



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1974

Class Agents

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Gentlemen of the Class of 1974:

Big Bash 2024 and our 50th Class Reunion are rapidly approaching on May 31 – June 2, 2024. Thus far, seven men have officially registered and are anxious (fearful) to see what we all look like 50 years later.

Please see the weekend's agenda and register to attend this reunion at <https://www.wabash.edu/bigbash>. Encourage any classmate you may be in contact with to be there, too.

Mark and I attended the annual J. B. Bachman '61 Class Agent Forum on campus last weekend. It was cold (3 degrees) and snowy in Crawfordsville. Director of Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement, Ron Dostal '92, quickly decided to return the 2024 Forum to a date in September.

President Scott Feller described four features of Wabash which form the basis of its "distinctiveness":

1. An all-male student body,
2. Oral and written comps,
3. The Gentlemen's Rule, and
4. A 40% Alumni giving rate

He went on to state his three priorities:

1. Enrollment (extremely competitive for young men these days),
2. Philanthropy (Lilly Endowment's recent \$25 million was the largest cash gift ever received), and
3. Belonging to Wabash (growing and maintaining a strong sense of community)

He wrapped up by asking us to remind you that Big Bash will be your last chance to see the Sparks Center. It will be turned over to the contractor on June 3, for demolition and a two-year construction project to build a new community center. Kitchen and dining will be from temporary mobile units located near the tennis courts.



President Feller said another major project will be to eliminate the electrical distribution system snaking through the tunnels and connecting to the municipal electric service.

After the Forum, Mark and I watched a spirited Wabash team defeat Wooster for the NCAC regular season men's basketball title. Wabash was raining threes. If only Jack Roudebush had had a three-point line!

A quick story. I was pulling weeds from the parking lot of my parish church (St. Casimir) last fall when a co-worker came over and said some guy asked her who was driving the car with Wabash plates. Following closely behind her was Paul Hernandez from the Class of '74. Paul was organizing a naturalization class in St. Casimir's former school building. Most of the current parishioners at St. Casimir, and at our sister parish, St. Adalbert, are Hispanic. Both parishes were founded by Polish immigrants over 100 years ago.

I recently asked Paul to tell me about his work and also update us on what he's been doing for the last 50 years. Here is his emailed reply:

Paul Hernandez, along with South Bend native Nanci Flores have co-founded a non-profit called One More Citizen that provides free citizenship education classes for individuals seeking Naturalization in the United States. Nanci has been an experienced citizenship programming director for more than 16 years, having founded and directed a successful citizenship class program resulting in a 100% passing rate of the USCIS Naturalization interview and exam for over 1100 US citizens in the region, from over 87 countries. Paul has worked with her for the past 6 years as a volunteer tutor and now the lead class instructor. One More Citizen holds free evening Spanish and English instructed classes at St. Casimir's Catholic school in South Bend, Indiana.

Paul was previously a high school English teacher for 38 years. He served as Department chairperson for 28 years, was his school's Corporation Teacher of the Year, and the State of Indiana Academic Coach of the Year in 2011. He served as advisor on his school's Spell Bowl team, yearbook, newspaper, and literary magazine. His Spell Bowl teams won 18 State championships, and his literary magazine ranked "Highest Award" 8 times as best in state. Those interested in the non-profit can find out more at onemorecitizen.org.

Hope to see you all at Big Bash,

Paul and Mark,
Co-Class Agents '74