

Class of 1968

Class Agent
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Dear Friends in the Class of '68,

Well, we've got good news and bad news. News about your classmates and two obituaries. WE need more news. Let me or Pam Rager (alumni@wabash.edu) know of what you are doing, what the kids are up to, and any philosophy you have gained from reaching 79 or thereabouts. Let us know what you look like now. Pictures are great.

We need your input.

I included a photo of myself and my granddaughter as an example. They have graduation "parties" hereabouts where everyone can gather and celebrate. It was a good time for all.



My granddaughter and I at her Party

Mike Gallagher

Photo of my new softball tournament team, the BC Seniors. Just played five games in 24 hours in the heat of Lacey, Washington. We have now qualified to compete in the World Championships in Las Vegas, September 22-25.



Let us know how it turns out.

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Peeples Named Director of Athletics and Recreation

Wabash College President Scott Feller has named veteran coach and administrator Jim Peeples as the Little Giants' new Director of Athletics and Recreation. He began his tenure at Wabash on August 11.

Peeples has served as athletic director at NCAA Division III Piedmont University in Demorest, Georgia, for the last decade, and was head baseball coach and associate athletic director there from 2001 to 2015.

Obituary for Jon Dara VanScyoc

Jon Dara VanScyoc, 78, died Feb 2 in Fishers, Indiana, surrounded by his loving family. VanScyoc was born in 1946 in Crawfordsville, IN, and raised in Seymour, IN. He graduated from Wabash College, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his Doctor of Medicine degree at Indiana University Medical School in 1972 and served in the U.S. Army as a captain from 1972 to 1975. He established his medical practice as a family physician in Noblesville in 1976 and retired in 2016. He was cherished by hundreds of patients and families.

VanScyoc had an exceptional intuition for diagnosing and treating his patients. He was named a top doctor in Indianapolis Monthly. When he was not tirelessly devoting his time to his patients, he enjoyed traveling across the U.S. and Europe, boating, cooking gourmet food, dancing, playing bridge, and playing golf. He had a boundless interest in history and reading. He always had a quiet, caring demeanor and a quick dry humor that would light up the room. One of his biggest passions was music, from classical to classic rock.

You Are My Music by Jon Dara VanScyoc, circa 2020

Of all the things I love in life. Music is the best.

The bass line, strong and steady comforts me and gives me rest.

The humble harmony flows in close support. It's helpful by design.

The chorus is a familiar strain. It's familiar and it's fine.

The conductor puts it all together, and makes it come alive.

Oh, the melody is so sweet and loved.

VanScyoc was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who shared 55 wonderful years with his beloved wife Emalee. He is survived by Emalee and his two children, Wendy VanScyoc and Erik VanScyoc; two grandchildren; and siblings Kris Deputy and Kent VanScyoc. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Marylin Vanscyoc; and sister, Karin Greemann-Antle.

Mike Dybel

I had a wonderful father-daughter evening with Laura in Chicago yesterday. Despite heavy traffic on the Kennedy expressway due to construction, we enjoyed an amazing dinner at Shaw's Crab House followed by an enchanting and superb performance of Beauty and the Beast at the Cadillac Palace theatre. So grateful to share this special evening with Laura. Special thanks to Mark and Julane for making this night possible from the Beauty (Laura) and the Beast (Me).



Picked off Facebook—here's our own Dan Vannatter.

Michael Akers Obituary

Published by Legacy Remembers on Aug. 1, 2025. Michael James Akers, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, mentor, and friend, entered eternal rest on July 30, 2025, in Peoria, Arizona, at the age of 78, following a courageous battle with Alzheimer's Disease. His legacy of love, gentleness, and unwavering devotion to both family and profession will live on in all who were blessed to know him. Born on August 24, 1946, in Beech Grove, Indiana, Michael, affectionately known to many as "Mike," was the cherished son of James and Helen Akers. He grew up alongside his brother, Steven Akers, and sister, Kathy Nagel, forming bonds of loyalty and support that endured throughout his life.

Mike's lifelong passion for learning propelled him into a distinguished career in pharmaceutical sciences. In 1968, he graduated from Wabash College where he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He established himself as a leading expert in parenteral dosage form science and technology after graduating from the University of Iowa in 1972 with a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics. Known for his keen intellect and gentle mentoring, Mike taught over 3,000 professionals the fundamentals of sterile product development, manufacturing, and quality control through various courses and seminars. His authorship includes two renowned books: "Parenteral Quality Control," now in its third edition, and "Sterile Drug Products: Formulation, Packaging, Manufacturing, and Quality," a 500+ page masterpiece reflecting decades of expertise.

His scientific leadership at companies such as Eli Lilly, Baxter, Searle, and Alcon resulted in the development and commercialization of life-changing products like Keftab®, Glucagon, Humulin® cartridges, Gemzar®, and BSS Plus®. Always at the forefront of innovation, Mike's research advanced fields such as sterilization, depyrogenation validation, and lyophilization. He founded preformulation research groups and was widely recognized as an inspiring teacher and mentor.

Michael's professional distinctions, including being named a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) in 1995 and University of Iowa College of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2016, were matched only by his humility and soft-spoken nature. Colleagues and friends

remember Mike for his unique sense of humor and innate ability to bring out the best in others.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mike's life was shaped by faith and family. A devout Christian and ordained reverend, Mike shared his practical theology through daily Bible study, writing, and teaching. He volunteered as a chaplain at Banner Health in Sun City, AZ. He authored several spiritual books and left behind decades of daily journals-a testament to his love for reflection and writing, which he maintained until Alzheimer's prevented him from continuing. His passions included golf, music, travel, and spending time with those he loved.

Mike was a cherished member of Stones Crossing Church in Greenwood, Indiana, as well as Christ's Church of the Valley in Peoria, Arizona. He found joy and fellowship in several local golf clubs and within his faith communities. He is survived by his devoted wife of 57 years, Mary "Midge" Margaret Akers (Wilder), his children, Scott Michael Akers (Mandy), Ryan Matthew Akers (Brandi), and Allison Michelle Bligh (Tommy), as well as his brother, Steven, and sister, Kathy. He is survived by five grandchildren: Alexa and Casey Akers, Taylor, Matthew, and Brayden Bligh. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, James and Helen Akers.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Mike's life on August 16, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Stones Crossing Church in Greenwood, Indiana. Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m., with Pastor Scott Luck officiating. The Celebration of Life will not include Mike's remains as his body was donated to research for Alzheimer's Disease. Thus, memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association.

As we mourn, we remember Mike's abiding faith and the comfort his favorite scripture offers us all: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Wabash once again did well in The Princeton Review annual rankings. Some highlights:

- No. 2 in Most Accessible Professors
- No. 2 in Best for Internships
- No. 3 in Best Health Services
- No. 4 in Best Career Services
- No. 5 in Best Alumni Network - The Princeton Review reports that Wabash “has a great alumni base that will help develop a student’s career while in school and make it easier to get a job after you graduate.”
- No. 5 in Most Active Student Government - The Princeton Review says, “student government has an active presence and tremendous impact on campus life.”
- No. 8 in Best Classroom Experience
- No. 10 in Best College Newspaper
- No. 11 in Best Run Colleges
- No. 13 in Great Financial Aid
- The Princeton Review gave Wabash a financial aid score of 94 out of 100.

We might be
the best school
in America.

WAF!

Jim Roper '68