

Class of 1977

Class Agents

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Congrats to you – to us all!

FELLOW CLASS of '77ERS – Herm, Greg and I were shocked when the college presented us with Myron G. Phillips Class Agent Award this past weekend. As we'd won this award just a few years back, we didn't think we'd be "in the running" anytime soon. But, no small thanks to you, our classmates, we were named top class agents again. Why? Because of you and your generosity.

Each year, Wabash strives to have 40 percent or more of its alumni contribute to the Annual Fund. We topped out at 45.1%, and with 12 more donors, on average, than other classes have had giving when they were 48 years removed from their graduations. Our overall "engagement percentage" from the college for the Class of '77 was 47 percent. So, many thanks to all of you who gave.

We do want to remind you that Homecoming Weekend festivities begin Thursday, Sept. 25 and continue through the football game (2 pm vs. Denison) and Glee Club Concert (7 pm) on Saturday, Sept. 27. The two biggest activities over/above those are the Alumni Chapel, 10:30 am (where the National Association of Wabash Men presents honors) and the Homecoming Lunch, at noon in the Knowling Fieldhouse. Of course, there will also be Division III's World Champion Tailgate Party prior to the football game as well. You need to sign up for some of these! See the link at the bottom of this letter to take action if you're going to the Academic Halls of Crawfordsville for Homecoming. The deadline to register is Friday, September 19 at noon.

This year's homecoming theme centers around 125 years of Old Wabash. It was an honor for me to co-write a story about how the words and music for Old Wabash was written in 1899-1900. I wrote a blog post about it, complete with some additional links, and if you're interested in our song you'd probably enjoy reading it. That link is below too.

But, 50 years ago, our Glee Club had returned from a triumphant, 34-day tour of Europe. The words "Dear Old Wabash" resonated in concert halls in Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. Classmate and TKE fraternity brother BILL CATUS reminded me of this in a recent email exchange, and the communication inspired me to go back and get a (not very well reproduced) photo of that Glee Club. It's on the next page. If you were on that trip and have memories, drop me an email and perhaps we'll cover it in another class letter on down the road. We believe that Bill, ERIC TACK, GARRY SEKEMA, MARK STUTZ, BOB BRAND, PETE TRYBULA and JOHN ZIEGLER were the classmates on the tour. Are we missing some others?

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FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS MONTH: There were two assassination attempts against President Gerald Ford. Martin Cooper and Motorola received patents for a “radio telephone system” we now call cell phones. The Cincinnati Reds and Boston Red Sox were clinching division championships and would meet the following month in the World Series. David Bowie’s funk rock song “Fame” from the album “Young Americans” (say – albums are making a comeback!) was atop the music charts. “Welcome Back Kotter” and “Rhoda” (a spinoff of the “Mary Tyler Moore Show”) debuted on television that fall.

AT END – Recent events are a powerful reminder of the need to us to keep on being influencers and encouragers for good, and for peaceful resolution of differences. Here’s a quote from the acceptance speech Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote when he received the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize: “In spite of temporary victories, violence never brings permanent peace. It solves no social problems; it merely creates new and more complicated ones.”

We hope many of you will cherish time reuniting with friends, fraternity brothers, roommates and classmates at the college later this month.

Best for Wabash Always,

John Kerezy

Herm Haffner

Greg Birk

LINK FOR HOMECOMING: <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/homecoming>

AND, OLD WABASH 125 YEARS LATER:

<https://jkerezy.wordpress.com/2025/09/12/a-name-held-dear-a-color-we-cheer-always/>