

**Class of 1961**

**Class Agent**  
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Dear Many Miler:

We hope this finds you well and maintaining your lifestyle as well as can be expected. Who knows when this will be behind us? Maybe not in our lifetime?

During a visit to Wabash in February for a basketball game. !

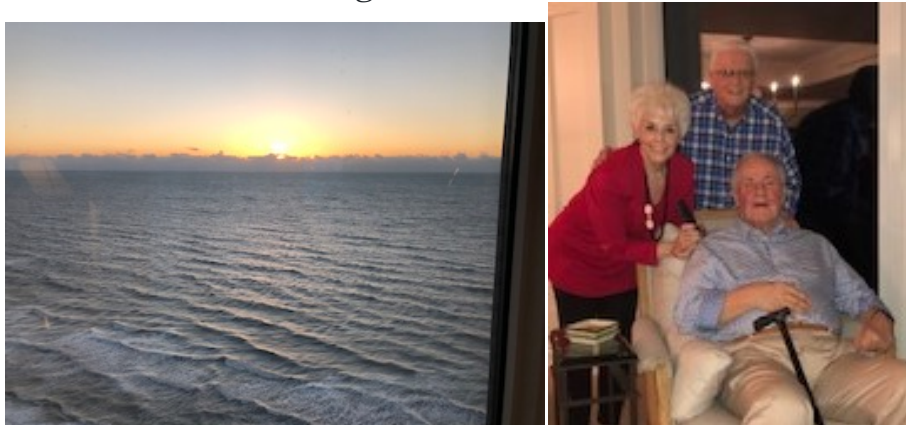


Basketball was going fairly well. Jack Davidson got 1<sup>st</sup> Team NCAC as well as All American honors. The indoor track team won the NCAC. But as you know nothing really got completed. I feel very badly about seniors (both high school and college) who were just brought to a complete halt! Remembering how special those times were when we were younger.

Here is the view of the football stadium during winter....



Barbara & I spent some time in Naples and were very pleased to be invited to dinner at Joe & Charlene Barnette's condo about a mile down Gulf Shore Boulevard. What a magnificent view and home!



They both keep active in civic affairs in Naples, and Joe has a German lady who comes 3 times each week to give him a vigorous workout... he's pretty exhausted afterward. They both seem very happy and healthy (as of end of January!)



JoAnn Birdzell and Susie Cumming (sisters-in-law) enjoying the warm weather in Phoenix in early February!

President Greg Hess gave an excellent Chapel speech in April (you can watch it online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uG-iBhQQXgI&feature=youtu.be>). Hess is leaving Wabash after 7 years to become the Chief Executive Officer of IES Abroad, which provides premier study abroad and internship programs around the world. When he came to Wabash, he stated his goal was to raise Wabash College to national prominence and he sure has done that.

Breaking news! At their recent May 16 meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously elected Dr. Scott Feller at the 17<sup>th</sup> President of Wabash College. Feller has been on the Wabash faculty since 1998 and has served as the Dean of the College since 2014.

(Story: [https://wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\\_ID=11593](https://wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11593))

Wabash is the only College to have made these “best-of” lists:

- Best access to professors.
- Best classroom experience
- Best professors
- Best financial aid
- Best college newspaper
- Best health services
- Best-run college
- Best internship program
- Best career placement
- Best alumni network
- Highest alumni salaries
- Happiest and successful alumni



Only Wabash has made ALL of these lists! Actually is on 20 Best-of lists. President Hess that Wabash's greatest gift to students is each other. Wabash men approach their time at Wabash with grace, joy and a sense of purpose. The Wabash education is student centered. "We are little by ourselves. Together we are Giants!"

The Bowerman spread! Charlie mowing the back forty, and Charlie's Angels!



Thank you for the Mother's Day card. We had a nice quiet lunch (from the Club) and a nap. Then we visited with our girls (by phone) and a quiet evening. We did get to be with family on Friday to see our granddaughter graduate from med school, she is a Dr of PT. First time we have been out of town since our trip to KC for the Big 12 and it was canceled after the first 2 games. We stayed over a couple days and shopped and ate at some of our favorite restaurants. Hope you had a great Mother's Day at your house.

Corky

The current Phi Delt House with new white paint! Alums of the house did not approve of the red brick, so the chapter used money from an insurance settlement to finally paint it white.



Wabash has partnered with Purdue to provide an ROTC Army program. The focus is on recruiting, training and commissioning leaders. There will be trips to the Purdue campus involved....

Well, the Sheepskin diplomas are GONE! It happened rather abruptly, and the Class of 2020 is upset. As more and more colleges like Notre Dame move away from sheepskin diplomas, the price has become really expensive to continue. We were unaware, but recent years have created last minute fire drills to have enough material in time for commencement. Perhaps enterprising Wabash alum will start sheep herding in this country!

Jim Nichols reports that following knee surgery he developed a very bad infection. This caused a loss of balance. So he is slowly gaining enough strength to think about hiking again. He is a mainstay of the Sierra Club, though he doesn't agree with their politics, he knows the territory so well.

Joe Kiley reports that he is starting radiation for lung cancer. The nurse asked Joe who to notify if there is a problem and he replied that his wife, Ann would be the person. The nurse asked if anyone else and Joe replied: "Flanner & Buchanan!" Typical Kiley humor!!! But he played golf 4 times last week. Joe is 85 now. He started at Notre Dame, flunked out, enlisted in the Navy, and then got out a little early to start his Wabash education. By this time, he was eager to learn and make something of himself..... which he has done! Very successful insurance career. He also earned a Masters in Business at Ball State.

