

Class of 1981

Class Agents

Peter Wright

Mike Robak

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office

301 W. Wabash Ave.

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

765-361-6360

alumni@wabash.edu

wabash.edu

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Our 45th Reunion is now in the books. Those classmates who were able to return for all or part of the weekend enjoyed countless opportunities to reconnect with one another and with fellow Wabash alumni. Please take a look at some of the photos from this year's Big Bash reunion featuring members of our class. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13588>.

One of the amusing realities of the weekend was that there was never a single event at which all of us were present. This became especially apparent during Saturday morning's Chapel Sing. Only four members of our class showed up to participate and two of us cannot sing.

As we waited for our turn, I spotted a few of my undergraduate fraternity brothers in the Chapel balcony. These undergraduates were spending the summer on campus as interns with the Wabash Center for Innovation, Business & Entrepreneurship and were helping the Alumni Relations Office during Big Bash weekend. As our class's turn approached, Peter texted one of them and asked whether he and a few others would be willing to serve as backup singers. Miraculously, four young men descended from the balcony and lined up behind us. Since they had been wearing the same Wabash gear throughout the



weekend, it looked as though the arrangement had been planned all along. We neither won nor placed in the competition, but that outcome had never been part of the plan.

First place in the Chapel Sing went to the Class of 1961, tied with the Class of 1991. Doug Burns of the Class of 1961 performed a solo rendition of *Old Wabash*, with the entire Chapel joining him for the chorus. It was a memorable and moving moment.

The Class of 1976, celebrating its 50th reunion, held a reception at the Indiana Governor's Mansion hosted by Governor Mike Braun, a fellow member of the Class of 1976, and the First Lady. By all accounts, it was a wonderful event. It made me wonder whether one of our own might someday occupy the Governor's office perhaps another Governor Braun, or maybe a Governor Lewis. The Class of 1976 also presented Wabash with a remarkable gift of \$6.3 million. Even more astonishing, the Class of 1966 presented a check for \$13.7 million.

One of the greatest joys of the weekend was catching up with classmates in conversations that went well beyond small talk. As one classmate observed, these were meaningful discussions—often longer and deeper than many of the conversations we had while spending four years together as students.

Dave Lewis shared details about an episode from the beginning of our sophomore year that I had never heard before. Many of you will remember the rally in Pioneer Chapel organized by my fraternity brother and then Student Senate President, Tim Brazill. We filed out of the Chapel into any available car departed in a caravan for DePauw, where we may have invited ourselves into a DePauw sorority house to express our interest in seeing the stolen Monon Bell returned. At least some of us did not know until we learned it at our 45th was that Dave was the one who negotiated the Bell's return the following day at noon on Monument Circle.

The connections made during Big Bash extend well beyond our own classmates. Wabash graduates often lead very different lives and pursue very different paths, yet they share deep and enduring bonds. Peter reconnected with fraternity brothers from the Classes of 1966, 1991, and 2016, as well as many alumni with whom I have had the pleasure of working over the years on behalf of the College. Mike saw many of his fraternity brothers over the weekend. As so often happens in the small world of Wabash alumni, they quickly discovered numerous overlapping experiences and connections, making that world seem even smaller.

The completion of our 45th Reunion marks the beginning of preparations for our 50th. Many of you may already be anticipating your 50th high school reunions next year, but our own milestone reunion is now on the horizon.

Our largest reunion attendance to date was our 25th Reunion. We had over 40 classmates at that very memorable event 20 years ago. We look forward to substantially surpassing that number at our 50th. Having a large contingent of classmate along with as many former Glee Club members we can muster would certainly improve our prospects in the Chapel Sing. We can also anticipate the special attention and treatment traditionally afforded the 50th reunion class.

Previous 50th reunion classes, including as noted this year's, have set ambitious benchmarks for fundraising. As we look ahead, we can begin thinking not only about our reunion gift but also about special events and opportunities to make the weekend uniquely our own.

The countdown to our 50th has begun. It will be the first weekend in June, 2031. This also happens to be the year before Wabash celebrates its 200th anniversary.



Annual Fund – Ends June 30th

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to Wabash over the course of the Wabash's fiscal year that ends on June 30th. Below is the honor roll of all donors to the current fiscal year. If you have not yet made your annual contribution, please take this to be a friendly reminder to do so before the end of the month. We still need about 300 more Wabash men to maintain our 40% alumni giving level for the 13th consecutive year. You can make your outright gift to Wabash online at wabash.edu/give, over the phone at (877) 743-4545, or through the mail to Wabash College / Annual Fund / 301 W. Wabash Ave / Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933. Please make your check payable to *Wabash College*.

Here's your current list of classmates on the Honor Roll:

John and Michelle Ashworth
Dean and Vickie Beckman
Mike and Lorie Bettice
Brian and Karri Bowerman
Chris and Trish Braun
Allan and Brenda Clauser
Bill and Denise Cooper
Jim and Deborah Cooper
Doug and Shari Coplen
Elbert Cotton
Bryan and Catherine Daniels
Dave and Kathryn Dingley
Dan and Melody Doster
Tom and Jane Elliott
Eric and Debbie Faires
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Randy and Monica Grimes
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Dan Heiser
John and Tammy Helm
John and Sue Hilbrich
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Christopher Keele and Kim Rivera
James R. Kipp, Jr. and Susan Paul
Mike and Molly Kraus FACP
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Mark and Monica Lazar
Mike and Sandra Leagre

David and Lynn Lewis
Rolf Loescher and Donnamarie
Darcy-Loescher
Bill and Barbi Macon
Mark and Misty McGrady
Doug and Cindy McKay
Don Miller
Kirk and Lori Miller
Carl and Cheryl Myers O.D.
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Thomas Phillips and Janet Bernardo-Phillips
Michael Robak and Hattie Leiss
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Rolland and Sally Strasser
Jeff and Paula Struewing
Steve and Susan Thomas
Stan and Janet Thompson
Ron and Julia Vogel
Jay Want and Martina Schulte
John and Ellen Weaver
Tom and Denice Weber
Peter Wright and Nicki Bauer
Daniel and Kathleen Zajac
Randy and Jo Ellen Zromkoski

Peter Wright & Mike Robak