

August 18, 2025

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

On August 29, 1975, an incoming Class of 1979 heard a message from President Dr. Thaddeus Seymour in the Pioneer Chapel. It was Freshman Sunday, and many of us were already on campus in various leadership roles preparing for our junior years at Wabash.

As we draw ever closer to our 50th class reunion on June 4-6, 2027, mid-August 2025 is a terrific time to look ahead and take a backward glance as well.

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First, here's a glimpse at what's happening at the "Academic Halls of Crawfordsville" right now:

Days to our 50th Class Reunion

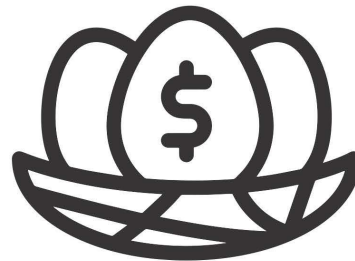
- At a time when fewer young men are graduating high school and going to college, and more of them are choosing large, four-year public universities, Wabash Admissions has recruited a strong class of 276 new students whom President Feller will ring in on August 23.
- New Community Center: The razing of Sparks Center began on July 9, and the last column fell on July 21. For updates, a video of the new community center narrated by Classics Professor Jeremy Hartnett '96, and a construction cam, go to wabash.edu/communitycenter.
- Dr. Scott Brown has started work as the new Dean of Students replacing Dr. Greg Redding '88, who will take a year sabbatical before returning to the classroom to resume teaching German. Here's the story: <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13472>
- Wabash will also start the new school year with a new Athletic Director. Jim Peebles assumes the position on Aug. 11 and comes to us after a 24-year career at DIII Piedmont University in Georgia as a head baseball coach and then AD. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13494>
- Wabash continues to rank highly in the Princeton Review, coming in at #2 for Internships, #5 in Alumni Network, and #40 in value. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13476>
- Take a look inside two of Wabash's summer sessions, the Business Immersion Program for rising sophomores (<https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13475>) and Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program for 30 incoming freshmen (<https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13495>).

- THANKS – Our ‘quick’ count indicated that more than 20 of our classmates came back to Wabash for the 2025 Big Bash back in June. There was a gathering of nearly 200 people to honor the Little Giant Red Pack and the Wabash Track & Field Team, as well as our honorary class member ROB JOHNSON. It was a terrific turnout!
- FINALLY – The college officially expresses its appreciation to you, and to our entire Class of ’77 for helping Wabash break a record for Annual Fund giving at \$3.98 million (besting our \$3.75 million goal) and reach 40% alumni giving for the 12th consecutive year. Our class had a 45.05% giving percentage (8th of all classes) and 82 donors (ranking 7th). The latter is especially impressive in that many of the higher-ranked classes have more graduates/alumni than we do. Thanks again, 82 times over.

SPEAKING OF GIVING: The Advancement Office now has a webpage set up to answer questions about how to give to the College, specifically in your case for questions about Qualified Charitable Distributions or QCDs. For some of us, age 70.5 is one of those “flash points” with the IRS whereby donations may save you a lot in taxes. Here’s a link with details: wabash.edu/giving/waystogive#ira. Herm, Greg and I have also included a handy card that explains it.

Make a Tax-Smart Gift from Your IRA

If you are age 70½ or older, consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA. While the minimum age for taking a required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA is 73, it does not affect your ability to make a tax-advantaged QCD starting at age 70½. Amounts distributed as a QCD can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year, up to \$105,000. The QCD is excluded from your taxable income. Note: QCDs can take 7-10 or more business days to complete, so be sure to allow enough time for your gift to arrive before December 31. To view frequently asked questions about QCDs, visit wabash.edu/giving/waystogive.



CLASSMATE NEWS

A group of Fijis gathered at the home of PETE TRYBULA to surprise him at his 70th birthday in the spring. Attendees included (L to R) Pete Trybula, Rich Shapiro, Paul Van Ness, Bob Grant, Kevin O'Shaughnessy, Steve Rockwell, Rob Kunkel and Mike McCully.



About a dozen members of Tau Kappa Epsilon gathered last month at Victory Field in Indianapolis for an Indians game. Class of '77 members attending included TED FERGUSON, TOM BOYER, STEVE HEIMANN and MARC ADAMS. (photo by T. Boyer)



Recently we reconnected with one of our class's most photographic members, JOHN MOYER.

I haven't had any connection with my pledge brothers, going either way, and that's my fault. I was the first one in my family, on either side, to go to college. And looking back, I really didn't "get" what fraternity life was all about. So I missed out on those connections living in the Beta house, as well as since then as an alumnus. The wife and I have bumped into Bob Brandt on occasion over the years at various events, but those conversations were short.

I have been married to Mary Jo for over 40 years, we have three kids and five grandchildren (ages 3 to 10), who all live in the area. We get together frequently. Last week we hosted "Nana Papaw Camp" for all the grandkids. It was fun pandemonium, and we are still exhausted. Mary Jo was a second grade teacher. She lives for our grandkids, and we are active in our church.

