



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1963

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October 2026

Updates and Remembrances

On the morning of September 12th various Class Agents from a span of about 65 years (1961 to 2026) met at the College to do some battery recharging and to get updated on the numerous activities going on at Wabash.

President Feller started the day off with a comprehensive perspective of the field of collegiate education and how Wabash College was managing that environment. We can't capture all that was covered (he spent almost an hour sharing info with the group) but here are some of the salient bullet points:

-There is a declining pool of graduating high school students.

-And, of course, fewer graduating male students.

-Just to make it more challenging for an all male college, a decreasing percentage of men are choosing a four year academic education.

The cliff has definitely arrived. But not to dwell on the difficulties, Wabash had 252 entering freshmen this fall surpassing our goal by two students while maintaining academic standards.

Having pointed out some of the challenges we face President Feller gave us much good news that we can appreciate and be thankful for. With the end of the fiscal year at June 30th the Annual Fund reached an all time high of \$4 million plus in contributions. In addition the endowment had received \$25 million in contributions during the fiscal year and at the time of our meeting it was +/- \$530 million following a year of about 19% return driven by generous donations and a conservative draw. The modest draw of 4.4% for the fiscal year is a point to be celebrated. Apparently no one alive can remember any percentage draw that was that low! Our capital expenditure demands do continue to be high what with work on the new Campus Center, cooling plant, renovation to Knowling Fieldhouse, etc. as the face of the campus continues to evolve.



To throw in a bragging comment last week U.S. News and World Report released its annual college rankings and Wabash is ranked #44 among National Liberal Arts Colleges, six places above last year and our highest ranking in more than 20 years. And yes, our ranking of #44 was ahead of that school to the south of us.

Finally, it seems remembrances have become a part of our letters and this one is not an exception. Since our last correspondence we are aware the we lost fellow classmates David Hockensmith, Bill Lowery, Sandy Seaton and Alan Stanford. If anyone is aware of someone we have missed please let us know.

Go Little Giants!

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