Wabash.

Class Agents Letter

Class of 1966

Class Agent
Cal Black

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Dear Men of ’66,

SUMMER SLUMBER IN C’VILLE IS OVER!

The Wabash campus is alive with activity as some of the athletic teams have arrived on campus and have begun practice. Head football coach Jake Gilbert gets things in motion with a football alumni breakfast and program. There were approximately fifty-five alumni who attended this past Saturday. Gilbert has recruited nine players from the Indiana high school all-star team which is an all-time high for Wabash. He also mentioned that a number of the freshmen have tested as well or better in the weight room than many upper classmen!

Gilbert also had each senior introduce themselves and speak about their position, jersey number, living unit, hometown, major and plans after graduation. After the program the team holds practice so the alumni can catch a little of the action.

Here are some preliminary numbers of students out for the various sports:

Fall baseball-46	Cross Country-20	Soccer-34
Basketball-19	Football-157	Wrestling-55

THE 2026 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Opponent	Location
Sep 05	12:00 pm	Hampden-Sydney College	Little Giant Stadium
Sep 12	1:00 pm	Wittenberg University	Little Giant Stadium
Sep 19	12:00 pm	@ Oberlin College	Oberlin, OH
Sep 26	2:00 pm	The College of Wooster	Little Giant Stadium
Oct 03	1:00 pm	@ Denison University	Granville, OH
Oct 17	TBD	@ John Carroll University	University Heights, OH
Oct 24	1:00 pm	Washington University/St. Louis	Little Giant Stadium
Oct 31	1:00 pm	@ Ohio Wesleyan University	Delaware, OH
Nov 07	1:00 pm	Kenyon College	Little Giant Stadium
Nov 14	1:07 pm	DePauw University	Ball State University

CLASS OF ’66 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The College Advancement Office is finalizing details on the Class of ’66 Endowed Scholarship. This was made possible by your generosity to our Alma Mater at our 60th reunion. The price tag for the scholarship was $ 1 million.

THE 2026-27 WABASH CALLENDAR HAS BEEN MAILED

For those classmates who made gifts to the College last year totaling $100 or more, the new wall calendars are arriving in mailboxes. Be sure and check out the month of June as our 60th reunion picture is featured!

CLASSMATE NEWS

John and Patti Flanagan have already made reservations for Homecoming on 9/26, and we hope many more of you will do the same. Register here by September 16: wabash.edu/alumni/homecoming.

Ken Schild has indicated that he hopes to attend Homecoming and would be coming all the way from Los Angeles.

Charlie and Janet Bell celebrated their wedding anniversary on 8/10, and they are always regulars for Wabash football games.

Once again we have unfortunate news on the loss of two of our classmates, and here is the information from the College.

Robert L. Rakestraw
April 29, 1944 – June 21, 2026

Bob Rakestraw, 82, of Houston, TX; went to be with the Lord on Sunday, June 21, 2026. Bob was born on April 29, 1944 in Canton, IL to the late George Rakestraw and Mary (Shaw) Rakestraw. He was preceded in death by his sister, Patricia Hewitt. During his youth, Bob served as an acolyte in the Episcopal church in Canton every Sunday. Bob graduated from Canton High School in 1962. Bob attended Wabash College on a full academic scholarship, graduating in 1966. He earned his Masters degree from Bowling Green State U. in 1968 and an MBA from U. Toledo in 1972.

When Bob was in graduate school, he met the love of his life, Roberta Rae Allen while waterskiing on the Illinois River. Bob and Roberta were married on August 17, 1969 and enjoyed 56 busy years of adventures together. They loved to travel to exotic locations in their younger years, including Egypt, India, Nepal and Hong Kong.

After he completed his studies, Bob worked for Price Waterhouse as a CPA in Toledo, OH. Bob and Roberta moved to Houston in 1975 with Aramco Services Company where Bob worked as an Internal Audit Manager. Bob also spent time working in Saudi Arabia with Aramco. He later worked with other oil services companies in Houston. Bob spent most of his career (22 years) at JPMorgan Chase Bank (previously Texas Commerce Bank) where he advanced to be a Vice President.
After retiring in 2007, Bob worked as a CPA and tax accountant with several small accounting firms. Later, Bob spent time as a substitute teacher. One of his favorite places to work was the FFA Ag. Farm through the Spring Branch vocational center. As a substitute there, he often met Roberta for lunch.

Bob and Roberta spent much of their leisure time enjoying nature and the beach. Bob loved music and enjoyed singing in the choir with Texas Commerce Bank. Bob and Roberta joined Tallowood Baptist Church of Houston, Texas in 1985 after deciding that it would be the right place to raise their family. They have been a member of the dynamic Praisers class for many years.

Bob loved reading mystery novels, learning to use new computer technology, car maintenance and most importantly, being around his family and pets. Bob was a devoted husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather. Roberta counted on him to repair anything and to solve any issue at their home. Bob is survived by his three children and seven grandchildren: Vanessa Shaw of Houston, TX, Sienna Rakestraw Singer (Dan) of River Forest, IL with their children August and Beatrix, and Brandon Rakestraw (Shannon) of Frisco, TX with their children, Mason, Memphis, McAlister, Montgomery Jean and Miller. Bob and Roberta had many cats, birds, fish and even a pet rabbit.

Most important to Bob was supporting his children and grandchildren in their educational achievements and being their biggest champion at athletic competitions and religious activities. As Bob's life is complete, may we realize that loving him was the best gift of all.

William Paul Grantz Jr.
February 5, 1944 – July 16, 2026

William Paul Grantz Jr. passed on July 16, 2026, at the age of 82; he was born on February 5, 1944, in Chicago and was a resident of Vancouver, Washington.

"Thy loyal sons…"

Cal