



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1961

Class Agents
JB Bachman

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Dear Many Miler:

Greetings and sending best wishes to you! We hope you have survived the Pandemic without serious setback. Doug & Pat Burns have had three cruises cancelled so far this year, but they hope to get going in September!

Campus will be open for visitors on June 5th, but Big Bash (our 60th Reunion) will be in the Fall. College buildings will be open for walk-thru. See more details on the College website. www.wabash.edu/bigbash

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MANY MILER 60TH REUNION

October 16, 2021

Special Chapel Celebration and Dedication of last dorm on west campus

Tailgating

Home Football vs. Wooster @ NEW Frank Navarro Field
in Little Giant Stadium (with a plethora of places to use the restroom!)

Dinner @ Crawfordsville Country Club with Class of 1966

More details to follow. You can check on rooms at Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Best Western Plus. This is the Covered Bridge Festival weekend, so rooms will become scarce. We have nothing planned for Friday or Sunday at this point. So many events are tentative that we will wait to nail down final details, but we hope you can join us for a Big Celebration.



The class of 1966 has gained naming rights for the last dorm, so they will have a very big crowd. Cal Black has arranged for us to tag along with them, and Sam Hildebrand has made the Country Club arrangements. (Cash or credit card at the club if you go!)

Wabash College has just completed a fantastic year! Thanks to the students' cooperation, the hard work and planning from President Scott Feller's office, and all the Faculty and Staff, there were no Covid outbreaks, no staff were cut, no benefits were reduced, and 88% of teaching time was directly in person! Some classrooms were imagined places like in tents, the baseball diamond and others, but in person teaching has always been a hallmark of Wabash College, and this year was no exception. