

Class of 1969

Class Agent
Ken Crawford

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office
301 W. Wabash Ave.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
765-361-6360
alumni@wabash.edu
wabash.edu

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Gentlemen of the Class of 69,

On this special day in June I wish all a happy Juneteenth National Independence Day, referring to June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger ordered the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas freeing the slaves there. Celebrations of this day goes back to 1866. And on this day, June 19, 2026, President Obama opens his new Presidential Library in south Chicago, attended by four living Presidents and many dignitaries. The tower represents four hands held together symbolizing the celebration of “Democracy in Progress”, and the spirit of community. This is a special day for President Obama and the legacy of his presidency.

The Wabash campus has passed into quiet summer days with internships and summer classes in progress. There is a peacefulness and tranquility that descends into the beautiful wooded area along Wabash and Grant. All is quiet until August.



The Wabash spring semester had 869 students completing their class work on 1 May and finishing finals by 9 May. A high point in the semester was the 4.29 Day of Giving.

April 29, the 13th Day of Giving, turned into a truly “**A Scarlet Banner Day**”. Through the efforts of 3,848 alumni, families, friends, faculty, staff, and students Wabash raised \$2,160,915 from 9,444 gifts. All three are records, marking the first Day of Giving that Wabash raised more than \$2 million and the ninth consecutive year more than \$1 million was raised. These new giving records are a tribute to the organization, planning, and efforts by all in Advancement and the faculty and staff of Wabash, and to the 3,848 individuals who gave on this amazing day. A very special thank you to all who have given on this remarkable day.

188th Commencement on Saturday, 16 May, saw 217 students receiving their diplomas, one of the largest graduating classes in years. The ceremony was held in the Little Giant stadium under cloudy skies, (rain held off..)with commencement speeches by Precious Ainabor from Nigeria, saying “there is a time to arrive, a time to struggle, a time to grow, and a time to begin the rest of our lives”, and by Quin Sholar, Indianapolis, saying “embrace growth beyond graduation”. On an interesting note I counted at least 28 with Magna Cum Laude honors in the graduating class. This speaks highly of the caliber of students Wabash is recruiting.

Big Bash 2026 took place 5-7 June with 400+ alumni and spouses on campus for events, symposiums, college update by the President, and many good meals (always too much to eat). Indiana Governor Mike Braun W’76, attended Friday evening. He said he had received word the day before from the Bears Board of Directors they intend on coming to Hammond, IN for the new stadium, although not yet a done deal. We can Bearly stand the suspense!

The highlight of Big Bash was the chapel sing of ‘Ol Wabash with all reunion classes singing their best. Two classes placed first. Class of ’91 placed first with a grand entry and poster board of Dean Moore. Class of ’61 also placed first with a solo performance by Doug Burns singing both verses of ‘Ol Wabash, which brought the house down! Incredible cheering by the audience. Everyone in the chapel enjoyed the many great renditions of ‘Ol Wabash. Fun by all!



Dean Moore Scholarship Fund, which provided \$50K in tuition assistance to five students in October, had good success on the 4.29 day of Giving. 28K was provided in matching gift pledges with about 14K received in gifts from 100 unique donors, up from 73 the year before. The book value of the fund is now over 1.02 million, with the market value somewhere north of 1.2 million. Final numbers will be available in July, and in my next letter. I will also send the thank you letters from our scholarship recipients.

Student Center has not yet seen the start of construction on the building, although upgrades to the campus utilities have progressed well over the past year, with construction of the new cooling plant well underway. As I mentioned before, the USDA is waiting for the cows to come home before they give the green light to start construction. However, the latest word is that the USDA will show up on campus in July to sign the loan, after which they will give the okay to start construction. Amazing! Construction time will be about two years. The Student Center should be ready for the fall semester 2028. We hope!

Fiscal Year-End Giving: As we approach the end of the college fiscal year there are a number of you who have given in the past but have not yet given this 2025-26 year. I know times have changed and things may not be as good as they should be, but if there is any chance you could throw in a dollar for 'ol Wabash it would be more than appreciated. Our current goal is to increase the number of class donors so we can achieve again an overall 40%+ alumni giving rate.

If you can give anything, even just a couple of dollars, please go to www.wabash.edu/give, or phone a gift in at 877-743-4545, or mail a check to Wabash College, Annual Fund, 301 W. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Any gift in any amount is greatly appreciated. I thank you for anything you can give and the College thanks you. To those who have already given over this past year, and on the 4.29 Day of Giving, I extend to you a very heartfelt thank you with deepest appreciation. Your gifts have a significant impact on the young men working hard to achieve a good liberal arts education.

The summer passes all too quickly by. I hope you can enjoy these summer days with family and friends with some peace and quiet down at the 'ol fish'n hole, where I long to be. The poem by James Whitcomb Riley "Knee Deep in June" captures the special nostalgia of warm summer days in June in rural Indiana. Aside from the tornado that went through last night June has been a beautiful month here in southern Indiana.

I wish you all good health and happiness in the days and months ahead. I will try to write you more often. Let me know if you have any news you would like me to share in my letters.

My best wishes to you all.

WABASH ALWAYS FIGHTS!!

Warmest regards!!

Ken

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Ken.crawford69@wabash.edu