

Class of 1961

**Class Agent**

J.B. Bachman

[Jb61@bellsouth.net](mailto:Jb61@bellsouth.net)

615/351-0900

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office

301 W. Wabash Ave.

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

765-361-6360

[alumni@wabash.edu](mailto:alumni@wabash.edu)

[wabash.edu](http://wabash.edu)

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Dear Many Miler,

Your Class Agent is fading but still here and able to take nourishment. Reports of infirmities abound. I am happy that you are able to hear about Wabash!

Here is my new license plate:



- Sparks Center is finally coming down... The new Community Center will rise in due course. [wabash.edu/communitycenter/](http://wabash.edu/communitycenter/)
- In the meantime, Wabash graduated a large class of 186 on May 17. [wabash.edu/news/story/13463](http://wabash.edu/news/story/13463)
- Coming up is Big Bash on June 6, 7 & 8. We will have our 65<sup>th</sup> reunion next year! Can you believe it? [wabash.edu/bigbash](http://wabash.edu/bigbash)

### **NCAC = North Coast Athletic Conference**

Wabash Athletics has had a good year! Other than the Monon Bell game, our teams have done quite well. Basketball did well... beat DePauw twice. But we couldn't get past Wooster in the NCAC playoffs. Wrestling continues to be a leader. We sent 5 guys to the National Finals. Brayden Curnutt '25 won the NCAC Cross Country meet. Volleyball had a 16w-10l season. Two men were named to the '25 All-Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League Team. Jake Pippen (Pete & Janie's grandson) starred on the Lacrosse Team by scoring a bunch of goals. (We continue to

be at a disadvantage to the Ohio schools who can recruit out East). The team wound up 8-8 which is an improvement over last year! Sean Bledsoe was awarded a place on the NCAC Golf First Team. Most of us know Otter Creek is a great golf course. But for anyone who hasn't lived in IN for a while, maybe not! Track & Field won the DePauw Invitational with 6 teams competing. The tennis team held a 13-8 record. Baseball had a good season, but their bats couldn't match those of Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster in the NCAC playoffs. So there you have it. Athletics plays a very important part in the life of Wabash, and they are generally ranked toward the top of rankings. This fall the football team will meet two new opponents: Sept 6 @ St. Norbert College in WI., Sept 13 vs Case Western (new member of NCAC), 9/20 @ Wooster, 9/27 vs Denison, 10/4 @ John Carroll U. (also new member of NCAC, 10/18 @ Kenyon, 11/1 vs Wittenberg U., 11/8 @ Oberlin, 11/15 MONON BELL GAME Little Giant Stadium!

## Notes.....

**John T. Elliott, MD** - Just wanted to let you know that your info on 61 is greatly appreciated. Saddened by the deaths, especially the ones I played football with. I'm doing fine... Just drove 3 days from Oshkosh, WI to Fort Pierce, FL where we have a modest winter home. Still playing lots of tennis and some volleyball. Have 15 grandkids to keep me active! Happy New Year, Jack

**Tim Conlon** - Your report about the continued health of Wabash College, despite winnowing times for small, liberal arts colleges is welcoming news. WAF the photo of my fraternity brothers, Dave Bohlin and Austin Brooks is an alumni scrap book keeper! Our winter has been ideal. Record snows in our middle Cascade Mountains while Bend, 4500 ft below has had only one medium heavy snow! Happy New Year, Tim

**Rusty Cleland** – In February I traveled to Bangkok together with my cousin Betsy Thumann and her husband, Henry, to see David and have dinner at Tina's, his new restaurant that features authentic New Orleans cuisine. It was a long way to go for dinner but the combination of excellent food and a wonderful atmosphere made it more than worthwhile. Tina's is now one year old and during that time it has grown quite a bit. It has received a lot of favorable press and rave reviews from customers.





In June I joined a trip to Ireland that included several days in Northern Ireland and over a week traveling around Ireland. It is a beautiful country and highlights included the Cliffs of Moher and a visit to Ashford Castle which is a fabulous hotel with all sorts of activities. My favorite was falconry.

