Wabash.

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1990

<u>Class Agents</u>
Keith Bickley
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August 3, 2020

Dear Fellow Classmates of 1990,

It is with sincere sadness that I share the following news with you. Our beloved classmate, Jon Porter, left our presence a week ago.

I hope many of you were able to experience Jon's personality, generosity and ever available wry smile. He was actively involved around campus and community (witnessed in his charitable activities on campus and around town; involvement with various Wabash publications; as an admissions ambassador; and energetic participant in the fraternity), enabling many to appreciate his inexhaustible willingness to give of his time and talent, oftentimes in 'jobs' others were unwilling or uninterested in undertaking.

It is times like these we are reminded of the value of life and our fleeting time available on this earth to make a difference as Jon did.

With that in mind I encourage each of you to stay well, think of others and to reach out to a classmate you haven't caught up with in a while, because tomorrow is a promise to no one.

Take care Good friend. Until we meet again.

Dr. Jon Michael Bruce Porter, 51, husband, father, scholar, and an avid traveler, died Monday, July 27, 2020 from causes unrelated to Covid 19. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Jon was born August 9, 1968 in Indianapolis to Herschel D. Porter and Susan (Ross) Porter. He married Inge Verstraeten on July 12, 1997 in Antwerp, Belgium. He is survived by his loving family, wife Inge Porter; daughter, Elisabeth Porter; son, Alexander Porter; his mother, Susan Porter, and his step-mother Angela Porter. He was preceded in death by his father.

Jon was a 1986 graduate of Lawrence Central High School, where he sang in the Swing Choir and played in the Orchestra. Summers were spent attending summer camp at Culver Military Academy, where he later became a beloved cabin counselor and its fencing master at the Specialty Summer School for many years. Jon was an Eagle Scout and a member of the Scouts Order of the Arrow. He attended the Boy Scouts Ranch and participated in the National Jamboree in Gettysburg.

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The eternal student, Jon received his Bachelors degree at Wabash College, his Masters degree at the University of St. Andrews, and his Doctorate in Mediaeval Church History at the University of Nottingham. He never stopped educating himself and was an avid reader, enjoying a wide array of different literary styles, ranging from the boring history of long-lost monasteries to the latest science fiction or political discourses and blogs. Jon was at his best in the classroom where his charismatic teaching style inspired the next generation of students to work to their true potential, while in some instances he actively dissuaded his students from following in his footstep in pursuing a graduate degree in history. He previously worked as an adjunct professor and lecturer at Franklin College, Butler University, and the University of Indianapolis.

He was a Past Director of the St. Peter & Paul Food Pantry, giving back to the community and trying to improve the lives of those who were less fortunate. He always had a kind word, a firm handshake, and a disposable razor or a pair of socks for those who needed them. He was a past board member of the Riviera Club, and a long-time board member of the Legal Aid Society.

Jon was a very active Mason, always plotting with his fellow masons to make this world a better place. He was Past Master of Mystic Tie Masonic Lodge #398 F. & A.M. He joined the Indianapolis Valley of the Scottish Rite in 1998, served as Commander-In-Chief of the Indiana Consistory in 2013, and was a Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, receiving his Thirty-Third Degree in Indianapolis in 2015. He was a member of the Tour Guide Committee at the Scottish Rite, and also served on the Board of Directors of its Children's Dyslexia Center of Indianapolis, a cause dear to his heart. His other memberships included Double Eagle Masonic Lodge #773 F. & A.M. and the Murat Shrine.

Jon was an avid traveler, and always up for an adventure. He spent several years living in Britain where he found lifelong friendships in the Triumvirate. Holidays were celebrated with the Belgian family, exploring the streets of Antwerp while eating warm waffles with his son. His most recent family travels took him to India, Greece, and Cambodia.

Although Jon had many achievements, he was most proud of his children's accomplishments. He delighted in his daughter's ballet performances, her academic progress, and her national writing award. He was amazed by his son's persistence and maturity in overcoming recent obstacles and his love for golf, to which Jon teasingly referred as "the perfect way to ruin a beautiful walk in the country." Jon's friends were often treated to stories about his children's amazing feats. Many lives were touched by Jon and he will be missed by many.

Services will be private for family. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Legal Aid Society, 615 N. Alabama Street, Suite 122, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or to the Children's Dyslexia Center of Indianapolis, 650 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

David Horvath ‘90