



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1966

Class Agent
Cal Black

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August 2025

Dear Men of '66,

The Senior Arch project is moving forward as several of you have already indicated a real interest in supporting this project-dedicating the Arch to the four Wabash alumni who lost their lives in Viet Nam-especially our classmate Michael Hall. It has been suggested that the two brick pillars that support the metal arch each have a plaque placed thereon. One would have the dedication information and the names of the four war heroes. The other pillar would have a plaque with the names of our classmates who made a donation in support of this project. In order to ensure all of the donors' names are included on the plaque, a deadline will be set in the near future so the plaque will be done in time for our 60th reunion in June 2026. PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT AS YOU ARE ABLE-NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL OR TOO BIG! Here is information on how to make a gift:

When making your gift please note that it is for the "Senior Arch Project."

1. Make a gift online at www.wabash.edu/egift
2. Mail a check to Wabash College, Advancement Office – Attn: Steve Hoffman, 301 W. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville, IN 47933
3. Contact Steve Hoffman at Wabash 765-376-2832 or hoffmans@wabash.edu to
 - a. Make a multi-year commitment
 - b. Make a gift of stock or other asset
 - c. Ask a question about the community center or this class fundraising effort

It is nice to be back on campus for several months, and here are some dates that may interest you:

August 12, 162 football prospects report for practice-72 are freshmen

August 16, Jake Gilbert '98 new head football coach hosts football alumni for a preview of the 2025 Little Giants

August 23, Freshman Saturday-ringing in of the new class

August 27, Classes begin



The campus looks great although the Campus Center is now just a hole in the ground. No firm date has been set to begin construction of the new community center. View the Community Center website and Construction Cam here: <https://www.wabash.edu/communitycenter/>



John Lennes sent an interesting email that you will enjoy:

EATING IN THE 1950s

- Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.
- Curry was a surname.
- A take-away was a mathematical problem.
- Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.
- Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.
- All chips were plain.
- Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.
- Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
- Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
- Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.
- None of us had ever heard of yogurt.
- Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
- Cooking outside was called camping.
- Seaweed was not a recognized food.
- 'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.
- Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.
- Prunes were medicinal.
- Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

- Pineapples came in chunks in a tin; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.
- Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.
- The one thing that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties ... was elbows, hats and cell phones.

Bill Cook suffered an injury while in Rome and had surgery but is now back home in Geneseo, NY recovering. Bill, we need you as our song leader for our 60th in June 2026!

The Betas will dedicate a plaque in memory of The Honorable James L. Roeder at Homecoming on 9/27. The plaque will honor the Outstanding Beta Senior whose name will be engraved on the plaque. Jim's widow, Babs, and their children have been so gracious and grateful for this wonderful tribute to Jim-The California "Cowboy Judge"-1985-2005

There is a great deal of enthusiasm on campus as Wabash welcomes a new athletic director, Jim Peeples, who begins his duties on 8/11. Here is the announcement about Jim:



Wabash College President Scott Feller has named veteran coach and administrator Jim Peeples as the Little Giants' new Director of Athletics and Recreation. He will begin his tenure at Wabash on August 11.

Peeples has served as athletic director at NCAA Division III Piedmont University in Demorest, Georgia, for the last decade, and was head baseball coach and associate athletic director there from 2001 to 2015.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to serve the campus community, the student-athletes, coaches, and support staff in the athletic department to reach levels of excellence that everyone on campus, the alumni, and supporters of Jim Peeples, Wabash College's new director of athletics and recreation. Wabash will be proud of as we move into the future,” Peeples said. “I am so excited to get started on that journey with everyone at Wabash.”

Peeples was the first in his family to graduate from college when he earned his bachelor's degree from Westminster College in Pennsylvania. After earning his master's degree in athletic administration from Slippery Rock University, Peeples began his coaching career as an assistant coach in football and baseball at Wesleyan University before spending nine years as assistant baseball coach at Methodist College.

