

Class of 1981

Class Agents

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I had the privilege of being at the College for Freshman Saturday this year. 45 years ago we were all moving onto campus. My favorite part of being on campus on Freshman Saturday is to see incoming freshman meeting each other for the first time not knowing that they are meeting some guys who will be some of their best friends for the rest of their lives.

Little did we know 45 years ago what was ahead for us during our time at Wabash and the decades beyond. We went on to work on things, travel to places and have a range of experiences we could not have imagined in the stifling hot Chapel on a Saturday afternoon in August.

President Feller rang in a very large class of incoming students of the Class of 2026. This was the first time in two years the ceremony has taken place in the Chapel due to Covid protocols. So many parents, family members and friends now attend that the incoming students all sit upstairs. This year there was an overflow viewing room set up in Baxter. I heard the number was just shy of 270, with maybe a record number of international students (I think I heard 25). Students in the entering class come from 22 states and 11 countries. 73 of the students are first generation college students. As I was an incoming student from Southern California, I was aware there were not many students at Wabash who were from some place other than Indiana or an adjoining state.

For anyone who hasn't visited Wabash in the last ten years, you would be astonished by the Campus transformation, there have been many physical changes to the campus and the neighborhood surrounding the what was the campus when we attended Wabash. By changes I mean dramatic improvements in the athletic facilities and student housing.

This Fall is a perfect time to return to campus. There are five remaining home football games you can enjoy in the new football stadium. Alternatively, you might take in a soccer game being played relatively new soccer stadium Fischer Field. Homecoming is September 24th. The College just sent out to all of us by email an invitation to return to Wabash for Homecoming and offering a complimentary lunch for you and your guests and tickets to the football game. (Check the schedule and register at wabash.edu/homecoming.) All home games for most all sports are streamed on video by Wabash. Many away games are streamed as well.

It is more than the physical improvements that have sustained Wabash in a time of declining college and especially male college student enrollment. Wabash is doing so many things well by its students. The Wabash light shines brightly across the collegiate landscape as illustrated by the prominent ranking in *The Princeton Review's* listing of the best institutions nationally for undergraduate education in its annual college guide.

In May, *The Princeton Review* rated Wabash as No. 2 nationally in Best Alumni Network for private schools, No. 3 in Best Internship Opportunities, and No. 29 in Best Value Colleges for private schools in its publication, *The Best Value Colleges*.

Wabash has been featured in every edition of *The Princeton Review's* college guide since the service was established in 1992. So of course there was no such guide available to us in the late 1970s as we were selecting a college. The Princeton Review gave Wabash College strong marks for professor accessibility and classroom experience. Wabash appeared in more than one-third of the 50 lists and ranked in the top-10 in 11 of those, including: Best College Newspaper (#4), Best Career Services (#5), Professors Get High Marks (#5); Best Health Services (#5), Most Accessible Professors (#6), Lots of Greek Life (#6), Most Active Student Government (#7), Everyone Plays Intramural Sports (#7), Best Classroom Experience (#9) and Students Love Their School Teams (#9).

There are of course many factors that support such lofty rankings, including the College's excellent faculty, staff and administration. This is made possible by the loyal financial support over the decades by you and our fellow alumni. More than \$3.9 million was donated in the 2021-22 fiscal year to the College's Annual Fund, surpassing the record that was set last year by \$300,998. This includes donation from more than 5,200 donors. Wabash alumni again reached a 40% participation rate for the ninth consecutive year — a mark that is not only among the best in all of higher education, but positions the College to maintain its ranking for top alumni network.

The College also celebrated a successful **ninth Day of Giving** on April 19, when more than 3,050 donors gave \$1.41 million. In a 24-hour fundraising effort to support current students, the Wabash community broke records for the total amount raised and the average amount raised per student. The latter figure was \$1,744, which is \$75 more per student than last year's record.

The Giant Steps capital campaign has raised over \$230 million from over 11,000 donors. Giant Steps is focused on strengthening opportunities for Wabash students and faculty through philanthropic investment in endowed funds, the Annual Fund, and capital projects. Nearly 90 new endowed funds — an average of two new endowed funds each month — have established new endowed scholarships, academic department and program funds, and new faculty professorships and chairs.

I would like to thank all of you who contributed to another outstanding performance in terms of alumni participation for Wabash that ended June 30. Our class Honor Roll is below. This outstanding level of engagement is noted by various constituencies outside of the College. It is noticed by potential students, their parents, rating organizations and philanthropic organizations that do not necessarily have any ties to Wabash.

A few notes from Mike:

It occurred to me that, while the December class agent letter contained a picture of the Rogues' Gallery of those who attended the October 16th tailgate reunion, we didn't actually name names.

