

Class of 1966

Class Agent
Cal Black

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Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office

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Dear Men of '66,

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY OUR YEAR!

2026 is not just a new year, but it is OUR YEAR! Yes, this year we will celebrate our 60th reunion at our Alma Mater. Many miles have been traveled since we graduated in 1966, and it is time to get together and learn where those miles have taken us. We will gather together at Big Bash on June 5-7, 2026 at Wabash. What a great opportunity we have to reminisce, reunite with “old friends” and re-live times together many years ago. Keep in mind that if you are not present we will talk about you!

As we move towards our audacious goal of raising another ONE MILLION DOLLARS, it is important that you know a little about our College contact who will be our guide and facilitator in the coming months. So, meet a true Little Giant, Steve Hoffman, whose enthusiasm, dedication, professionalism and love of Wabash will inspire you as you consider a gift to our Alma Mater.



I have been lucky that Wabash has been my home away from home for 38 of my 63 years of life. Each year, I get to personally witness the impact that Wabash has on young men; young men whose lives are changed and will go into the world and do things they never thought possible.

What makes Wabash “Wabash” are the relationships forged with people. I can’t list all of the individuals important to me in this short bio, but your class agent, Cal, is certainly one of them. Cal was Director of Admissions during my last couple of years as a student, and he was seemingly everywhere supporting Wabash athletics, especially football. Currently, in my Kane

House office, there is a framed letter from Cal that he wrote to each of us senior football players over 40 years ago. My increasingly keen appreciation of these relationships has become almost overwhelming as I get older, and I reflect on what is truly important, especially as many of my mentors have been lost in the last few years (Rem Johnston, Greg Carlson, Stan Parrish, Chick Clements).

As a student from Delphi, Indiana, I was a biology major (advised by the legendary Dr. Tom Cole), played football and baseball, and am a member of Delta Tau Delta and the Sphinx Club.

After teaching high school biology at Noblesville High School northeast of Indianapolis, I accepted a coaching position at Wabash and served for six years as head golf coach and assistant football coach under Athletic Director, Max Servies, and Head Football Coach, Greg Carlson. I then joined the Advancement staff and have served in various roles, including the Director of Alumni and Parent Relations during your 50th reunion, which was a highlight for me. Currently, I am a full-time fundraiser doing what I consider one of the best jobs to have at Wabash. Think about it; I get to sit in front of alumni, hear their Wabash stories, hear how important Wabash is to them, learn how they have been successful, share Wabash updates, and discuss how they can help.





Personally, my wife, Dawn, also works at Wabash and is in Center Hall supporting the faculty of English, Philosophy, and Religion. We have four sons, including Corey '16, and four grandkids.

Additionally, I am a broadcaster for all of our home football games (I hear from several of you during the games), and I officiate high school football and basketball.



Here is a brief review of our class accomplishments this year.

Our original goal was to raise \$250,000 to recognize our class on the Senior Arch rebuild and memorialize the Wabash men who were killed in action in Vietnam.

1. To date, we have raised over \$361,000 toward this goal!
2. We have raised enough funds to recognize our class on the Senior Arch.
3. Since we have raised enough funds ABOVE that goal, we are also able to develop an outdoor garden area where we can properly memorialize these fallen men.

So, there will be a plaque on the Senior Arch recognizing our class and listing the donors' names. We also have an excellent location for a memorial garden. The fundraising on these two projects is complete. But, we are the Class of 1966, so we are not done!

We want to raise an additional one million dollars to endow a Class of 1966 Scholarship.

As you will see below, in addition to regular gifts and 5-year commitments, planned gifts and estate gifts, like bequests, can be designated for this scholarship and counted toward this goal.

The Class of 1966 Scholarship will create a deserving legacy for our class by forever allowing students to attend Wabash who would've otherwise been unable to do so. What a legacy that is!

Here is how you can help:

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. Make a 5-year commitment (*contact Wabash).
4. Make a gift of stock (*contact Wabash).
5. Share that Wabash is in your bequest or estate plans (*contact Wabash). There are two different ways to count these:
 - a. Bequests or other estate plans not yet counted by Wabash.
 - b. Bequests or other estate plans that have been previously counted by Wabash but have an increased value. The amount of the increased value can be counted for this project. For example, let's say that you have Wabash in your bequest for 10% of your estate. Going into our 50th reunion in 2016, your estate was worth \$500K, so the Wabash share was worth \$50K. But, your estate is now worth \$750K, so the Wabash share of 10% is now worth \$75K. Assuming that Wabash counted \$50K toward our class gift in 2016, we can now count the additional \$25K for this goal for counting purposes.

*To contact Wabash, you can either contact any Wabash person with whom you've worked, or contact Steve Hoffman at 765-376-2832 or hoffmans@wabash.edu.

