



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1967

Class Agents

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Dear Classmates,

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Classmate News

Rick Helm

Dear Duane and Earl,

You asked, as usual, for a missive from classmates, so here you go.

I had a CT scan and ctDNA blood test in late June, indicating a recurrence of my metastatic cancer, in the same place. The better news is that it is highly likely the same as before, which means there is a medication that is effective in eradication. That goes with side effect, but the last time, a half dose did the job with minimal side effects. Other than that, I am probably in better shape than I have been in the last 20 years! I try to walk 3 times a week, weather permitting, at a pace of a mile and a half in 30 minutes - with a walking stick, so I no longer meet my prior 2 miles under 30.

I had one of my best days recently when Freida and I attended Wabash Commencement and watched my grandson, Connor R. Craig, add '25 to his name, as well as a Fulbright, honors, Phi Beta Kappa. He is hoping to spend next year in Spain (government confusion notwithstanding) and then medical school. I readily admit I did not achieve anything close to his four years of straight A, but still claim he got his smarts from his grandparents!

I spent a week fishing in Michigan last month, and expect to do a week in Minnesota in August for a 27th annual trip to the Big V - Vermilion Lake. Otherwise I am becoming accustomed to my retirement and the opportunity to do a lot of reading, fiction and nonfiction as well as re-reading a few Wabash textbooks that I saw fit to hang on to.

Regards to all.

Rick Helm
WAF



Phil Coons

My wife Liz and I are recently back from a cruise on the Upper Mississippi River. Here are a couple of photos of us, one showing us in front of our ship, American Serenade with American Cruise Lines. The other photo is of us in front of Minnehaha Falls in St Paul, Minnesota.



Our cruise took us from Alton, Illinois just above St Louis to Red Wing, Minnesota just below Minneapolis/St Paul, Minnesota. We went through most of the 29 locks on the Upper Mississippi.

Although we've driven across the Mississippi River many times, we were quite impressed with the large extent of the Mississippi Flyway, over which 40% of the birds in the United States migrate. We saw many Bald Eagles and American White Pelicans as well as numerous other water bird species.

John W. Eichenseher
October 23, 1945 — June 28, 2024
Madison

John Walter Eichenseher, age 78, finished his remarkable life journey on June 28, 2024, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

He was born and raised in Valparaiso, Indiana. He lost his father at the age of two, and was raised by his mom, who struggled to make ends meet. Inspired by his high school math teacher, he participated in Indiana state math competitions and became the first in his family to attend college. Taking a break in his studies, he joined the US Air Force, where he was trained as a Chinese linguist. Being in the Air Force profoundly changed him through his friendships and extensive experiences in Japan and Vietnam.

He then finished his undergraduate degree in history at the University of Hawaii. Returning to the mainland, he tried law school and a master's program in Chinese studies before finally settling into an MBA and PhD in accounting from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. After a stint at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana he became a tenured professor at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he worked for more than 20 years. He was especially proud of the numerous interdisciplinary student trips he led to China. During sabbaticals he also worked in Malaysia and Indonesia. After he retired he spent two years as the Dean of Keimyung University's Adams College in Daegu, South Korea.

He loved to read, especially world history, and was rarely seen without a book in hand. He took stamp collecting to another level, with significant collections from most countries. He was also a passionate lifelong fan of the Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears and loved all animals, especially his cats. He instilled a love of learning, social justice, and travel in his four children. His dry sense of humor and practical jokes will be missed. Many an unsuspecting person ended up with bunny ears in family photos. He will also be missed for his global perspective and ability to discuss in detail an amazingly wide range of topics. He lives on through his family. He was preceded in death by his father, Walter, his mother, Clara, his sister, Carol, niece Michele, and daughter Sarah. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Gloria, who lovingly cared for him during his battle with Alzheimer's, his daughters Tasha (Patrick) and Alena, son Joseph (Ann), and his three grandchildren, Isabelle, Emma, and Moses. May John finally rest in peace.

Wabash Mourns the Passing of John Fischer H'70

John E. Fischer H'70, beloved Classics professor known for guiding Wabash College students through the ruins of ancient Greece and Rome – and difficult periods in their lives – died Tuesday, August 5. He was 86.

A native of Long Island, New York, and graduate of Drew and Brown universities, Fischer was an inspirational teacher of Wabash men for 40 years, beginning in 1964, while serving as a champion of off-campus study and immersion learning, and even coach of the College's first soccer team.



