



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1991

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Kip Aitken

Mike Langford

Erik Dafforn

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office

301 W. Wabash Ave.

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

765-361-6360

alumni@wabash.edu

wabash.edu

March 5, 2024

Dear Classmates,

It's been a while since I checked in. I hope 2023 was a good year for all of you, and let's hope 2024 is even better.

In December, Wabash received a \$25 million five-year grant from the Lilly Endowment, the largest-ever foundation gift to the College. Most of the grant, \$20 million, will help fund a new community center on campus ([Story](#)), which prompted a Board of Trustees vote at their January meeting to raze the Sparks Center. Destruction will begin in June right after Big Bash, and this is expected to be a two-year project and cost more than \$80 million incorporating other campus infrastructure projects. Naming opportunities are available, so maybe we can fund the new Class of 1991 Bar in Wally's like we did for our senior class project in the old LGR. Sparks was dedicated in 1954, and the new center will be a needed improvement that will help Wabash compete for excellent students in a challenging recruiting environment.

Keep an eye out for the Annual Day of Giving on April 24 (4/24/24 has a good look to it), so let's make it the best one yet! Plan ahead and let the College know if you are interested in sponsoring or participating in a challenge that day. This has become the cornerstone for the College's annual fundraising efforts, and our performance dwarfs just about any other college's day of giving. Both the dollars and the percentage of participation is important. These are factors that corporations and foundations consider when deciding to donate to Wabash (like the huge gift just given from the Lilly Endowment). For the numerically inclined, Wabash collected \$1,679,438 on last year's Day of Giving; 3,573 unique donors gave 6,939 gifts. Last year, Wabash raised \$2,107 for every student. (DePauw raised \$259 per Dannie last fall.) Support from the Class of 1991, The Largest Class to Matriculate and Graduate from Wabash College, on this date has been impressive. Last year, we were the 3rd highest number of gifts, trailing only the classes of 1979 and 1966. (If you 'd like to join the Class of '91 Challenge, contact Hugh.) Let's keep the momentum moving forward.

A couple of weeks ago, Julie and I noticed the Wabash Tennis Team was competing against Augustana right here in Sterling, IL. Wabash competing in any sport in our little, non-college town never happens! We invited the team to our house for a dinner the evening before the match and treated the team to lunch afterward. It was a great experience, and I encourage any of you to reach out to the coaches if an athletic team happens to be passing through or near your town. It was a treat to get to know the team. As an alumnus who has very infrequent (if any) contact with current Little Giants, I'm happy to report that Wabash Gentlemen are still Wabash Gentlemen. Based on what I've seen from local students of similar age, I was curious to see what a typical Wabash student was in this generation as compared to ours, and I was impressed. I suppose I shouldn't be surprised.



The Little Giant Basketball team won both the NCAC conference regular season and tournament championships and qualified for the NCAA Division III National Tournament. Unfortunately, they fell to #25 ranked Coe College in the first round, 79-74 in OT on March 1. ([Story](#))

I'll close with this. Fewer men are choosing to attend a four-year college or university coming out of high school: 26% fewer. To illustrate, Wabash has approximately the same number of students admitted each year. 10 years ago, that amounted to a 12% market share of Indiana males attending a college or university. Now, that same number of students represents 15.5% of the market share. As you can see, the pool is much smaller and only continuing to shrink. So, if you know of anyone who would make a good Wabash man, please [refer them to the Admissions office](#). Alumni input is a strategy Wabash can leverage more than many others in the recruiting process. Please help our Admissions team continue their hard work to make sure we always have a full campus. Their efforts with sports teams, overnight visits, large recruiting events, among other tools are really impressive, and anything we can do as alumni only helps the cause.



I hope to see many of your names on the Day of Giving Honor Roll and I'll send a letter shortly afterward to let you know how it all shook out. Take care.

Wabash Always Fights!

- Kip