Two of our classmates, John Lennes and Dennis Whigham, have sent messages that you will enjoy reading.

I never cease to be amazed and impressed by the honors won by each loyal son, and the depth of character, achievement, generosity and curiosity our band of brothers has so relentlessly shown. It's a lot to live up to.

As we wind down these fleeting years, it is a joy and a salve to be reminded of things that transcend the ordinary, Go Wabash!

As an aside, I wrote a brief elegy for the son of good friends of ours who died recently. He was a scholar and an athlete, a formidable linebacker and later an affable and much beloved professor at his alma mater St. John's in Minnesota (we have met them in the D3 tournament, you may recall), and was among other things the biographer of the legendary St. John's coach. My topic sentence, "lives are not measured by years alone" was inspired by a message given 50 years ago by the great New Zealand GP, Indycar and CanAm racer and constructor, Bruce McLaren on the occasion of a young friend and competitor's passing.

LIVES ARE NOT MEASURED IN YEARS ALONE.

DEPTH, NOT LENGTH, IS A BETTER STANDARD - DEPTH OF KINDNESS, DEPTH OF SPIRIT, DEPTH OF INTELLIGENCE, DEPTH OF GIVING, DEPTH OF COMMITMENT.

THE LAUGHTER, THE FAITH, THE JOY WE SHARE, AND THE LOVE WE GIVE AND RECEIVE ARE THE BEST METRICS.

WE ARE MEASURED AS MUCH BY THE LIVES AND DEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WE UPLIFT AND INSPIRE AS WE ARE BY OUR OWN JOURNEY. OUR LEGACIES, OUR VALUES AND OUR FUNDAMENTAL MEANINGS LIVE ON. THEY RISE AGAIN IN THOSE WE HAVE LOVED AND GUIDED. AND THEY LIVE ON IN THOSE WHO HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR US.

WE MORTALS COME AND WE GO, BUT OUR REACH REMAINS. WE LIVE ON THROUGH OUR TRANSMISSION TO OTHERS OF THE GOODNESS, MERCY AND AFFECTION OTHERS HAVE GIVEN TO US. THOSE THINGS NEVER DIE.

AND SO, NEITHER DO WE.

John

I was with the Wabash group at the Bell game telecast in DC. Ken Wood was there as the only other person from our class and that era. He and I enjoyed talking about the old days. Ken was a bio major also. I thought we had a good shot at getting the bell back but alas we will wait another year. The new coach is good and I really like his attitude. We will get there. We almost came back to beat John Carroll and they are in one of the national semi-finals this Saturday.

I was hoping to get to the 60th but at this time that is not likely to happen as I have travels planned and as I approach the 82nd birthday, travel is less and less pleasing. In addition to visits to Alaska and Vermont that Jan and I will plan to visit our children, I will return to Japan in Feb-March to continue to work with a group to try to continue to engage the Japanese in the approach that it being used in our area to restore streams and shorelines. In late March I likely will go to Dresden (Germany) to receive the Trust Medal of the World Orchid Conference Trust. <https://www.woctrust.org/newpage0de77f37> World orchid conferences are held around the world and I was stunned to get the email about the

award, in recognition of our orchid conservation efforts. Somewhere in the April-May period, I am also planning a bike trip with Herb Heneman. I still hope to ride in all 50 states before I can no longer ride a bike. The next trip I hope to ride in the few southern states that I have not been to (LA, AL, MS, AR). Hoping that the men of 66 are able to get enough money for the scholarship that you describe.

Best wishes,

Dennis

BIG BASH 2026 JUNE 5-7 OUR 60TH CLASS REUNION

The Hampton Inn will be our lodging headquarters for our 60th reunion and we have twenty rooms reserved as well as the hospitality room. The manager is Nikki Copeland, a friend, and her number is 765-366-3563. The number of the Hampton Inn is 765-362-8884 and our reservation codes are B60 and Wabash 60-either code should work for your reservation.

This will be a very special reunion for our class as we announce our gifts to the College: a rebuild of the Senior Arch in memory of the Wabash Little Giants who lost their lives in Viet Nam, a separate memorial garden with their names listed on a plaque, and an endowed scholarship named for our class.

Our class responded to both our 50th and 55th reunions with terrific generosity, and it is the hope of the College that we will do equally as well for our 60th. Each of us can help make this happen, so please give consideration to participating in this effort with a gift to the College-no gift is too small or too big!! OUR CLASS LEADS BY EXAMPLE, GENEROSITY, LOYALTY AND GRATITUDE TO OUR ALMA MATER!

“...THY LOYAL SONS SHALL EVER LOVE THEE,,,,”

Cal