

Class of 1967

Class Agents

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Dear Classmates:

March 22, 2023

CLASSMATE NEWS

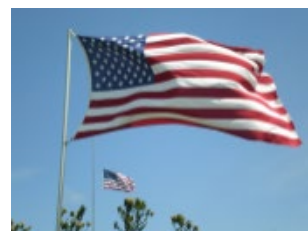
Tom Wermer: Looks like Wabash is trying to improve its football program. President (name misspelled) and head coach recruiting at my high school which just won its 14th state football championship (most in Illinois history). Probably the first time in history that the college President visited the south east side of Chicago.



Mike Butler: Hard to believe it's been 40 years since the finale of MASH. The name of the real hospital during the Korean War was not the 4077th but the 8055th. When I was there in the late '60s it was called the 43rd Surgical Hospital. When it was finally de-commissioned, several MASH cast members attended the ceremony.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/28/entertainment/mash-finale>

“Thank You” to Mike and all veterans for your service.



Paul Robinson: (Phoenix alumni dinner) Big turnout, according to Feller. His speech included lots of good things regarding Wabash vs other small schools. We didn't talk with Scott, but did with his wife Wendy. She is into knitting because they have sheep for wool and she knew my grandson Paul Haesemeyer (Wabash '21) really well. **WAF**

CAMPUS NEWS

Everyone knows “Dr. Z,” John Zimmerman. He started teaching at Wabash in 1963, retired in 2004, and still helps with tech in Hays Science Hall and photographing events. So when a group of alumni came together to take a Giant Step and endow a scholarship in his name, Major Gift Officer Susan Dyer devised a plan to surprise such a deserving honoree. Convening some of the donors under the guise of a “Careers in Chemistry Panel,” they asked Dr. Z to photograph the event. Waiting in the wings were his family and President Feller, who started in the Chemistry Department under him. Boy, was he surprised!

Thanks to the generosity of Russ Bostick '79, Bryan Daniels '81, Chris Halkides '83, Ray Knight '69, Frank Kolisek '82, Brad Maxwell '83, Scott Rathgaber '84, Tom Roberts '70, Mark Simmons '73, and John Van Drie '74, the Dr. John F. Zimmerman H'67 Fund for Innovative Teaching and Technology starts with \$400,000 in initial gifts and commitments. Alumni and friends benefitting from Dr. Z's tutelage can add theirs to this Fund and its impact in the classroom. More info:

https://giantsteps.wabash.edu/?pagetype=news&news_ID=13014isted

(Personal note: Dr. Z was my Phys-Chem lab instructor freshman year. He was a god-send and greatly assisted my staying in school!)

ATHLETICS

It's been a mixed-bag winter for our sports teams, following a deplorable Monon Bell game. Seems like "ups and downs", rather than consistency. However, there are some highlights!

Wrestling: Six wrestlers qualified for the Nationals at the Regional tournament: 2 firsts, 1 second, and 3 thirds. Jack Heldt and Chase Baczek both won their weight classes. Heldt was also named the region's Most Outstanding Wrestler; he defeated last year's national runner-up in the regional finals.

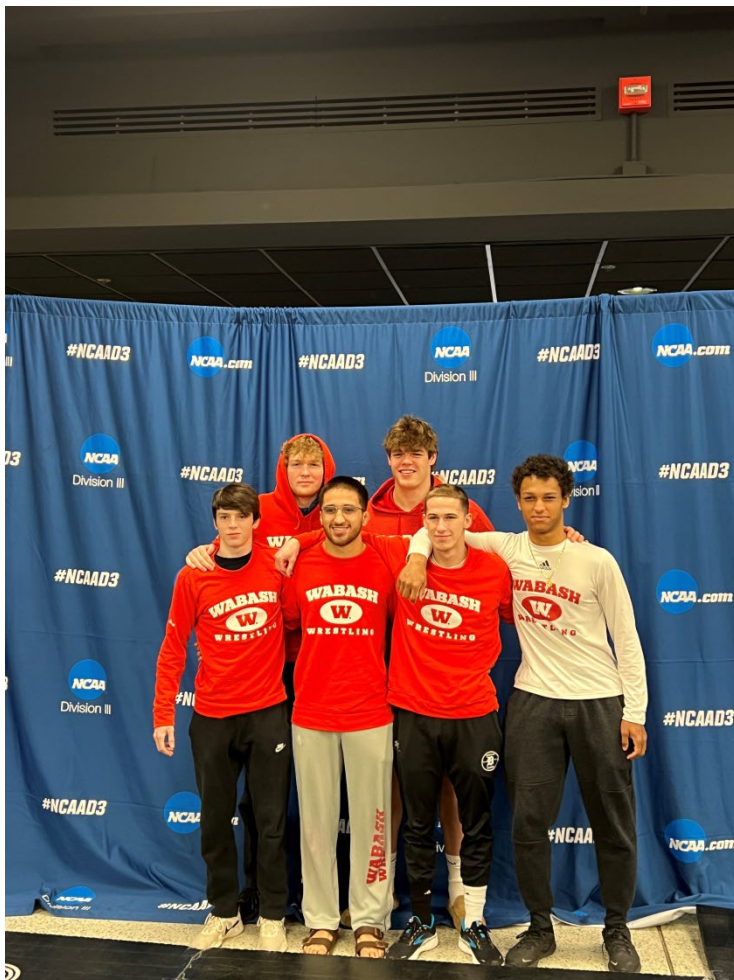
More info:

