

Wabash.

Class Agents Letter

Class of 1981

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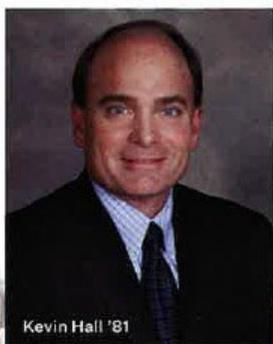
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Fellow Little Giants from the Class of 1981,

It is just about 12 weeks to our 45th Reunion, June 5-7, 2026 at Big Bash. We hope that you have blocked out your calendar for that special weekend.

Registration for the reunion weekend just recently opened wabash.edu/bigbash. Seeing more Class of '81 names on the registration list motivates others to make the decision to come. When and where else can you see so many old friends.

You may have noticed that a couple of our classmates were interviewed and quoted in the Fall edition of the Wabash magazine that was delivered earlier this year. Kevin Benefiel is both quoted in the article that starts on page about the business he launched in 2020 with his son Ty '10 that develops solar canopies for fast food (called "quick serve" in the article) restaurants. Classmate Kevin Hall is featured an article on page 50 that addresses the use of recycled materials used in clothing and textiles.



"The consumer is the boss. They want it cheap, they want it now, and they want it to look good. Sustainability can be an afterthought."



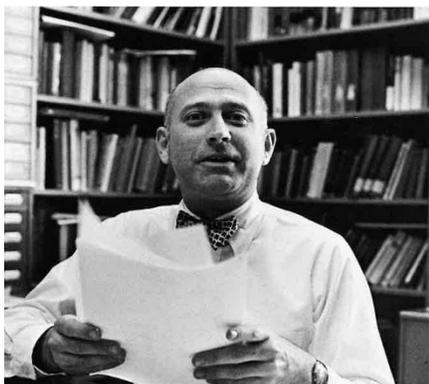
Ty (left), Grant '16 (second from left), and Kevin (middle) pose with the Benefiel family at Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska. Ty credits his interest in environmental protection to the family's many trips to national parks when he was growing up.

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For this letter, unlike our last letter, we do not have any fishing photos. Instead as will be explained we have some “Fischerisms.”

Many of you knew Professor John Fischer, who passed away in August of last year at 87. John began teaching at Wabash well before we started. He began his career that spanned four decades in 1964. Over those years, he inspired countless students—very likely many of us—to study abroad during our time at Wabash. If you were especially fortunate, maybe you even visited him one summer in Greece. And if you were lucky enough to be invited to his home, perhaps you tasted your first artichoke at one of his innumerable, memorable, and truly delicious dinners.

The College held a touching, funny and overall excellent memorial service for Professor Fischer (I think he did much of the planning for, including maybe down to the menu for the party following) on November 1, 2025. In the program for the service there is an invitation to a post-memorial reception contained within the caption to a photo of John in front of a fountain in what looks like Italy with a group of Wabash students that reads, in part:



“One cannot think of John Fischer without a connected memory of food, drink, and brilliant conversation....Afterwards, John would want everyone to mingle, reminisce and, have sparkling conversation.”

At the reception following the service, around the room in the atrium of what we called Yandes, but is now known as Detchon International Center, were poster boards with notable Fischerisms. Underneath John’s name on the boards was the title “Caretaker of the Feckless.”

The following is a sampling of the sayings:

On a student infatuated with his Indiana hometown:

“Child, you’ve got to get out of Pignipple.”

To a student unprepared and not answering in Latin class:

“You’re sucking wind.”

The name of a student’s girlfriend before there was a ring:

“Farfalina” or “Rowena” “with the raven hair.”

Commenting on someone who kept revising a paper:

“He’s polishing the turd.”

A favorite expletive:

“Swine!”

Exclamation:

“Mother of God!”

Finally, the following is one that we never heard John uttered but is something that you might consider using (carefully) on an appropriate occasion:

When already very busy and someone asked him to do yet another task:

“Let me stick a broom up my ass and I’ll sweep the floors while I’m at it.” (John got this one from his mother.)”

We hope you do not display fecklessness and skip our 45th reunion in June.

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Peter Wright & Mike Robak