Wabash.

Class Agents Letter

Class of 1977

Class Agents
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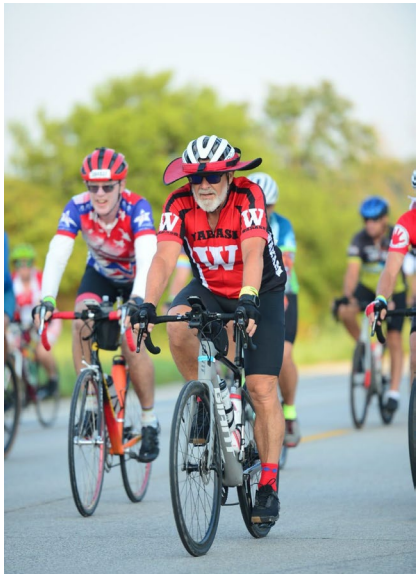
BE SURE TO SEE THE "HELP US OUT" MENTIONS ON PAGES 2 AND 3, classmates!

SEPT. 2, 2026 -- Welcome to the early September Class of '77 Newsletter. As we approach Labor Day and the traditional end of summer, the main focus of this missive is to encourage you to reconnect with classmates and fraternity (or living unit) brothers. We also want to motivate you to come back to the Academic Halls of Crawfordsville on September 24-25-26 for Homecoming weekend festivities too. More about all this later.

But first, Wabash has (again) been in the news as the '26-'27 academic year gets underway. Princeton Review keeps on praising Wabash. Its latest assessment ranks the college among the TOP TEN IN THE NATION in many categories, including:

- Most Active Student Government (no. 2)
- Lots of Race/Class Interaction (no. 4)
- Best Alumni Network (no. 5)
- Lots of Greek Life (no. 5)
- Everyone Plays Intramural Sports (no. 5)
- Best Health Services (no. 5)
- Most Accessible Professors (no. 9)
- Best College Newspaper (no. 10)
- Students Love Their School Teams (no. 10)
- Most Politically Conservative Students (no. 10).

We present this list without any additional comments by the way. If you want to read the story, just click here: https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13613



TOM BABEL, cycling across Iowa in the seven-day RAGBRAI in July.

Not to be outdone, TIME magazine rates Wabash as the highest-ranked liberal arts college in Indiana and spotlighted it among 500 public and private institutions nationally. The "official" ranking was No. 5 in Indiana, next to Notre Dame, Purdue, Rose-Hulman and Indiana. It lists schools based on U.S. Department of Education data and categories tied to return on investment, primarily student outcomes, learning environment, and attractiveness to students. Here's the story: https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13616

By virtually every metric, Wabash's rigorous academics remains a strong suit. You'll recall that the college was again named a "Top Producer" of Fulbright Fellows this past spring with six teaching or research fellowships. We're among the Top 25 colleges nationally in this category. Here's that story: https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13550

So, not only is the Scarlet Banner flying high, the college's academic standards remain high for everyone to see and to appreciate.

LIVING UNIT/FRATERNITY REPS: By now – we hope – you have received an email or a nudge from someone in your living unit, or fraternity, or team, reminding you that this is our 50th reunion and that we'd love to have you come back to Crawfordsville for the Big Bash in early June 2027. Many thanks to these reps for helping Herm, Greg and I out. If you have not heard, please go ahead and drop your rep an email! Names and email addresses are listed just below. Reconnecting is the No. 1 reason why people return to alma mater for homecoming and reunion activities, and ALL OF US have at least one or two persons on our "would love to see and talk with once again" lists, right? So here goes (Note you can just CLICK ON to connect here):

- DAN BROUGHTON dan_broughton77@yahoo.com
- GREG GABET ggabet@comcast.net
- JERRY SHONKWILER shonkwilerjw@yahoo.com
- RHENWICK YOUNG rryoung1973@gmail.com
- GARY REAMEY gwabash@yahoo.com
- TOM/NANCY BOYER boyereshcoff@comcast.net
- MICHAEL MURPHY mgmurphy311@gmail.com
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- RICK BEYERS rick.beyers@yahoo.com
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- DICK MCCOMBIE mccombie@cshl.edu

RANDY & MARIAN RIPPY recently celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary. The Rippys now live in Lakewood Ranch, Fla, after being in Minnesota for many years.