This year I have continued to be very active with the Master Gardener Program where I oversee plant clinics at a local garden center where we impart knowledge about plants and gardening to many visitors. I also spend lots of time in my own garden which I find very satisfying. I continue to live with Huckleberry. He is a wonderful hound dog and lots of fun.

David now has a wonderful partner, Sai Julao, from the Philippines who has been a professional English teacher in Thailand for the past nine years.

I am so glad the election is over and so concerned over the results but I know for sure that Washington, DC is going to be a very interesting place to live. If your travel plans bring you to this area I hope you will let me know. I would love to see you. And if your travel plans take you to Thailand be sure to let David know. [davidccleland@gmail.com](mailto:davidccleland@gmail.com)  
Rusty (240) 505-0919

### **Wabash's 2025 Day of Giving.....**

For the eighth straight year, Wabash raised more than \$1 million in a single day for the benefit of the talented, creative, and intellectually curious students enrolled here. And once again, ye Wabash friends, three cheers as the Day broke records, raising more than \$1.825 million from 3,460 alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends.

**Best yet, together we raised more than \$2,138 for each Wabash student!**

Fifteen classmates from the Class of '61, including Susie Cumming and Char Barnette made a gift.



## **IN Memorial.....**

### **Jay F. Moore**

Jay Field Moore, 85, of Rock Hill, passed away Tuesday, January 7, 2025, surrounded by his family. Born Friday, January 20, 1939, in Gary, Indiana, he was the second of five children to the late Prentice Moore and Margureite Mason Moore. He graduated from Wabash College where he studied Speech and English Literature, was in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and enjoyed playing on the football and baseball teams. He also served his country in the United States Army Reserves. His gregarious personality was well suited to his long career in sales as a regional sales development manager for Cryovac. Jay was very social, humorous, fun loving and often the life of the party. Jay's commitment to the love of Christ flowed through his heart in many ways. He was a volunteer with hospice for many years and would come home often talking about how special it was to be of assistance to those about to transition. He was also a co-founder of the not for profit Mayday in Clover, SC where he established fund raisers for homeless and underprivileged children in need in the Clover School district. He took a tremendous amount of pride in being of service to others. He was a life long avid golfer, he loved the sport so much that his after retirement, his fun job was selling high end golf tours in Great Britain and Spain for SGH Golf. Jay was also a lover of music. He started playing piano by ear at age 5 and hardly a day went by throughout his entire life that he didn't play. He played piano beautifully for the enjoyment of self, family and entertainment of others. He and Nancy loved to travel and spent much of their retirement years traversing the globe. It brought Jay tremendous pleasure to create loving fond memories with friends and family. Jay's larger than life personality and big love, just like his music, will forever resonate in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to soak it up.

Jay is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Nancy Ellen Smith Moore; son, John Moore (Anne Gessner); daughter, Julie Moore Lindsey; brothers, Dick, Bill and Tim (Barb) Moore; sister Jeanine (Ken) Hansen; granddaughter, Micah Lindsey and grandsons, Mason Lindsey, Renner and Russell Moore. Jay is also survived by 18 nieces and nephews and their families.

A celebration of Jay's life will be held Saturday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Park Point Village, 3025 Chesborough Blvd Rock Hill, SC 29732.

Please sign his online guestbook at [www.palmettofuneralgroup.com](http://www.palmettofuneralgroup.com)

### **Austin Brooks – written by Jim Amidon**

I'm saddened to share the news that Dr. Austin Brooks '61 passed away Sunday morning after a lengthy battle with cancer. Aus taught biology at Wabash from 1966 until his retirement in 2004. His students referred to him as a "gentle giant; a careful, patient teacher with high expectations."

When Aus arrived at Wabash in 1957 as a pledge in the Delt house, he was planning to study history and politics. An upperclassman in the house – Tom Cole '58 – steered him to biology. Both Wabash men would go on to earn Ph.D.s and return to their alma mater as biology professors.

Decades later, when Dr. Cole was in the final stages of pancreatic cancer, Dr. Brooks picked up his Cole's research – and with the help of a team of former "T. Coli" students and colleagues – completed and published the research.

