

Class of 1967

Class Agents

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Classmates –

Belated Happy New Year wishes to you all. Moving into a new year is always a time to look back on our lives to recall how we got to this point and to look forward to what we will do next. We hope our class letters are one way to share some of those memories and plans with old friends, along with sharing how we are coping with moving into our 80's. With that in mind, here is some classmate news.

From **Steve Wood**. “ My wife Janine and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this year. We have two children and three grandchildren. Janine is the sister of Bob Myers, Wabash Class of 1967. I retired from IBM in 2012. I worked for IBM in Indianapolis, Tampa, and Raleigh for a little over 38 years, probably a record for an English major. Dr. Fertig would be so proud. I was in the Peace Corps in rural—very rural—Liberia from 1967 through 1971. While there, I tried to remember knowledge that I had acquired from earning my First Aid Merit Badge, but it didn't go far enough with the conditions (leprosy, malaria, elephantiasis) that I was seeing. I don't read as much as I used to, but I spend some time planning to read books that were assigned in various English classes. High on my list is *Pride and Prejudice* because I think that it was assigned in nearly every English class I ever took at Wabash; I'm fairly certain that it was also assigned in Phys/ Chem 2A and both semesters of CC. I very recently had my 80th birthday. I am being treated for a diverse—very diverse—array of maladies, some of which sound pretty scary. But I'm still vertical and fairly mobile. I went to Cincinnati last year for a mini-reunion with classmates Dennis Harrell, and Ed Brann. I look forward to our Class Reunion in 2027 and promise to review the lyrics to *Old Wabash* before I go; perhaps I will have finished *Pride and Prejudice* by that time.

Sometimes I admit I prowl the Facebook pages for update information. Here is one example –



(from a December Facebook post) **Phil Coons** – “I got my 3000-mile hiking badge from the Indianapolis Hiking Club today” In another post Phil was also mentioned as one of several volunteers completing 200 hours of volunteer work maintaining trails and facilities at Eagle Creek Park.

And since we are always asking you all to send us updates it is only fair to post our own, so here goes ...

From **Earl Houck**. – Two years ago my wife and I gave up the equine rescue farmette we had outside Pinehurst NC for ten years. We had a couple of retired Amish draft horses, two older quarter horses, and even briefly a young Clydesdale. The latter was a bit too energetic for us and we ended up taking him back to the rescue where he got quickly readopted by a man in Maryland who was looking for a spirited steed to participate in the state sport of jousting (not contact but using the lance to capture hanging rings). We also had two miniature donkeys, several dogs, and a couple of cats over that ten years. And we got into fostering dogs for local rescue. We sold the farm, re-homed the equines and moved to Holly Ridge NC with our four dogs and built a house. But we continued to foster dogs and included a “dog shed” with an attached fenced play area and an extra laundry room in the house to make it work. We now work with two dog rescues; for one we only take mama dogs and their litters. We keep them until the pups are weaned at eight weeks and then take them back to the rescue main facility for adoption. Our busiest time was a mama with eleven puppies. For the other local rescue, we are part of what I call the “Stray Dog Underground Railroad”, getting dogs from two local county shelters and fostering them for a few days up to two weeks while the rescue coordinator works the rescue network to find adoption opportunities up the eastern seaboard. The coordinator then arranges transport to the final location. That involves a group of volunteer drivers (sometimes us) to transport the dogs for a series of 50 to 75 mile segments, exchanging with

the driver for the next segment, until the final destination is reached. We have personally fostered over 350 dogs over the past seven years and they have all found forever homes. We will keep at it as long as we can. It keeps us busy.

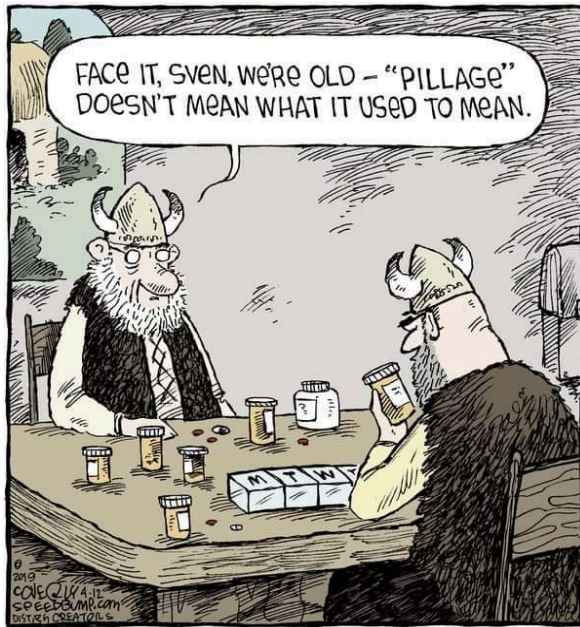
And there is also sad news to pass along.

David Scott Kasting, M.D., passed away peacefully on January 25, 2025, in Lone, California, at the age of 79. A dedicated physician and scholar, Dr. Kasting led a life defined by service, intellectual pursuit, and a commitment to advancing neonatal care. Born on June 10, 1945, in Seymour, Indiana, he was the son of G. Roland and Vernabelle (Cherry) Kasting. He graduated from Seymour High School in 1963 and is a member of the Wall of Fame. He continued his education at Wabash College and was a member of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity before earning his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Kasting completed his internship and residency in pediatrics at Stanford University and pursued postdoctoral fellowships in neonatology at both McGill University and Stanford. From 1974 to 1976, he served as a pediatrician in the United States Air Force at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas. Board certified in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine in 1978, Dr. Kasting began a distinguished career that spanned more than four decades. He practiced at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and Mt. Zion Hospital before moving to Ventura, California, where he led neonatal services across three NICU units from 1985 to 2001. He then served as Director of the NICU at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital until 2009 and later as Chief Medical Information Officer until his retirement in 2023. Dr. Kasting was known for his clinical excellence and dedication to improving outcomes for newborns across California. Outside of medicine, he enjoyed hiking, photography, reading fiction, gardening, and traveling to countries including Mexico, Ireland, France, Italy, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Romania. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Ann M. Hudson-Kasting; daughter Delilah Kasting; son Scott Kasting; sister Janice White; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Here are a few ideas for 2026 –

- Get in touch with an old classmate (The Alumni Directory can provide current contact information. While in the Directory be sure your contact information is up to date.)
- Support the Wabash Annual Fund with a donation. (Our class got recognition for percentage participation for last year. Let's do it again!)
<https://www.wabash.edu/giving/waystogive>
- Send us some news (Highlights of how you got from 1967 to 2026, or memories of College days, or "Now that I'm 80 ____")

A parting thought



Best wishes for a great 2026!

Look forward to hearing from you.

WAF,

Earl