So for this picture:

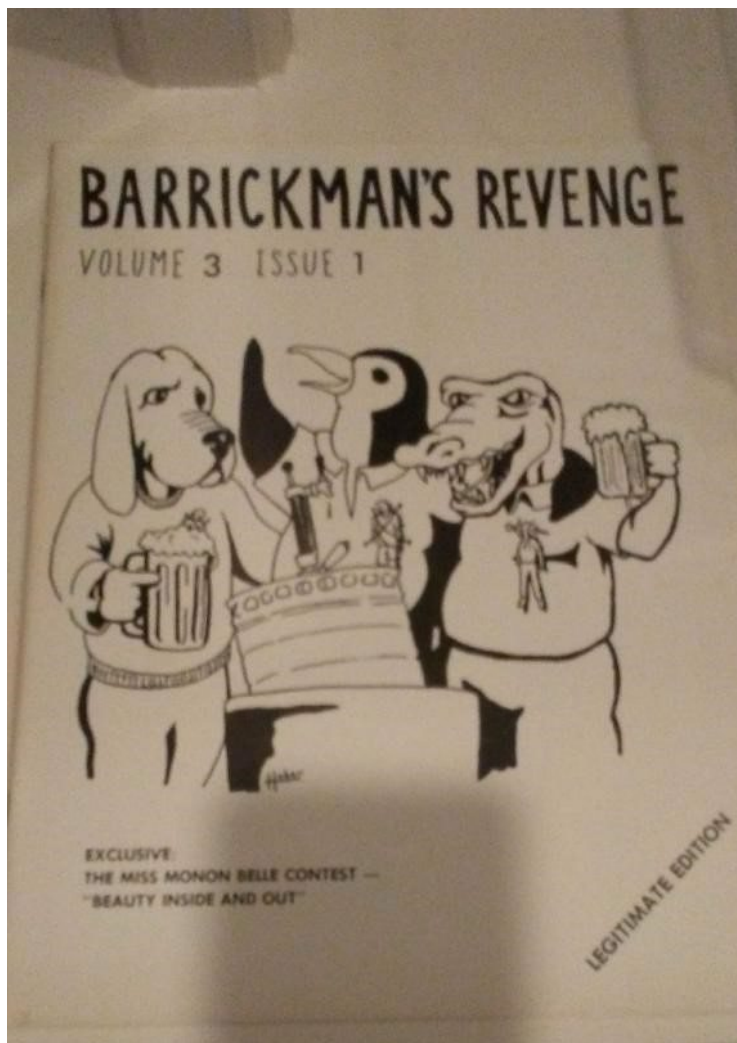


Rogues from left to right – back row - Mike Huber, David Dessauer (Class of 1980 and author of Harper Lee and Me), Kurt Rupenthal, Doug McKay, David Dingley, Ron Vogel, Ebe Cotton; front row – Mike Robak, Peter Wright

David Dingley is in Kansas City, Mo, where I spent five and half years. I lived in the neighborhood where David has his office. It is of particular note is that one of his office windows boasts his Leg Lamp from A Christmas Story movie.

Mike Huber is in Brooklyn, NY. He retired from active duty but is still working as a civilian attorney for the Army. He works at Ft. Hamilton which is located just under the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge and has quite a history. As the Fort's website notes: "Fort Hamilton has seen the Civil War and two World Wars. During the Civil War, the post protected the harbor against Confederate Raiders, and provided troops to control the Draft Riots, and in both World Wars the fort served a critical role as an embarkation and separation center."

And of course, I am indebted to Mike Huber for his Barrickman's Revenge artwork for the cover of the "Legitimate Edition".



Mike Roback and I hope to see you back on campus. Mike will be at the Class Agents meeting on the morning of September 9 and then the football game against #2 ranked Division III school, North Central. Let us know if you have the opportunity to return to campus. Peter will be attending Homecoming on September 24th. Let us know if you have the opportunity to return to campus.

We hope you have had a great Summer and are looking forward to the Fall.

WAF,

Peter Wright & Mike Robak
Class Agents – Class of 1981

Honor Roll For the Class of 1981 for 2021-2022

John Ashworth III
Dean Beckman
Jeff Been
Mark Benne
Mike Bettice
Brian Bowerman
Chris Braun **1832**
Allan Clauser, Jr.
Jim Cooper
Doug Coplen **1832**
Shawn Crane
Bryan Daniels **1832**
Dave Dingley **1832**
David Downey
Tom Elliott
Eric Faires
Lou Fenoglio **1832**
Gus Galante **1832**
Mel Gore
Randy Grimes **1832**
Jim Hart
Steve Hartenstein
Dan Heiser
John Helm
John Hilbrich
Mike Huber
Cris Johnston **1832**
Scott Jones
Terry Joned **1832**
Chris Keele **1832**
Fred Kendall
Steve Kindred **1832**
Carl Kipp III
Jim Kipp, Jr.
Mike Kraus, FAC **1832**

Doug Kvachkoff **1832**
Mark Lazar **1832**
Mike Leagre
David Lewis **1832**
Jerry Lodder
Rolf Loescher, M.D. **1832**
Mark McGrady **1832**
Doug McKay
Don Miller
Kirk Miller
Carl Myers, O.D.
Jon Myers
Bill Myers
Bill Nesbitt
Stephen Pavy **1832**
Bill Payne, Jr.
Tom Phillips
Phil Purcell
Steven Riggs
Mike Robak
Jack Ruddy III
Peter Schiavone
Ned Segelken **1832**
Rick Skertic
Rolland Strasser
Steve Thomas
Stan Thompon **1832**
Ron Vogel
Jay Want **MXICC**
Tom Weber
Monty Woolsey
Pete Wright **1832**
Daniel Zajac
Randy Zromkoski **1832**

1832 = 1832 Society Member

MXICC = MXI Chairmen's Circle Member