

Class of 1985

Class Agent
Mike Gilvary

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office
301 W. Wabash Ave.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
765-361-6360
alumni@wabash.edu
wabash.edu

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Dear Class of 1985:

First some notes directly related to our class:

- Here are some highlights from our 40-Year Reunion / **Big Bash** weekend:
 - Over 2 dozen class members attended the reunion. **Cory Olson**'s trip from Miami was the longest for our class, but **Dr. Melissa Butler** and **Nick Crnkovich** also came from Florida. **Malcolm Douglas**'s came from Jefferson, Ohio which is much closer than Florida, but when his schedule suddenly precluded making the anticipated drive to C'ville, he rose to the challenge by negotiating a ride on one of his client's private jets.
 - **Scott Himsel** recycled a test question from his Constitutional Law class to generate a lively discussion of the freedom of religion clauses of the 1st Amendment. He even convinced a couple of his students from that class to waive their right to remain silent and to join the discussion.
 - Our class placed second in the annual Chapel Sing contest. A partial video clip of our performance is posted on the Class Facebook page. The whipper-snappers from the class of 1995 came in first, but with a few more voices, I'm sure we can wrestle the crown from them at Big Bash 2030. Mark your calendars now for June 2030!
 - After our delicious class dinner on Saturday, we each gave our classmates some general updates. About half of those present have already retired. I think that **Dr. Glen Leer** alarmed all the risk-adverse attorneys in the room when he mentioned having met his wife, who is a nurse, when he was performing all the employee physicals at the hospital where they were working! Then he reassured everyone that the physical was not *that* thorough. It just established that she was generally healthy and that she lived a life-style compatible with his. (No lawsuits were necessary.)
 - Ever the Pol-Sci professor and world-traveler, **Dr. Butler** said that she is planning a trip to Greenland "before we invade!" I'm looking forward to the travel report!

- Here are a couple of pictures from the reunion:



Scott Himself in professor mode



Mike & Lisa Gilvary with **Melissa & Tim Grusenmeyer**. Lisa and Melissa are working, but Mike and Tim are retired. As Tim said, "We are living the good life!"

- More pictures are available at:
https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13468?photo_album_id=6042

- **John Rhodes** passed away last month. You can find his obituary at:
<https://dalyfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/2203/John-Rhodes-Jr/obituary.html>

So what about **YOU**? Please feel free to share news of your life with me so I can spread the word.

News from Wabash College:

- In an additional bit of sad news, former Biology Professor and an alumnus from the class of 1961, **Dr. Austin Brooks** also passed away last month. You can find his obituary at:
<https://www.journalreview.com/stories/austin-edward-brooks-jr,341169?>
- In much happier news, the Class of 2025 had their Commencement on May 17. The Class of 2025 had the distinction of being recruited largely remotely because the COVID pandemic prevented many of the typical college tour activities. Both **Luis Rivera III** and **Logan Weilbaker** represented their class well with excellent speeches. You can find a recording of the ceremony on the Wabash Video Network: <https://www.wabash.edu/live/>
- President Feller gave the Big Bash attendees an update on the status of the College. Wabash has rebounded from the challenges brought on by COVID. The incoming freshmen class will be the largest in 2 or 3 decades. Last Fall saw the biggest freshman-sophomore retention rate. The current 4-year graduation rate is 78%. The projects to replace the Sparks Center and to make campus-wide improvements to the utility infrastructure will be complete in 2 years. In summary, Pres. Feller said, *“Five years ago, long-term planning meant ‘what are we going to do in 2 weeks?’ Now, we are planning for the college’s bicentennial in 2032!”*

More Wabash news is available at <https://www.wabash.edu/> or the Class of 1985 Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/206066189687/>

Mike Gilvary

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414-486-9011 (home)

milgils@sbcglobal.net

p.s. The annual **Day of Giving** fundraiser was a **huge** success. Here is a big “Thank You!” to all who contributed. One of major accomplishments for the day was the fact that Wabash *outperformed* the University of Wisconsin’s (that other school that loves the letter “W” and the color red) annual “Day of the Badger” fundraiser in terms of the number of gifts and the total dollars raised. However, we should give the folks in Madison a break because they can only claim about 450,000 living alumni.

p.p.s. As Wabash closes the fiscal year on June 30, we are on the verge of reaching our goal of 40% alumni participation in our annual fiscal year fundraising campaign. If we meet that goal, this would be 12 years in a row. Only 3 other colleges in the country have that level of consistent alumni support. The level of alumni support has a multiplier effect because it is one of the factors that some foundations consider when deciding which colleges to support. So if you have not donated to Wabash since last June, please consider doing so before June 30. You can make an online gift at:
<https://www.wabash.edu/ecommerce/> or mail a check to: Annual Fund, Wabash College, 301 W. Wabash Avenue, Crawfordsville IN 47933.