He was named head baseball coach at Piedmont University in 2001 and served in that role – and as associate director of athletics – until 2016. when he transitioned to become the school's director of athletics. As baseball coach, Peeples won 360 games over 15 seasons, winning three conference regular season titles and advancing to the DIII tournament twice – in 2008. (34-14) and 2011 (32-15).

“Our search committee did a great job identifying a deep and talented pool of candidates, and we feel like Jim's experience, values, and background are an excellent fit for Wabash,” said President Feller. “He's been a successful coach and recruiter, and his administrative background positions him well for success at Wabash.”

Peeples served as Chair of the NCAA Division III Baseball Championships (2015-17) and Chair of the NCAA Division III Baseball South Region (2013-17). Apart from athletics, Peeples served on

Piedmont's Enrollment Management Team; chaired the first-year student success committee; implemented an innovative mentoring program for first-year students to boost retention; and worked collaboratively with the Advancement Office on fund-raising initiatives.

Peoples has more than 30 years of experience as a successful head coach, mentor, and administrator. "Jim Peoples stood out as an excellent fit for Wabash College," said Interim Director of Athletics and Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin. "His track record of success, leadership, and mentoring coaches and athletes makes him a perfect fit for the next chapter of Wabash College athletics. I'm excited to welcome Jim and Laura to the Wabash and Crawfordsville community."

Peoples' wife, Laura, is a first-grade teacher. They are the parents of two grown daughters, Taylor MacMillan and Ashley Powell."

"I am honored and humbled to be called to serve Wabash College," Peoples added. "It is obvious that everyone on campus at Wabash is 100% committed to the mission of this tremendous institution."

Once again the College has received information about one of our classmates, Bob Adams, who has passed away. His obituary details the life of an extremely gifted and talented man and true Little Giant!



Robert J. Adams, Jr., Systems Engineer and local Masonic leader, passed away at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester on June 25, 2025.

He was born in 1944, in Indianapolis IN, the eldest son of Robert J. and June (Greene) Adams. Educated in local Indianapolis schools, he graduated from Southport High School in 1962 and from Wabash College in 1966, where he majored in Physics as a Pete Vaughan Scholar and pledged the Sigma Chi Delta Chi fraternity. An avid sportsman, he captained his varsity high school football squad and lettered in wrestling and baseball, gaining selection to the Indiana South Central All-Conference Team. As co-captain of the Wabash

Little Giants in the 1964-65 seasons, he anchored the team as quarterback and helped them re-capture the Monon Bell from rival DePauw in 1965, while also lettering in wrestling.

Bob continued his post-graduate studies in Aerospace Engineering at Columbia University. While employed at Marine Midland Grace Trust in New York City, he began a lifetime professional journey in systems and applications programming: Assembly, FORTRAN, COBOL, C and Pascal were just a few of his many foundational languages. In 1969 he moved his family to central Massachusetts, first to Holden, then settling in Shrewsbury in 1971 where he remained a resident for 54 years.

He started his lengthy career in Information Systems in New England at Reed & Prince Manufacturing in Worcester, followed by a stint as Director of Information Management at Morton Shoe, in Boston, in the mid-1970s. Known by his colleagues as a legend in his field, Bob was one of the early "cowboy developers", who roamed the Boston tech and corporate landscape during much of the 1980s and 90s, working as consultants to provide expertise on particular systems and develop and integrate complex software programs. He spent more than 30 years as an independent contractor in the Greater Boston area, applying his capabilities across a wide range of industries, from defense, government, banking/finance and telecommunications to academia, insurance, manufacturing and retail. Dozens of companies and organizations benefited from his expertise and analysis: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, AT&T, Digital Equipment, Smith Valve, Monsanto, Genesys, Data General, GTE Strategic Systems, Coopers & Lybrand, Cahners Publishing and Standard Thompson were but a few he served.