Aus loved the water and with his colleague, Bill Doemel (whom he recruited to Wabash), led a series of six-week summer aquatic biology field trips featuring a 34-foot Avion trailer and lots of canoes. Those legendary trips included study of the Florida Keys, Yellowstone, the Boundary Waters of Wisconsin, and a tour of the East Coast.

Aus earned the Fredrick J. Urbaska Civic Service Award from the National Association of Wabash Men for his unwavering commitment to the Montgomery County community – as a board member, president, and CASA for the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau; active leader of the Friends of Sugar Creek; and as an iconic Deacon in Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Please take a moment to read Susan Cantrell's lovely story about Aus and the impact he had on generations of Wabash men, ["Professor of Life-Learning,"](#) on the web.

Friends can send notes of sympathy to Lucy at 113 N Sugar Cliff Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

### **Susie Gakstatter**

**Jan Wood** heard from Jack Gakstatter that his wife, Susie, died on March 3. It is sad to hear from old friends with such sad news.

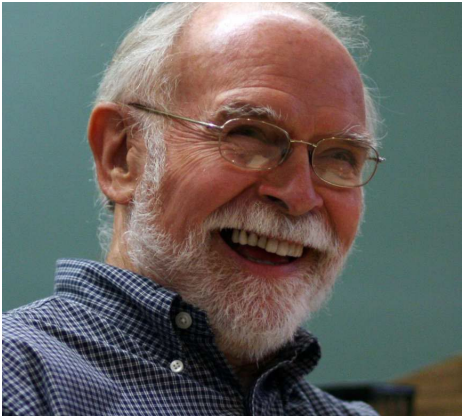
Blessings and Best Wishes to you,

**Many Miles Before the Night.....**

***J B***







## **Austin Brooks Obituary**

Austin Edward Brooks, Jr. died on May 11, 2025, at home surrounded by his family. He was born on August 10, 1938, in Fort Wayne, IN to Austin Edward Brooks, Sr., and Gertrude (Wilson) Brooks. He graduated from Northside High School in 1957. When he arrived on the Wabash campus in the fall of 1957, he had no idea he would return to Wabash to spend his entire academic career and Crawfordsville would become his home. After graduating

from Wabash in 1961, he attended graduate school to study Biology at IU – Bloomington, earning a PhD in 1965.

He married Eva Lucille (Lucy) Clark in 1963. After IU he accepted a post-doctoral fellowship to study at Brown University in Providence, RI, where their first child, Timothy Austin, was born. In the fall of 1966 they returned to Crawfordsville, where Austin taught Biology at Wabash for 38 years before retiring in 2004. During that time, their second child, Laura Beth, was born.

While at Wabash, Austin pioneered many innovative teaching techniques, including organizing with colleague and dear friend Bill Doemel the Wabash Aquatic Biology Program. For four summers, this program provided 15 students the opportunity to spend 6 weeks in a different wilderness setting including Yellowstone, the Boundary Waters and Northern Wisconsin, the Florida Keys, and the Northeast Coast. He also developed a patented technique which allowed a blind student to feel microscopic images. Additionally, he eagerly supported the use of technology and computers as teaching tools and pursued research worldwide with sabbaticals and research trips to such diverse locations as Hamburg, Germany, Bangkok, Thailand, Johns Hopkins University and the Pacific Northwest.

After retirement Austin became involved in several community organizations including the Friends of Sugar Creek, the Youth Service Bureau, the Park Board, and served as both an elder and deacon for his church, the Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church. In retirement he was able to pursue his many hobbies which included fly fishing with his buddy, David Hadley, wood carving, especially song birds, turning wooden bowls, travel and biking.

He is survived by his wife (Lucy) of 61 years, his two children Tim (Kathy) and Laura (Brian), four grandchildren Lizzie (Josh), Delaney, Jenna, and Nathan and two great-grandchildren, Jazmyn and Dekan. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, sister and great-granddaughter.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later time. Donations in his memory can be made to Wabash College, The Friends of Sugar Creek or the Youth Service Bureau.

"Dear Old Wabash, thy loyal sons shall ever love thee..." Aus most certainly did!