<https://sports.wabash.edu/news/2023/2/26/six-little-giants-earn-national-wrestling-tournament-berths.aspx>

NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Left-to-right bottom row:
James Day, Daniel Uribe,
Evan Burge, Ray Arebalo.

Left-to-right top row:
Chase Baczek, Jack Heldt



Wabash College senior Jack Heldt capped his career by winning the 285-pound national championship March 12 at the 2023 NCAA Division III Wrestling Tournament. Sophomore Chase Baczek joined Heldt as a two-time All-American after placing seventh at 184 pounds in the tournament.

More info:

<https://sports.wabash.edu/news/2023/3/11/heldt-wins-wrestling-national-title.aspx>

Heldt dominated all his matches, to claim his second consecutive All-America award (2nd place a year ago at 197) and the eighth national title in Wabash program history. Heldt also received the NCAA Division III Most Dominant Wrestler for the season. He finished this season 40-0 and 93-14 for his Wabash career.



COACHES AND NATIONAL CHAMPION

Max Bishop, Jake Fredricksen,
Jack Heldt, Brian Anderson,
Dan Del Gallo, Nick Bova.

Wabash finished in tenth place in the team standings, thanks to the efforts of the six wrestlers who earned trips to the national tournament. The Little Giants have top-ten team finishes in each of the last seven NCAA DIII tournaments, **including a second place finish by only one point in the 2022 Nationals.**

Once, again, the wrestling team finished highest of all Wabash sports in Regional and National competition.

Indoor Track and Field: Wabash won its ninth North Coast Athletic Conference indoor track and field title at the 2023 NCAC Championships concluding February 25. The Little Giants added their 18th championship trophy overall, matching the nine outdoor titles already won by the Wabash squad.

One Little Giant, Haiden Diemer-McKinney, qualified for the Nationals in the 800 meters. He capped his first NCAA Championship experience by earning All-America honors, breaking a school record, and racing to third place in the finals of the 800-meter run. The first-year collegiate runner crossed the finish line in 1:50.16 for a career-best time, breaking the Wabash school record of 1:50.30 set ten years earlier. More info: <https://sports.wabash.edu/news/2023/3/11/track-and-field-diemer-mckinney-breaks-school-record-with-all-american-performance-at-indoor-nationals.aspx>



Basketball: The team won conference games when it counted, beating TTDS (That Team Down South) and Moo U. (College of Wooster) in the NCAC tournament to advance to D3 playoffs. It was an inconsistent season that came to an abrupt end with a loss to Wisconsin-Whitewater (one of those state schools with enrollment over 10,000) in the first round of the playoffs on March 3.

CONDOLENCES

Steve Claffey obituary:



Stephen Allen Claffey passed away on January 30, 2023, at the age of 77. Steve was born on June 3, 1945 to Edgar and Jane Claffey in North Carolina, where the family was stationed for World War II. The Claffey family comes from a long line of Hoosiers and the family moved back after the war concluded.

Steve attended North Central High School in Indianapolis, where he was a debate champion along with many other academic and extracurricular achievements. He attended Wabash College, where he was a Phi Gamma Delta, a national debate tournament champion and a proud member of the Wabash Glee Club.

Steve was a part of the “Great Bell Heist of 1965”, driving the getaway car to capture the Monon Bell, the coveted trophy in the Wabash/DePauw football rivalry. Steve also captured the heart of DePauw student Linda Heppner. Linda, his loving and devoted wife of 56 years, met Steve after they had been set up on a blind date. They were married on December 28, 1966 in Round Lake, Illinois, Linda’s hometown.

Steve attended law school at Washington University in St. Louis. After his second year, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and was a staff sergeant for one year before returning to finish law school. Steve was the Editor in Chief of the law review and graduated as the valedictorian of the class of 1971.

After law school, Steve went to work at the Indianapolis law firm of Baker & Daniels, where he devoted 45 years as one of the nation’s top corporate attorneys representing large financial institutions and corporations. He was recognized as a decade-long recipient of the “Super Lawyer” award and as one of “The Best Lawyers in America” numerous years running.