#### **Earl Talbot**

I know the feeling John. There's always some foible to overcome.  
Hope all is well with you and Barb in Noblesville during this shut down.  
We're in Alabama overlooking Mobile Bay on a balmy day. Our son, Earl Jr, got stuck here with us. We arrived March 2nd (he drives us) and did some drumming work with a local musician and was planning to go on to Los Angeles on the 10th for some gigs there with some other musicians. Of course that all was postponed and then cancelled. So, now Lydia and I know how the "1%" live since we have a chauffeur/celebrity chef/quartermaster/butler taking care of us. This is lot easier than being in Chicago having to do everything ourselves.

#### **Mike Hughes**

Thanks JB and Barbara. I missed this first time through.  
We're doing ok. Hope you are too.  
Looking forward to the 2021 Big Bash!!

Thanks for mentioning Big Bash, Mike. It has been cancelled completely this year. All the "0" and "5" classes will reunion next June.... Along with us! Mark your calendar to join our 60<sup>th</sup> Many Miler reunion June 4-5-6, 2021.

## Rusty Cleland

We are all well and have had a very good year in 2019, including wonderful travel and a big life change for Rusty. It started on New Year's Eve as we flew to Cambodia to spend a week at Angkor Wat and Phnom Penh. Rusty had visited Cambodia in 1964 while he was a graduate student at Stanford University, but this was Tina's first visit. The temples at Angkor Wat are truly one of the great wonders of the world. Probably the most amazing temples are ones where trees have started growing within the temple complex and now enormous roots are an integral part of the temple structure. We took a one-day drive to Phnom Penh which is a great way to see everyday life in Cambodia. Phnom Penh is a beautiful city with notable temples and the royal palace, but it is best known these days for the genocide museum and the killing fields location where over 20,000 prisoners were executed by the Khmer Rouge.

From Cambodia we flew to Bangkok to join David. He had visited Thailand in January of 2018 and loved it so much that he decided to return in 2019 and asked us to join him. We could quickly understand why he loved Thai food and culture so much. We spent six days seeing the sights by day and eating at David's favorite restaurants by night. The food was truly amazing and ranged from some delicious street food to over-the-top fancy restaurants.

The real highlight of our visit came on the last day. Our travel agent had given us a surprise, which was a cooking class at a Thai restaurant near Bangkok. We were picked up and driven to a fabulous market where every conceivable type of vegetable, fruit and fish were being sold, and then enjoyed a boat ride to the restaurant. Once there, David and Rusty were put to work preparing our lunch and thanks to David's efforts we ate well. When the owner learned of David's interest in Thai food and his desire to work in a Thai restaurant, she invited him to return at the end of his stay in Thailand and spend several days working with her. That experience went so well that she offered him a job as her head chef, and since July he has been living and working in Thailand. It is a dream come true for David and to have it materialize as it did, swell .... we think it was a gift from heaven. He loves his new life and work and hopes to be there for another year or two.

In October after 44 years working for the government, Rusty finally made the transition to retirement. You may have heard that USDA moved two agencies (ERS and NIFA) to Kansas City. As much as Rusty enjoyed his work with the SBIR program, he was not going to move to Kansas City. Only about a 20% of the staff made the move so the programs run by these two agencies are facing a real challenge. However, Rusty is thriving and very busy. He is looking forward to starting a Master Gardner program in January.



Wabash College received the sad news that classmate Donn Matthews '61 passed away on March 7. His obituary follows:

Donn C. Mathews, 80 years old of Twin Lakes, WI; formerly Trevor and Silver Lake, WI passed away Saturday, March 7, 2020 in Brookfield, WI. He was born July 27, 1939 in East Chicago, IN the son of the late Harry Eugene, D.D.S. and Helen Delores (née Kutansky) Matthews. Donn attended Washington High School in East Chicago, IN and later attended Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN. He then served his country proudly in the United States Navy from 1961 until 1966 during the Vietnam War. On March 27, 1965, Donn married Susan Kay Eckert at Wilmot United Methodist Church in Wilmot, WI. He spent his career in IT services working as a professional for many companies. Donn served on the Trevor Fire Department for 52 years; many of those years being in the capacity of Treasurer.

He is survived by his daughter, Malena (Thomas) Koplin; his sisters-in-law, Glenna Kisner and Kathy Eckert; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Susan Kay; his sister, Mary Kay Matthews-Brennan; and his niece, Roberta Kay Schillo-Gonzales.

Memorial Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service with Military Honors commencing at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 28, 2020 at Strang Funeral Home, 1055 Main St., Antioch, IL 60002. Interment will be private. For additional information, call 847-395-4000. In lieu of flowers, donations are appreciated to Trevor Volunteer Fire Department Association, 12252 254th Court, Trevor, WI 53179.



Barbara & I broke protocol and snuck over to C'ville to enjoy cocktails with the Hildebrands, honoring proper distancing with no hugging! It was such a joy to visit with friends we've known forever!

It was strange to drive by the College with zero activity. Even locals are complaining that they cannot walk thru the campus! Sam & Susie (before the shutdown) were busy in the community with daily walking, weekly yoga to loosen up and cocktail hour to share stories of the day. Sam did get to the slopes of Colorado to ski with Amy, Seth and Molly. Pretty good for an 80+ year old relative non-athlete!



We did get a couple of shots of football stadium status:



I hope you participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Giving this year. If not, please stand up with Wabash with your gift before June 30! The College, as are many others, is facing extreme financial uncertainty. Stepping up now is critical! [Wabash.edu/giving](http://Wabash.edu/giving)

We feel very fortunate to get thru this difficult time. We have warmth, food, booze and TP! What more can we ask? Cheers and Blessings to you!

Many Miles Before the Night,

*JB*