

Class of 1966

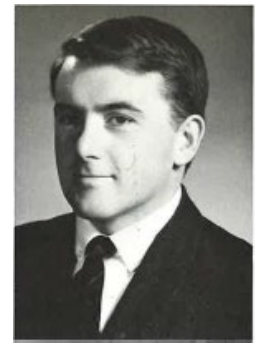
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Dear Men of '66,

Through the years our classmates have accomplished many meaningful, significant and extraordinary things. Please enjoy the following information as we proudly celebrate the **DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF DENNIS WHIGHAM-SOME DISTINGUISHED LITTLE GIANT!**



Hi Cal

Yesterday was the event where I received the Distinguished Career Service Medal. I attach a few photos. One is with me and the Director of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center - Anson (Tuck) Hines. Jan is with us in the other photo. I note that Jan and I met at Wabash on a blind date. She went to Wittenberg and was in C'Ville that weekend of the Wabash-Wittenberg football game. Next year, we will reach the 60th anniversary of that blind date.

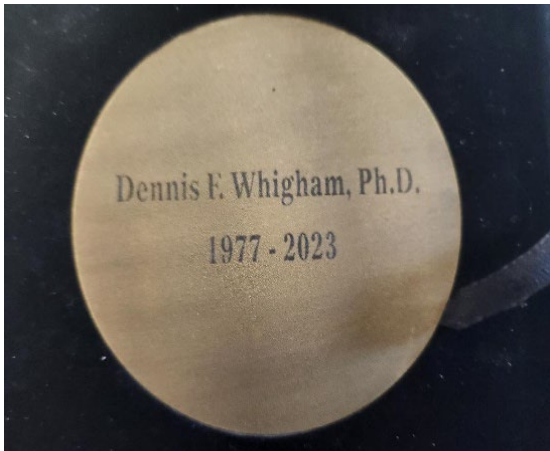


The award related pics should be obvious. I also include an attachment of the award certificate.

When it was announced in December, I was

surprised and humbled. I have always viewed myself to be lucky to be in a place that gave me the freedom to do the things that interested me for so many years. Beyond that I don't have much to say but from a Wabash perspective, it all began for me there. My first Botany course with Richard Laubengayer and then ecology with Bob Petty. As I look back, I think that I owe Bob more than being a mentor at Wabash. He suggested that I apply for graduate school at UNC. He mentioned that he had a Butler classmate who was a Prof at UNC, but that had little meaning at the time. While at UNC, I realized that they had gathered a number of Professors who focused on ecology with a goal of developing a program, one in particular was superstar that had a major impact on the development of the field. While I was there, working with Bob's friend on a MS, they hired a scientist from

Germany (Helmut Lieth), who became my Ph.D. advisor. At the time, I don't think that a Ph.D. in ecology was given at any major university, but certainly not at UNC. The group of Professors and the students that they attracted resulted in a stimulating environment that produced a group of PhDs that went on to impactful careers. Thanks to Bob I was able to hook-my-wagon to the group.



Below is some text that describes the award

Distinguished Career Service Medal

The recipient of this award receives a certificate and a medal for their contribution to the Smithsonian.

This Medal is awarded to those who display distinguished service, ability, or commitment. Recipients must demonstrate significant, sustained performance that is characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that represents substantial progress to the Smithsonian mission. The contribution must be so extraordinary that other forms of recognition would be inadequate

This medal may be awarded on a special and infrequent basis by the Secretary upon an employee's retirement from the Smithsonian.



Smithsonian Institution

Distinguished Career Service Medal



For your exceptional performance to the Smithsonian.

BUNCH III, SECRETARY

December 12, 2023

In recognition of your extraordinary achievements and sustained performance through your initiative, creativity and commitment, your career will have an exceptional and lasting impact on the Smithsonian Institution and its mission.

Lonnie G. Dyer, Jr.

LONNIE G. DYER, JR.

DIRECTOR

BILL COOK'S CHAPEL TALK ON 4/11/24

Bill Cook delivered the Chapel Talk on 4/11/24, and it was a terrific hit with the audience. Many of you have requested the link to watch his presentation-so here is how you can access that video. Click on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzFQyyupiSE>. The video will open in YouTube. If it doesn't start automatically, click the play button in the lower left corner of the window.

WABASH ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING ON 4/24/24

The Wabash Annual Day of Giving is on 4/24/24, and our class is going to challenge all other classes to see if any of them can beat the record we set last year. If you recall, our goal last year was to raise 171 gifts to honor each of our living classmates. We passed that goal quickly and ended up with a total of 270 gifts!! Is there a class out there that can break our record? In the "Spirit of Wabash" let's hope there are several classes who will break our record and ensure the success of this very important day for our Alma Mater. You can make a gift when the site goes live at wabash.edu/celebrate.

"Thou Counselor in College days,
thou guide in riper years."

Cal