



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1974

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Men of '74:

Kudos to Jim Hand for stepping forward to serve as our living unit representative at Tau Kappa Epsilon. Jim will be contacting his TKE pledge brothers, encouraging them to attend our 50th Reunion on Big Bash Weekend 2024 (June, 2024). We are still in need of men to assist Bob Black and Jim McDaniel contacting our Independent classmates. Please email me (Paul) or Mark to volunteer your help.

We are only 15 months away from our 50th Class Reunion. If you are like me, my 50th High School Reunion fell victim to Covid, thus this may be one of the few 50th reunions of any type we have the opportunity to attend.

As I write this letter Friday afternoon, it is snowing heavily in South Bend from a late winter storm. The Little Giants basketball team won its second consecutive NCAC tournament title last Saturday over Wooster and is set to tipoff in the DIII "Big Dance" about an hour from now against Wisconsin – Whitewater. Check sports.wabash.edu/ for the result.

In addition, six Wabash wrestlers qualified for the DIII National Tournament in Roanoke, VA, next weekend. My daughter-in-law's alma mater, Ferrum College, is hosting this event. It just so happens, my wife and I had previous plans to visit my son and his family in Roanoke next weekend. I plan to make a least one session; hopefully the final round cheering on all six Wabash men!



We have recently received some news from Chris Baker (Delt), Jeff Birk (Beta), and Ben Park (Fiji) letting us know what's happened in their lives since May, 1974. We'd love to hear from more (all) of you.

Following Wabash, Chris Baker earned his Masters in Public Affairs from IU and his JD from IU law, Indianapolis. Chris entered private practice in 1982 and practiced full time until June 30, 2022, ending with Hester Baker Krebs LLC; spending the majority of his career in Creditor/Debtor rights, bankruptcy and collections.

Chris was past president of the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men and active in the Beta Psi Home Association.

Chris has two daughters Molly Huie and Wendy Leber, who live in Virginia and Maryland respectively. Chris has two grandchildren who he sees as often as possible. Chris and his wife Andi Cohen live in Indianapolis.

Jeff Birk and Deb are still living in Crawfordsville. Jeff arrived in Crawfordsville from St. Charles, IL, not even knowing where Crawfordsville was and wound up staying. They were married over Christmas Break of senior year and are looking forward to their 50th anniversary this coming December.

Jeff started to work at H-C industries in Crawfordsville with a paid internship as soon as they returned from their honeymoon while finishing up a couple of classes at Wabash. The paid part was very important at that time! They made him an offer he couldn't refuse, and Jeff wound up staying with the same company for 38 years through three different owners and 23 different jobs before retiring at the end of 2011. The company was a small, privately held business when he joined; and after a buyout by Alcoa, it ultimately became a billion-dollar global business. Jeff had the privilege to be the last President of the original H-C business before it got combined with other Alcoa businesses and finished his career as a Global Business Director.

Deb had spent her time running the house, caring for their two kids and pursuing various volunteer activities. They were able to travel together a lot with the global assignments Jeff had after they became empty nesters. Jeff served as the President of the local Softball Association (kept playing for 20+ years after graduation), President of the local Economic Development Corporation for a couple years right after retirement, and has

been an Elder and Board Chair of their church for most of the last 30 years.

Jeff and Deb have two children. Son, Kyle (Wabash '00) and his wife, Megan, live in Crawfordsville with their two boys; Griffin (8) and Camden (5). Daughter, Leah, and her husband, Nathan, live outside Atlanta with their three children; daughter, Charlotte (12), and sons, Henry (9) and Eli (4). The best part of retirement has been time with the kids and grandkids.

They spend most of their retirement time going to sporting events and traveling, particularly to warmer places in the winter. They have season tickets to the Chicago Cubs, Indiana Pacers, and Indianapolis Colts, and Jeff hasn't missed a Monon Bell Game since our first one in the fall of 1970.

He looks forward to seeing everyone from our class, especially his Beta pledge brothers!

Ben Park spent the last 50 years getting married three times, having two wonderful children, and being a family physician, entrepreneur, investor, college board member, wake foil surfer, consultant, and recently hedge fund adviser. He spends a fair amount of his time now helping to design and build an inner-city care delivery system starting in Detroit. His wife is from Puerto Rico. Her family all live in Puerto Rico, so they spend a fair amount of time there. He has been blessed to enjoy his work and will probably work until he dies or is unable. He is so looking forward to our 50th reunion.

Spring is just around the corner!

Yours in Wabash,

Paul and Mark