John Fischer at his retirement reception

Colleagues often called him the “caretaker of the feckless” for his stunning ability to say just the right things to wayward Wabash students to get them back on track – or to pursue a calling. He was the quintessential teacher of life; a jubilant professor and unparalleled motivator of men.

He was known by students and faculty colleagues alike for his dinner parties, where he shared the good things in life – music, conversation, laughter, curiosity, and food. Along the way, most Wabash men learned how to live humanely from John Fischer – and to build relationships with a vast array of people who frequented Fischer's home.

He loved serving as an academic advisor and did so virtually every year, often having as many as 80 advisees at any one time. He had the unique ability to treat each one as though they were his only concern. He also mentored many hundreds of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity brothers in his role as chapter advisor from 1977 through 1998.



Fischer with Raymond Williams in 2003

In granting Fischer an honorary doctorate at the 2015 Commencement Ceremony, then-President Gregory Hess said to Fischer, “The narratives of institutions are typically told through presidencies, curriculum revisions, building campaigns, and sports championships. But that form of history overlooks the daily shepherding that is critical to great colleges like ours. While no one would ever call you a wallflower, this degree celebrates the less-visible, yet all-the-more essential love and corrective counsel you gave to Wabash and generations of its students.”

Fischer led the Indiana Classical Conference and led the summer session of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens for eight terms. He was also Professor-in-Charge at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. Virtually any classical studies scholar knew of John Fischer and his love of Wabash students.



Fischer with Jeremy Hartnett at the dedication of Fischer Field

By the mid-1960s, Wabash students were clamoring for Wabash to start a varsity soccer program, and went to Fischer, who knew the game on an international level, to support their request. In 1965 – after studying rules and coaching techniques – Fischer teamed with John Ledyard to become coaches for the emerging soccer program at the club level. Following another club season in 1966, Wabash sanctioned soccer as a varsity team in 1967. For Fischer, it was another opportunity to get to know students outside of class.

When it built a new soccer stadium, the College named it in his honor – John Fischer Field – and there is also an endowed fund honoring his commitment to study abroad.

In a biography written by Hank Leach '03 at the time of John's retirement, long-time Classics colleague Joe Day captured the essence of Fischer:

"John Fischer is a force of nature. Like a huge storm at sea or the tsunami moving inexorably out from the Santorini eruption... John is a man of enormous mental and physical capacity and confidence, and equally enormous generosity of spirit and time. He lives hugely, and that living brings into its circuit countless other people, most importantly students of Wabash College."

Notes of sympathy and celebration can be sent to Jon Hamby at 12214 Bonita Avenue, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Memorial gifts to honor John's memory may be made to the John Fischer Fund for Cross Cultural Learning at Wabash College (c/o Advancement Office, 301 West Wabash Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933) or online at

www.wabash.edu/give

Class Agents Forum

The annual Forum was held this past weekend. President Feller had an extensive presentation on various topics — here is a summary.

Community Center, previously known as Sparks Center. The project is in the "foundation" stage. The old structure has been completely removed and the work now is removing lots of dirt to construct the foundation.

Annual Fund. Just under \$4 million, the twelfth year to reach 40% alumni participation (the vast majority of colleges are at 15-20%).

Endowment. Return was over 10% in the recent five year period,

Enrollment: 270 Rhynies and 908 total enrollment. Wabash is in a better position than many colleges. Two of the key factors in the overall reduction are fewer youngsters going to college and fewer males than females. Two primary areas of recruitment are the southwest (mainly Arizona) and Texas where several alumni are working with Admissions; efforts in IN, IL, MI, and OH continue. The Wabash acceptance model is "will Wabash be a good fit" as opposed to "how many applications can we reject and how much can we charge"?

One of the other CAF speakers was the Lilly Library archivist, informing us of their resources and encouraging access. The link is: <https://library.wabash.edu/archives>. Many documents, such as yearbooks and The Bachelor have been digitized.

Deep Thoughts

Beauty comes in all shapes and sizes: small, large, circle, square, thin, stuffed, toasted, extra toppings.

Everywhere is within “walking distance” . . . if you have the time and energy.

Whenever I think about the past it brings back so many memories.

Upcoming Events

September 27	Homecoming
October 6-7	Wabash golf invitational
November 1	NCAC cross country championship @ Kenyon
November 5 and 8	NCAC tennis championship
November 15	Monon Bell

All right, classmates — it’s your turn. . . send us some comments, news, whatever!

Duane and Earl