

Class of 1966

Class Agent
Cal Black

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Dear Men of '66.

There is new energy, excitement and enthusiasm in the Athletic Department. Jim Peebles was hired in 2025 as the new Athletic Director, and he has wasted no time in providing positive, energetic and inspirational leadership to the department. His engaging personality, work ethic and a genuine “understanding” of Wabash make him a perfect fit for Wabash. And although he is not a Wabash alum, he is a true “Wabash man!” Enjoy the following comments from our new Athletic Director.



Dear 1966 Little Giants,

I first want to say “Thank You”, to Cal Black, for asking me to share with all of you. More importantly I want to thank your class for the extraordinary generosity you demonstrated during Big Bash with the historic gift you provided Wabash College of 13.5 million dollars.

I turned 60 in March of this year. As I sat at my table that Saturday of Big Bash, I first started reflecting on your class graduating the May of the year I was born. Then, I started to think and question, “How many of these graduates are still living today?” The next question I ask myself was “How much could the class really raise?” Here came the announcement, 13.5 million. I was blown away.

I quickly turned to the CIBE students who were sitting at my table and said “Men, that is what it means to be a Wabash Man!!” They were all sitting there and also processing what had just taken place on the stage. Two classes and 20 million dollars of gifts given to Wabash College. They were all as amazed as I was.

Throughout the course of this summer and through the fall I have shared this story with our new freshman, and their families during the three Wabash 101 orientation sessions we held. I have also shared it with many new athletic recruits and their families who are currently considering Wabash for next fall. It has also made me reflect on the question of what makes a Wabash Man unique?

The two things I believe that stand out most to me as I have gotten to meet and develop relationships with alumni and our trustees is this. Number one, Wabash Men are “selfless”! They put others, the college, our current students, before self. In a world where everyone has become very “self-centered”, there is something extraordinary about how a Wabash Man

is developed during their time here as a student, but continues long after they have graduated. Number two, Wabash Men are “Significant”! Wabash Men care about developing and helping others become successful. Today, that is very counter culture. The number of alumni who work with our current students to mentor, provide advice, and opportunity is also incredibly unique.

What I would want all of you to know is this. It is critically important to me as the Director of Athletics, our coaches and support staff, to model those qualities daily to the young men we serve. Our number one priority must be to instill those values into our current Wabash Men of the future. As we get closer to 2032 and celebrating 200 years, we must remember what has allowed us to have 200 years of success, and it is developing young men to be the proud Wabash Men. This will allow us to continue this success for the next 100 years.

I am humbled every day that the Lord has given me this tremendous opportunity to serve our athletic department. Your generosity and love for Wabash motivates me every day to serve our students in a way this is an example of how a Wabash Man should live. Thank you for the example all of you set for us.

I would also like you to know some things about me and my background. Like many of you, I am a first-generation college student. We lost my dad to cancer when I was 13. My mom did everything she could to make sure that my brother and I could get a college education. Like many of our students our family had a very high financial need. My college coaches became father figures to me at a time in life where I really needed strong male role models. My college experience changed my life, and ultimately the life of my family. Those men motivated me to want to do for others what was done for me. They used sport to teach us life skills, and values. I wanted to do that for the young people I would have the opportunity to coach and lead. At this point in my life through all my experiences, being at Wabash College and understanding the values that are critical to this incredible place is a gift. It is a very challenging time for young men in our country today. Many of our current student-athletes come to us not having positive male role models. There is no better school in the country better positioned to grow and develop tremendous men. Men who will impact others. Serving here at Wabash is a great blessing in my life. Thank you!

Sincerely

Coach Peebles
WAF

Homecoming (9/26) was on a spectacular day-72 degrees, not a cloud in the sky, Mud Hollow filled with tailgaters and the football team beat Wooster 34-7. Wabash students raised over \$7,200 for mental health, and all of the living units had very creative banners and house decorations.

It was nice to see Jay and Marty Fisher, John and Patti Flanagan and Squier and Peggy Neal at the various Homecoming events-especially the tailgates! Regrets came from Charlie Bell and Ken Schild.



Dennis Whigham sent a nice email that is included here.

Hi Cal

Just read the newsletter. I have said before and will say it again. The team of folks who know how to mine money have done an amazing, amazing job. I assume that ours is one of the most productive classes in history.

Assume you are back in C'ville for the football season. The first game did not look so great but against Witt is seemed to be coming together. Maybe this is the year to get the bell back.

It was good to see that several delts, while not making it to the Big Bash, were contributors.

Our daughter and I drove from MD to Homer, AK on July-Aug and made a stop in Madison, WI to visit Herb and Sue Heneman. Like us, they are in a retirement facility and are going strong.

Best wishes,
Dennis

There is major construction on campus with new activity on the Community Center (where the Campus Center used to be), a new chiller building for Campus Services and trenching on the Mall for new water pipes. There is chain link fencing everywhere, and the students now have a maze to travel through to get to class! Now they have an excuse to be late!

More news from all of you helps keep our class updated and together, so please let your classmates know about you, your family, hobbies, interests, travel, etc. Class letters are more interesting and fun with your submissions.

"Thy loyal sons..."

Cal