Steve and Linda were blessed with three children: Rebecca Polak (spouse Jonathan), Sarah Wierman (spouse Eric) and Jonathan. His family grew to include five grandchildren who affectionately referred to him as “Big Daddy”: Lizzie, Caroline, Drew, Emma and Charlie. Steve has now re-joined with his wonderful daughter-in-law, Frankie Claffey, who passed away last year.

Steve was extremely passionate about singing in his beloved St. Luke’s United Methodist Church choir, golfing as a member of Woodland Country Club, acting in numerous plays and musicals and was an avid fan of Broadway. He was also on the board of directors of Damar Homes and The Cabaret. After retiring from the practice of law at the age of 70, Steve turned to helping people in need. He and Linda founded The Crooked Creek Food Pantry in connection with St. Luke’s to alleviate food insecurity. CCFP is now the third largest food pantry in the state of Indiana and is responsible for feeding 50,000 families in need annually.

Steve's legacy will live on through the food pantry which, beyond his family, was his proudest accomplishment.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Crooked Creek Food Pantry by going to ccfpindy.org, hitting the donate button and adding "In Memory of Steve Claffey" in the notes section as you donate. The calling was held on Sunday, February 12, followed by the Celebration of Life at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W. 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260. (Posted online on February 02, 2023)

Rex Stratton obituary:

Rex Bennett Stratton III passed away on February 9, 2023 at the University of Vermont Medical Center from complications following major heart surgery. If names presage a person's identity, Rex was aptly named. His grand stature signaled the greatness of his heart and his generosity of spirit. Everywhere Rex went he exuded joy, warmth, and reassurance; people gravitated to his charismatic personality. Rex had a mischievous spirit; he was inventive and creative with an astute business acumen combined with wisdom and human insight that benefited those who worked with him and the causes to which he dedicated himself.

Born at the dawn of a new year on Jan 2, 1945 in Fall City Nebraska to Rex Bennett Stratton JR. and Florence Ida Barlow Stratton, he spent his childhood in Billings Montana where he explored the dry hills looking for arrowheads in summer and careened down those same hills on his sled in winter; he still bragged that it was the fastest sled in town 70 years later. Rex studied Political Science at Wabash College in Indiana where he pledged Sigma Chi and made lifelong friends. During summers Rex worked for the forest service in Montana, building trails and doing forest-fire cleanup.

While visiting his aunt in Chicago for Thanksgiving in 1966, he met his future wife, Barbara Faye Eastman, at Church of our Savior. They married the following year at that same church and moved to Missoula Montana where Rex attended law school at the University of Montana. His only child, Kimberly Barlow, was born in 1968. Together, the family of three moved to Seattle, Washington in 1971, where Rex began practicing business law at the firm of Schweppe, Doolittle, Krug, and Tausend; later he switched to Intellectual Property law and practiced on his own or with other partners.

Rex said that his greatest achievement during those years was "saving" the Northwest School, a new and precarious private school his daughter attended that emphasized an integrated education in Arts, Humanities, and the Environment. Rex worked tirelessly and creatively as President of the Board of Directors, guiding the school's founders, dedicated staff, and families through difficult circumstances. In 1998 Rex and Barbara moved to Vashon Island where Rex again made significant contributions to the community through Rotary (where he was President and a Paul Harris Fellow), the Island's Fire Department (first as a volunteer, driving the water truck, and later as an elected Fire Commissioner), and Church of the Holy Spirit.

One of his most significant and enduring contributions was bringing a credit union to the Island to reinvest local money locally. He was also an integral part of the Vashon Island Greentech, which pursued a variety of initiatives to improve waste management and promote environmental causes on the Island. Chief of his creative endeavors included fundraising to purchase a digital projector for the Island movie theatre that is loaned to non-profit organizations on the island for use one night a week. His legal and business acumen found an unconventional solution to a local problem that benefitted multiple parties and enriched the cultural life of Vashon Island.

In 2016, Rex and Barbara decided to embark on another adventure and move across the country to Middlebury VT to start a new life closer to their daughter, Kimberly, son-in-law Claudiu Carter and grandson, Arthur. In Vermont Rex continued his commitment to community service at Rotary and St. Stephen's Episcopal church. He also continued to practice IP law, attracting new clients in Vermont while maintaining long-standing relationships with clients from the Pacific Northwest.

Rex was beloved by everyone he met, whether the cashier at the local grocery store, a client, neighbor, or friend. He devoted himself to improving his community and brought astute legal skills, wisdom, and nonconformist creativity to solve problems for his clients and organizations. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Eastman Stratton, daughter, Kimberly Barlow Stratton, son-in-law Claudiu Cater, and grandchildren, Arthur Barlow Stratton and Merlin Winifred Stratton. May his memory be a blessing to those who knew and loved him.

DEEP THOUGHTS

A bag of money can represent not only wealth, but also massive inflation.

Always remember that you're unique...just like everyone else is.

A best friend is someone who clears your search history immediately after you die.

It's difficult to do nothing because you never know when you're done.

Duane