students and, more importantly, believes that now that he is beginning to know what he is doing he is helping them improve academically. He described a creative lesson on Romeo and Juliette that he said had the kids laughing and learning. In two years, when his hitch is up, he now thinks he may pursue a secondary education degree and make teaching his career. A re-enlistment of sorts. Let me tell you that Jeremy Robinson could have done literally anything after graduating Wabash. He was good enough in science to have followed his brother into medical school. He was perhaps the best writer I've ever taught here and he could have become a professional in newspaper or magazine writing. As our top English major, he could have gone on to graduate school and become a professor at a college like Wabash. During our immersion trip he had a one-on-one interview with Fred Wilson CEO of Saks Fifth Avenue, who after spending time with Jeremy offered him a job in the company whenever he wanted one. Jeremy is my hero because he decided to go where he was most needed. He is on the front lines every day, a white man teaching in a school with a 100% African American student body. He drives to work into a neighborhood that many would consider dangerous for everyone, but particularly for whites. He works 10-12 hour days. This takes courage and vision and compassion and selflessness. If I had half his guts I would still be teaching at Bushwick high school in Brooklyn, a school just like the one Jeremy is working in, where I taught for 3 years after I graduated college. But it was too much for me. I just couldn't hack it any longer. Whether he lasts 2 or 10 years, Jeremy will remain my hero though, because he made this choice.