



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1970

Class Agent
Ron Shelby

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Look at the year. I can hardly believe we've made it from 1970 to a year this deep into the 21st Century. But here we are, and that is a blessing.

This was a year when many of us started traveling more. Some of us came down with Covid in the process. I'm glad each of you are still here.

Before we transition into 2023, let's touch on something all of us can do this year.

If you can make a gift before the end of the calendar year, one of my favorite ways is donating part of my required minimum distribution from an IRA directly to Wabash. We can avoid paying tax on the RMD that way, as well.

Check out the ways you can support Wabash and gain some nice tax benefits: [Celebrate the Holiday Season by Supporting Wabash Students](#)

Every gift directly supports Wabash students and adds to the momentum of the Giant Steps Campaign.

Speaking of Giant Steps, we're less than 200 days to the conclusion of the campaign, which to date has raised over \$237 million from more than 11,225 donors.

Save the Date for Big Bash: June 2-4, 2023. Registration will open in late January.

Be sure to check out Whenever. Wherever. Wabash. Whether it's a fairly tough campus photo quiz, a Chapel Talk with Trustee Chris Braun '81, an After the Bell session on poker with Dr. Eric Dunaway, on running with Dr. Adriel Trott, or a Wabash On My Mind podcast with Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett, this is your hub to bring campus to your living room. Just go to wabash.edu/www to explore.

Campus News

Scarlet Honors Weekend returned on December 2-3 with more than 250 high school seniors and their families attending and 190 prospective students staying overnight.



A very happy update from campus.

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.

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

More good news...

Six months after graduation, 95% of the Class of 2022 have settled into a first destination: employment, graduate school, or service. It marks the sixth consecutive year in which Wabash graduates have claimed their first destinations following graduation at rates among the highest in the nation. Over those six years, Wabash graduates have secured first destinations within six months at a rate of 98.4%, well above the 84.1% Career Outcomes Rate as reported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, which is the best current measure for national comparison.

<https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13025>

If you're on the southeast coast of Florida this winter, drop me a line. Would love to grab a drink together. Hang loose!

Wabash Always,
Ron Shelby
Class Agent, Class of 1970