



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1981

Class Agents

Mike Robak

Peter Wright

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office

301 W. Wabash Ave.

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

765-361-6360

alumni@wabash.edu

wabash.edu

August 2023

On Monday, July 24th, our class had its inaugural Zoom gathering and we are glad to report that it was very successful.

A large part of that success was due to our classmate, John Hillbrich, connecting via Starlink from his remote cabin in Canada to discuss with us his recently published book ***Get to CEO*** available via Amazon and other. The Kindle edition of the book is 99 cents. John encourages all of us to write a book review (whether or not you have read the book). There is some magic that happens if the book gets 40 reviews or more.

Joining us on the call were: Dan Doster, Fred Kendall (from Japan), John Helm, Doug McKay, Mike Kraus, Mark Whiting (and son), and Jim Hart. This represents a number of John's Sigma Chi fraternity brothers. John and Mike Kraus noted it was also a significant representation of the Griffith High School cohort of the Class of 1981.

Dan, as John explained, helped with the book as Dan has previously been an author and co-author of a couple of other books, including ***Relationships Matter***. This reminds me of the Faber College motto "Knowledge is good". Dan is now President of [Paper Water Bottle](#). Can a bottle be paper? Looks like a terrific solution to the plastic problem.

This Zoom call was, I believe, the first time I have seen my fraternity brother Mark Whiting (retired and living in Texas) since we graduated. Mark noted that he and I were the last of our classmates to cross the stage at graduation due to our last names starting with a "W."

John spoke about the inspiration and genesis of the book. The first part of the book is titled "Run to the Fire" in which he relates examples of how he took on a series of challenging international assignments with the incredible resilient support of his wife Sue. Sue is the mother of their six children (born in a number of countries) who he began dating while they were both in their first year of college (she graduated from DePauw). This part of the book has much condensed advice and guidance on navigating difficult situations. The second part of the book's theme is "Managing Up" about John's return to North America (15 years in Canada) and dealing with the upper echelons of his firm's management. John explained that managing up was a blind spot for him. This is a bit of a spoiler, but he moved on to other opportunities (including CEO roles) and things worked out. You may recall that things worked out if



you read the October 8, 2015 *Wabash Magazine* article [“Banking on Trust.”](#) This article told the story about the work that John, Dan and Fred did to turn around a company that John bought.

On our call John provided a lot of the background about the book writing process he followed. He explained that the process took about a year. He worked with an organization Manuscript LLC that helps authors publish books. He joined a writing cohort. His initial manuscript made the cut for further development and revision. The firm provided and continues to provide a range of services (at a cost for the different services) to get the book edited, copy edited, proofed and available in multiple formats on multiple platforms. At present, John is recording the audio book. The company sent him the recording equipment and software and will clean up the audio track once John has completed the recording. John hired a vocal coach for some lessons. Sue helped him construct a recording studio in their Canadian cabin.

We concluded the call with time for everyone on the call to give an update on current status and activities. The call lasted just a little over an hour but it was pretty clear we probably could have kept talking.

A few guys let us know that they would have liked to have joined the call but a conflict arose. Dave Dingley reported

Would love to join but we’re packing up to go to our new vacation house outside Leadville, Colorado. Only two years in the making but finally getting in.

Before the call, Mike Kraus made the following pitch to our class that we would like to pass along:

I am riding in the Pan Mass Challenge again this year. This is the world’s largest charity sporting event and all proceeds go to cancer research and cancer care at the Dana Farber Institute. I ride August 5th and 6th – from Sturbridge Mass to Province Town Mass – yes over 180 miles.

It is a great cause and a wonderful charity. Please consider donating to the cause, any amount helps. “

Here is the link to the webpage to make a donation that will help Mike achieve his goal of raising at least \$6,000 for this worthy charity that he supports. <https://give.pmc.org/MK0371>.

Finally, we would like to end with a big thank you to all of our classmates who contributed and made possible for President Feller ‘s recent special message:

While final numbers won’t be tallied for a few weeks, I can say with confidence that we blew past our audacious goals for the Giant Steps Campaign and our Annual Fund, and for the 10th straight year, more than 40% of our alumni made a gift to our College. This is on top of our record-breaking Day of Giving in April!

The following is the updated Honor Roll for the Class of 1981 for the 2022-2023 Wabash Fiscal year. Thank you gentleman!

Peter Wright & Mike Robak, Class Agents Wabash College Class of 1981

Honor Roll

John Ashworth
Dean Beckman
Jeff Been
Mark Benne
Mike Bettice
Joe Boomhower
Brian Bowerman
Chris Braun
Allan Clauser
Jim Cooper
Bill Cooper
Doug Coplen
Shawn Crane
Bryan Daniels
Dave Dingley
David Downey
Brad Dubbs
Tom Elliott
Eric Faires
Lou Fenoglio
Mike Fons
Gus Galante
Randy Grimes
Kevin Hall
Steve Hartenstein

Dan Heiser
John Helm
Cris Johnston
Scott Jones
Terry Jones
Chris Keele
Fred Kendall
Jim Kipp
Mike Kraus
Doug Kvachkoff
Mark Lazar
Mike Leagre
David Lewis
Jerry Lodder
Rolf Loescher
Arthur Lukowski
Bill Macon
Mark McGrady
Doug McKay
Don Miller
Kirk Miller
Carl Myers
Jon Myers
Bill Myers
Bill Nesbitt

Stephen Pavy
Tom Phillips
David Powell
Phil Purcell
Steven Riggs
Mike Robak
Jack Ruddy
Kurt Rupenthal
Pete Schiavone
Ned Segelken
Frank Smaron
John Stark
Rolland Strasser
Jeff Struewing
Steve Thomas
Stan Thompson
Ron Vogel
Jay Want
John Weaver
Tom Weber
Monty Woolsey
Pete Wright
Daniel Zajac
Randy Zromkoski