One daughter graduated from IU-Bloomington, another from Ball State, and our son got an Engineering degree from Purdue. They are all married and doing well.

I retired at the end of 2021 after a long career in industrial sales. I worked for Siemens AG USA for several years selling industrial electrical controls, drives and motors. I also worked for a manufacturer's rep agency selling assembly machines to engineers in factories. So, you really can do anything with a degree in Liberal Arts, it's just tough getting started. I still take a lot of photos, now mostly of our grandkids. I haven't been back to Wabash in about 20 years when I had business with a company in Crawfordsville, and took a spin around campus. BELOW: Picture of the Moyer Family.



Another classmate connected with us near the end of June, BARNEY QUICK. Here's part of his communication to us:

I live in the city where I grew up, Columbus, Indiana. I've been married since 1990 and have two grown step kids. I furthered my education 1988-94 by getting a master's degree in history from Butler. Since 1994, I have made fairly decent money as a freelance writer, but have fleshed that out at times with other income sources. I am a jazz guitarist and do that professionally in various configurations. And I have been an adjunct lecturer at IU Columbus since 2001, teaching jazz history and rock and roll history. I published a novel in 2006. It's called *High C at the*

Sunset Terrace. For 25 years, I had a Saturday morning food show called *Stirring Something Up* on our local news-talk station, WCSI-AM. I am a deacon at New Hope Christian Church.

Have traveled some over the years. Spent two weeks in Japan in April 1990. Spent two weeks in the Soviet Union that June. (You'll notice the date of my marriage; 1990 was a momentous year.) My wife and I have been far and wide in the US, and had a languid week in St. Lucia once. I do all the cooking at our house. But the herbs are cultivated in our courtyard by The Lovely and Talented Mrs. Q.

Finally, PAUL FERGUSON and I, along with our wives and others, took in a Trombone Shorty concert at the 2025 Cuyahoga Community College JazzFest back in late June. Sorry – no photo – but we had a terrific time taking in the music of Trombone Shorty and his high-energy performance as well.

LOOKING BACK IN OUR SOCIETY/CULTURE:

No, it wasn't safe to go into the water as "Jaws" was the No. 1 movie at the box office almost our entire summer of 1975. Steven Spielberg's film basically created the "summer blockbuster" theme for major movie studios. Some of us caught "Dog Day Afternoon" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" as well. On the small screen, crime drama "Hawaii Five-0" and the Norman Lear comedy "Maude" were among the most-watched TV shows.

On July 30, 1975, former Teamsters president Jimmy Hoffa went to lunch at the Machus Red Restaurant in suburban Detroit, and then was never seen again. Three weeks later, just as we were returning to Crawfordsville, NASA launched Viking 1, its first Mars probe. It would land on Mars a year later, in July 1976.

We were hearing "Love Will Keep Us Together" by the Captain and Tenille on our car radios, although many of us probably switched the station to one which might be playing War's tune "Why Can't We Be Friends?" or KC and the Sunshine Band's "Get Down Tonight." One of my personal favorites was Glen Campbell's "Rhinestone Cowboy," which went to No. 1 on the country music charts in Fall 1975 despite never being played on our radio station WNDY, 106.3 FM. Few of us could have predicted how disco music would soon dominate the airwaves.

A BRIEF LOOK AHEAD:

Homecoming 2025 is the weekend of September 26-27, although festivities (as always) kick off with a Chapel Sing on Thursday, Sept. 25. This year's theme is **125 Years: Old Wabash**. Our new Latino Community Center dedication and ribbon cutting will be on Sept. 26. There will be a special "From the Hills of Main to the Western Plain: Exploring the Musical History of Wabash College" on Saturday morning, a Kane Society reception, and then the Alumni Chapel. Thomas Bridge '74 and Jay Allen '79 are some of the alumni from our era who will be honored.

Of course, there's also the Homecoming Luncheon, the football contest vs. Denison, and a Glee Club concert Saturday evening. Hope you'll be able to attend. Use the QR code below or visit <https://wabash.edu/homecoming> to register.



Hope to see you on campus!

Best for Wabash Always,

Greg

Herm

John

PS -- Hate to end the missive on sad news, but this summer saw the passing of two beloved Wabash faculty members who taught us.

Biology Professor Austin Brooks passed away in May. He was the founder of a summer biology field experience known as the Summer Aquatics Program, and was also an instrumental founder/member of Friends of Sugar Creek.

Then as we completed work on this newsletter, we learned that Classics Professor John Fischer passed away earlier in August. He was an adviser and leader of the college's Off-Campus Study programs for many years, a champion of immersion learning, and long-time adviser to Lambda Chi Alpha. He also was instrumental in helping launch the Wabash soccer team. We've lost Some Little Giant.