He was especially proud of his work at Boston Edison's Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in the late 1980s, where he engineered their Radiological Information Management System and designed their state-of-the-art dosimetry entry network. As Senior System Engineer for AlliedSignal for nearly a decade, he managed their pivotal CICS and Enterprise Systems and helped oversee their Y2K conversion project. Beginning in 1992, he joined the new development team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, overseeing a multi-year re-engineering of one of the most significant components of the MIT ecosystem: the mission-critical Student Information (MITSIS). Bob and the team were founding members of what would eventually emerge as MIT's central IT team, now known as IS&T, and the MITSIS network they designed is still used today.

Bob also mentored local information tech aspirants via his own start-up company, Trisys Inc., with several going on to form successful programming careers. During a time in life when most retired, he spent the past 17 years as Senior Systems Analyst at MIT, sharing his love of programming and IT systems knowledge with new generations.

The son and nephew of Freemasons, he began his active involvement in Masonry in 1982, initiated as a Master Mason of the Norumbega and Brookline Lodge in Newtonville, MA. He assumed the role of Master of the Lodge in 1988, directing administrative duties, conferring degrees and managing ceremonial activity. He served two years as District Deputy Grand Master of the Brighton 5th District and was voted into the Needham Masters Lodge in 2003. Initiated as a member of Massachusetts York Rite in 1983, he was a member of the Newton Royal Arch Chapter, York Rite Cryptic Council and Gethsemane DeMolay Commandery. He served several terms as the head of those bodies: four terms as High Priest of Triad Chapter of York Rite; three terms as Illustrious Master of Cryptic Council, Commander of Gethsemane DeMolay Commandery in 1998 and Past Grand Warder of Grand Commandery of the Knights Templar in 2004. He joined the Valley of Boston Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in February 1990, receiving his 4th and 32nd degrees of that body.



Bob had many other interests of a wide range: film, music, science, technology and mathematics were a few. He had encyclopedic knowledge of the films of the two Johns: Wayne and Ford, and love for cinematic westerns and World War II-themed movies. His elder children recall his detailed analysis of Ford's *The Searchers*, Gary Cooper's *High Noon* and Frank Sinatra's final scene in *Von Ryans Express*. He loved reading, especially his favorite science fiction; swimming; contract bridge; and in later years watching basketball with granddaughter Madison and playing card games with his grandson Ryan. He and his wife Linda also participated in many ballroom dancing competitions and showcases.

His love of athletics continued throughout his life, as an enthusiastic fan of local Boston-area sports teams and as a member of The Shrewsbury Club, participating in their racquetball leagues. He supported sports in the community, serving as volunteer Assistant Varsity and JV football coach in Shrewsbury, coaching the Colonials during the 1984-85 season. Ever the adventurer, he was always first to lead the charge down perilous Black Diamond runs during family ski trips, and enthusiastically celebrated his 40th birthday by skydiving from 10,000 feet.

He was predeceased by his parents and mother-in-law Doris Klein Perks. Bob is survived by his wife of 41 years, Linda E. Perks-Adams; four children: Melissa L. Adams of Shrewsbury, Emily H. Adams-Miralles and husband John of Tallahassee, Elizabeth R. Mitchell and husband Matt of Shrewsbury, and

Victoria J. Murphy and husband Ben of Arlington; grandchildren Michael and Matthew Miralles of Tallahassee, Elena Miralles of New York City and Madison and Ryan Mitchell of Shrewsbury. He will be greatly missed by his brothers and their families: John and Myrna Adams of Evergreen, CO; Garry and Becky Adams of Greenwood, IN and Larry and Lindora Adams of Indianapolis, as well as sister-in-law Beverly Perks-Ricciardone and husband David, brother-in-laws Raymond Perks and wife Cheryl and Herbert Perks and wife Debbie; and countless nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors, friends and colleagues.

His family would like to thank the staff of UMass Memorial Medical Center and his doctors at UMMHC Medical Group, for their attentive and supportive care the past few years. Memorial services are planned for a later date.

As time marches on, we all have many interests, obligations, pleasures, hobbies and families to occupy our time. The hope is that Wabash and our class are also included and that you will make every effort to attend our 60th reunion June 5-7 2026. OUR CLASS IS SPECIAL AND IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU!

Dear Alma Mater...

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