

Class of 1966

Class Agent  
Cal Black

June 16, 2025

Dear Men of '66,

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### **THE COLLEGE NEEDS OUR HELP THIS MONTH AS THE FISCAL YEAR ENDS ON 6/30**

Our class has been a leader in many ways for Wabash. Our gift of \$8 million for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion was a record. Our class participation that year was 75%-unbelievable! No other class has come close to that. And then for our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion we set another record as the only class for the 55<sup>th</sup> to make a major class gift (\$3.3M), and we named a dormitory for our class. We are a special group of Little Giants!

In order for the College to meet their goals for this fiscal year, 590 more alumni donors are needed to reach 40% by the end of June. To meet the financial goal of \$3.75M for the Annual Fund we need \$550,000. If each of us contributes to this effort then Wabash will again outshine our competition and be the envy of those with whom we compete. Please consider a gift (or another gift) of any size, and you may designate it for any particular interests at the College such as clubs, athletics, living units, etc. Here is the information to make a contribution to our Alma Mater. A gift of any amount toward anything that supports Wabash students counts. You can make your gift online at [wabash.edu/give](http://wabash.edu/give), by phone at (877) 743-4545, or by mailing a check to Wabash College | 301 W. Wabash Ave. | Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

Dennis Whigham has sent a couple of messages that you will enjoy. The one in which he mentions pushups is in response to an inquiry if he would do pushups at our reunion as he did at the Wabash vs. Hampden-Sydney football game several years ago in Virginia. We did not have any Sphinx Club members at the game, and so each time Wabash scored Dennis did the number of pushups to match the score! Some of us need to get in shape and see if we can keep up with Whighie!



Hi Cal

Just finished reading the 66 newsletter in my hotel room in London. As always, it brings back memories and also again shows that our class members did some very interesting things. Hoping I can make it to the 60th.

I am here to participate in the Chelsea Flower Show. The North American Orchid Conservation Center has been part of an orchid conservation display at Chelsea for the past several years. Attached is the press release for this year's show. This is the first time that I have come to Chelsea as other folks in our group carried the flag in the past.

Jan and I continue enjoying our retirement at Collington. It is filled with about 400 young people in old people's bodies. A very active place filled by a lot of caring and busy

folks. One of the activities generated by the folks who live here is the weed-warriors. Our group of about 10-15 people ranging from their 80s to mid 9s0, mostly working for an hour on Saturday mornings to remove nasty non-native plants to give our native species a chance. The warriors include, for example, a former US Ambassador to countries in South America. A few weeks ago I gave a lecture on our salmon-landscape related research in Alaska that was fun, especially since two people at Collington have family in Homer, Alaska; including one person whose friend's family owns a peony farm where our granddaughter has worked for three summers. I also gave a talk last month at the annual meeting of the American Orchid Society where they were coerced to giving me the Philip E. Keenan award for our work on orchid conservation. Jan tells everyone that I have not retired. I guess that she is somewhat correct but I see it as mostly having fun. We also recently finished a lot of the work on a field guide to orchids in the US and Canada. The lead author had the idea for the field guide (a companion to our Go Orchids website) but the process stagnated once he became ill. After his passing, I got the files that he and I had worked on and during COVID - the only good thing that I know of that happened at that time - I found the time to finish writing the material and putting it all together. If all or our classmates purchase 10 copies to give to friends and family, we might make \$10 to support our orchid conservation work!

Looking forward to the next newsletter.

Best wishes,  
Dennis

Dennis, thank you for your very interesting email, and I plan to put it in the June class letter. You just can't retire can you? You are correct that our classmates have done some amazing and unusual things. Little did we know when we graduated where we would end up years later. Please plan on our 60th-we need someone who can still do pushups! WAF! Cal 😂

Cal, no promises but our retirement community has a trail through the woods with regularly placed benches (for obvious reasons). I do 25 pushups on each bench until I hit 300



Jack Hauber sent a really special memoir about Wabash, and it is certainly inspirational and reflective of the passing years for all of us-thank you Jack for your willingness to share this with your classmates.

Memoir – Thoughts About Aging, Jack Hauber, Villas

Aging is an interesting process. It happens so slowly that the various forms of deterioration that come with it are hardly noticed, at least until some person, event, or experience comes out of nowhere and hits you square in the face. These occurrences can come in all sorts of forms – like a visit to the optometrist who says you need glasses if you expect to renew your driver's license, or a reunion with a group of classmates who now all look and act really old, or the day you realize you can't walk around the block without a physical aid of some kind.

I had one of these disturbing experiences this weekend – my grandson's college graduation from Wabash College in Indiana. It happens that my son and I also graduated from Wabash, so we represented the classes of 2025, 1991, and 1966, a fact of which I am very proud. I have been back to the college on many occasions over the years, and each time, I noticed small changes here and there. Just like the aging process, it was happening gradually and not too dramatically.



But on this visit, as we three graduates waited to get our “legacy pictures” taken, I looked at one of the imposing brick buildings and said to my son, “That building, Baxter Hall, is over 60 years old.” He asked, “How do you know?” and I replied, “Because it was built when I was a sophomore.” That’s when my age hit me straight in the face, and I began to review all the small changes that had taken place at the college, which collectively made major differences:

- Our student union was in the process of being torn down and replaced because it “no longer meets the needs of the current student body.”
- Buildings have been remodeled and renamed because some major donors didn’t have the memories that old-timers have of the original names and buildings.
- A whole street and my first fraternity house are both completely gone and an athletic facility now stands where they used to be.
- Visiting the professors and mentors who guided me through the college years is no longer possible because they have all passed away.

On the day of the graduation, I ate brunch in an indoor track and basketball facility that didn’t exist when I was there; walked out to the football field on a track that used to be made of cinders; and stumbled up the steps in the stands that I used to be able to take two at a time. Unlike my aging body, the changes at Wabash College all make for progress. I guess I’m homesick for a place that no longer exists and a body that I can never have again.

A number of you have inquired if we will have a reunion for our 60<sup>th</sup> next June, and the answer is a definite YES! Details will be sent in the near future, but please reserve this event and dig out the words to Old Wabash as we will again perform at Chapel Sing and win the competition among all reunion classes! DEAR OLD WABASH!

Cal