HELP US OUT! Concerned about how divisive our society has become? If so, why not read a book on the subject and attend the next Wally's Bookshelf on the subject, which is on the evening of **Wednesday, September 16.** The book: *I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times* by Mónica Guzmán is for anyone who wants to have curious conversations with friends, family, and community members who may have different experiences, values, and beliefs. Guzmán offers insights and strategies about

how to overcome fear of engagement, ask curious questions, and learn from different worldviews. In the college's Wally's Bookshelf session, Dr. Sara Mehltretter, Professor of Rhetoric, will lead us in to a discussion on the topic, and offer some practice recommendations. Here's the link with details, including how to sign up. I (Kerezy) will be attending online. Hope you will too! https://www.wabash.edu/events/wallysbookshelf-mehltretter

HOMECOMING: Freshman Chapel Sing (remember that?) kicks off Homecoming Weekend. It happens on Thursday, September 24. The Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame Induction dinner (Sept. 25) and the Alumni Chapel, Alumni Lunch, and football game vs. the College of Wooster (Sept 26) are also on the agenda for the weekend. DO SIGN UP! **Deadline is September 16.** Here's the link: https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/homecoming

Recognize any of these guys? This is from Chapel Sing on Sept. 27, 1973. BTW – Do you Remember that WALLLY WABASH made his first appearance on Sept. 29, our freshman year, vs Albion?

TOP FIVE REASONS TO COME TO HOMECOMING 2026:

1. Reconnect with old friends
2. Take part in the most amazing tailgating in D3 football (imagine Mud Hollow loaded with tailgate tents. Well, you don't have to imagine it, you can be a part of it!)
3. Celebrate classmate GREG BIRK'S receiving the college's Frank W. Misch Alumni Distinguished Service Award
4. See how the campus has changed, and how much the campus has stayed the same
5. Enjoy a great lunch then see a terrific and talented Little Giant football team play

HELP US OUT AGAIN! TAKE A MINUTE PLEASE: Wabash has put together a form aimed at both helping you stay connected with us (and the college) and to help you connect with others too! Please take just a minute or two to complete it? The link is just below. Thank you in advance! https://forms.gle/ogUNkY93niiFPaBGA

THANKS! And remember: Have news? Updates? Anniversary photos? Grandchild news? Anything newsworthy? Share it with us by sending it to me (John) at johnkprof@gmail.com. We'll include it in an upcoming class letter.

AT LEFT: President Scott Feller used Caleb Mills' bell to "ring in" the 253 members of the Class of 2030 last month.

IN *The Bachelor* 50 YEARS AGO – Nine new faculty members came to teach at the Academic Halls of Crawfordsville, most noticeably Tobey Herzog (English) and Melissa Butler (Political Science). Both would be mainstays on the faculty for more than 30 years.

College attrition declined: Enrollment stayed nearly the same (859 students) in the Fall of 1976 compared to 857 in the Fall of 1975. The Student Senate was forced to slash club budget requests by as much as 20 percent, according to Bachelor writer BILL SIKES. News editor MICHAEL MURPHY reported that the Intra Fraternity Council (IFC) was planning for an All-Greek semi-formal dance in February as the "official" Pan-Hel event for the college. And ANDY ROBERTSON, who reported for the paper, also made news by appearing dressed as Benjamin Franklin in one of Professor Peter Frederick's classes.

Also, the college and the IFC were having difficulties in reaching lease agreements. The football team was 2-0 in the early going, defeating Washington Univ. 30-8 and then upending Hope College 22-19. (Coincidentally, Washington comes to play Wabash this October 24). The films "Murder by Death" and "Harry and Walter Go to New York" were playing at the Strand. "Black Faculty Missing" was the headline of an opinion column in the paper.

IN THE HEADLINES: Mao Zedong died in September, the Viking 2 unmanned spacecraft landed at Utopia Planita on the surface of Mars, and President Gerald Ford and challenger (and former governor) Jimmy Carter held their first presidential debate on Sept. 23. If you were an audiophile, you might have been first in line to purchase Stevie Wonder's highly anticipated double album "Song in the Key of Life" that late September.

Some of the top songs that month were "You Should Be Dancing" by the Bee Gees and "Play That Funky Music" by Wild Cherry. "Happy Days" and "Laverne and Shirley" were atop the television ratings, but a new show named "Charlie's Angels" was also wildly popular, both nationally and in fraternities and dormitories around campus.

We hope to see you Homecoming Weekend! Please keep those photos and updates coming too!

MINI-REUNION: TOM BOYER (left) got together for a luncheon with TKE brothers VICTOR MELCHIORRE (middle back) and STEPHEN HEIMANN recently.

Best for Wabash Always,
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