



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1981

Class Agents
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June 2025

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Dear Members of the Class of 1981,

We hope you're enjoying a great summer. Wabash College recently hosted its annual Big Bash weekend, and we're already looking ahead to next year. In June 2026, we'll be celebrating our **45th Reunion**—a milestone worth marking in your calendar.

Please consider reserving the **first full weekend in June—June 5–7, 2026**—for the Big Bash. During our 25th Reunion, we had the largest class turnout, and even our 40th Reunion, held during the rollout of COVID vaccines, saw a good showing despite the circumstances.

It would be great to begin reconnecting before next June. This fall, Wabash will host **five home football games**, offering great opportunities to gather with classmates. **Homecoming is on September 27**, when we take on Denison—a tougher-than-usual matchup. Wabash also has a **new head football coach** and will face new conference opponents, including Case Western and John Carroll from Ohio.

Mark your calendar, too, for the **Monon Bell game on November 15**, which will be held at home. Since a season was canceled during the pandemic, Wabash now hosts the **odd-numbered years**—and 2025 marks the **131st Monon Bell game**.

As many of us are now 65 or older and transitioning into retirement or reduced work schedules, it may be easier than ever to return to campus. Whether it's for a football game or another event, we hope you'll take the opportunity to visit Wabash.

As for the future of Wabash, early admission reports for the upcoming academic year are very encouraging. While final enrollment figures won't be confirmed until tuition is paid and classes begin this fall, the outlook is highly positive.

This success is especially significant given the looming **"demographic cliff"**—a sharp decline in the number of traditional college-age students, particularly young men. This trend is expected to intensify after the peak in high school graduates projected for 2025, posing serious challenges for colleges nationwide.



Yet, Wabash continues to rise above these headwinds. The College not only **attracts strong incoming classes**, but also excels in **student retention and graduation rates**. In an era where many institutions are struggling to adapt, Wabash stands out as a model of resilience and success.

And this is in no small part due to our support as evidenced by the April 30th very successful Wabash Day of Giving, marking the 12th such event. In the previous eleven years, Wabash raised over \$12 million. On the 12th Day of Giving, over 8,000 individual gifts and pledges raised a record \$1.8 million. This generosity proves not only the strength of the Wabash alumni but helps ensure Wabash will endure.

Wabash's fiscal year closes at the end of June. Attached is the honor roll of classmates who have donated to Wabash during the 2024-2025 fiscal year as of this letter's date. There is still time to add your name to the Honor Roll. Wabash has had over 40% of its alumni as donors for the last 11 straight years and aims to achieve this again. This level of alumni support places Wabash in an elite tier of U.S. colleges. Your support is crucial to Wabash's ongoing success. A gift of any amount toward anything that supports Wabash students counts. You can make your gift online at wabash.edu/give, by phone at (877) 743-4545, or by mailing a check to Wabash College | 301 W. Wabash Ave. | Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

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John and Tammy Helm
John and Sue Hilbrich
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1832 = 1832 Society Member