

Class of 1977

Class Agents

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HOMEcoming 2022

Fellow members of the Class of '77 – It's been a terrific start of the 2022-2023 academic year at Dear Old Wabash. President Scott Feller "rang in" (with Caleb Mills' bell, the same one Dr. Thaddeus Seymour used for us on Freshman Sunday back in 1973) a class of 267 incoming freshmen, **the second largest in a decade.** There were also 13 students who re-enrolled after Covid-related difficulties precluded them from attending (many are foreign students who couldn't get into the US).



More than 11,150 donors have shown their support since the campaign kicked off in 2018, and has already raised more than \$233 million and created 91 new endowed funds: scholarships, professorships, and academic department funds. Thank you to all who have taken Giant Steps for Wabash, and there's still time to do more to strengthen Wabash's future before the June 30, 2023 deadline expires on the most successful fundraising campaign in Wabash's 190-year history. The college also received an all-time record of \$3.9 million in contributions to the annual fund, and achieved the 40% mark in percentage of alumni who gave to the college in 2021-2022. It's the ninth-straight year Wabash has reached 40% or more in alumni giving. The college's 83% four-year graduation rate in '21-'22 was better than many colleges of all types (private, public, religious).

Last week US News & World Report came out with its annual college rankings, and our alma mater had more “A” marks than ever before. It ranked Wabash as an **“A+ School for B Students,”** an institution “where spirit and hard work could make all the difference to admissions,” Wabash’s 87% first-year student retention rate ranked inside the top-10 nationally among A+ schools. Additionally, the College was listed among Top Performers on Social Mobility, identifying Wabash as a college that is “more successful than others at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants.” Coming from a pretty economically-disadvantaged background myself, I can relate to the importance of this life-changing Wabash attribute. Here’s a link to the college’s PR release on the *US News & World Report*. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/12975>

If you want other depth/details about Wabash (endowment, upcoming facility improvements, etc.) contact Herm or I and we’d be glad to share with you more of what we learned at the September 10 Class Agent Forum. We can put to rest a rumor some might have heard: While a new Campus Center is very much under discussion, Morris and Wolcott Halls will remain as living unit options for



Herm and I. Greg was off, probably racing somewhere, in Switzerland

incoming students, no matter what happens to the Sparks Center. Finally, I’d be remiss if I didn’t let you know that the efforts which Herm, Greg and I put into this voluntary role for the college didn’t go unrecognized. Wabash honored us three with the Myron Phillips “Class Agent Award” for our work on the college’s behalf in 2021-2022. I’ll be taking something off of my wall at Cuyahoga Community College to post this high honor. (By the way, it’s kind of funny to see students’ reaction to the huge WABASH banner hanging from the wall in my college office.)

Remember that you’re never more than one click away from easy connections to Wabash College. The college has apps you can put on your phone (yes, including an Athletics one), and it also will continue to offer opportunities for you to stay in touch and learn with its “After the Bell” and “Wallie’s Bookshelf” faculty discussions. Here’s a link to those: <https://www.wabash.edu/www/>

The college celebrates homecoming THIS WEEKEND (events on Sept. 22-24) with a wide variety of activities and alumni awards. Kathy and I won’t be able to attend, but there’s still time for you be part of the festivities. Do so if you can. <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/homecoming>

REST IN PEACE



ROB CLARK

We've lost two class members since our last letter at/around our reunion time in June and our last class letter. ROB CLARK passed in July, and he'll be missed and mourned by his Kappa Sigma brothers. Rob leaves his wife Barbara (Alig), two children and a grandson. Here are a couple of sentences from his obituary: "He taught his children the love of sports, the importance of a sense of humor, and the priority of family. Making nightly family dinners a priority was a significant part of our family dynamic.

"He fought his battle of oral cancer with such determination, courage and perseverance. He never complained that he was not able to eat or talk as well as he once did. His faith grew during this time and he often asked for prayers and scriptures to be read to him. Cancer often steals a person's joy, character and zeal, but with Rob nothing could be further from the truth. He still traveled and enjoyed each day to the fullest." Rob worked at Blue Cross and Blue Shield, The Indiana State Department of Health, the Attorney General's Office, and most recently with Indiana University Health in the grants department.

Also, classmate DIRK BERARD penned these words: "Our fellow '77 classmate, my Morris Hall roommate, and longtime dear friend, JOHN H. MORROW, quietly passed away in his sleep on Monday, September 5th. [It is difficult for me to even type those words.] This was unexpected, even though he had been going through some health issues. By God's good grace, he and I had a long, pleasant, and entertaining (as was typical), phone call the evening before. I am very thankful for that. One of the many things we talked about that evening was how very much we enjoyed our years at Wabash. John said he would go back to that time in a heartbeat.



JOHN MORROW, with one of his Biospherical Instruments' many monitoring devices.

"Obviously, none of us are able to do that. But in a *figurative* and memorial way, I drove to Crawfordsville the following weekend and *for John* "went back to Wabash" and walked through the campus. I sat on a bench in the mall looking at each building in turn, thinking about the classes John and I had taken together in each of the buildings – such as Dr. Swift's calculus class in Baxter Hall, the

time we both spent working for Dr. Willis Johnson on his research project in the basement of Waugh Hall, Dr. Haenisch's quantitative chemistry class in Goodrich Hall, the many meals we ate together in the Sparks Center dining hall, and of course the four years living in Morris Hall.

"John had a very impressive career as a marine biologist, which included assisting on expeditions with Jean-Michelle Cousteau and serving as the CEO of Biospherical Instruments in San Diego.

SICK LIST

Please keep T. Duane "Chick" Clements in your prayers and best thoughts. One of our honorary class members, he's in a nursing home in Crawfordsville. Chick's wife Janet passed a couple of years ago, and it would be great if you could drop him a card and or a note. Here's the contact information:

Mr. T. Duane Clements "Chick"
Wellbrooke of Crawfordsville
517 Concord Rd
Crawfordsville IN 47933

AT END: BUDDIES NEEDED

I'm concluding this letter with a request: It would help us all to stay better connected if there was one person at each/every living unit who would be willing to serve as a "buddy" or contact for everyone in that unit. I belong to Tau Kappa Epsilon, one of those fraternities which back then was on the "other side of the tracks" well south of Delta Tau Delta, Beta Theta Pi, and other fraternities. I didn't know everyone in our class, but if you lived in Wolcott chances are you knew everyone there. Same thing if you were in Phi Gamma Delta.

It would be very meaningful and helpful for Greg, Herm and I if just ONE person volunteered to be a "Living Unit Buddy" with the others with whom you lived while you were at Wabash. If you can be that person, TEXT me at 440-364-1133 and say "Kerezy, I'll be a buddy for ____" and then list your fraternity or living unit. Or you can email me at john.kerezy@tri-c.edu if interested. This is a pretty informal thing. You'll get a list of everyone's addresses, phone numbers and emails, and a suggested initial communication to share.

Please help.

And – yes – as this letter concludes and as you could surmise from my email address, I'm still teaching at Cuyahoga Community College. I love the student-to-faculty contact still, but don't love much else about higher education these days. Would love to hear back from you, and we hope to have more news for you in October or early November.

"When College Days Are Past, As Long As Life Shall Last...."

Best for Wabash Always,

John

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Regional groups, athletics and teams, Student Senate, MXIBS, La Alianza, GHI, WDPD, and CIBE have accounts across social media as well.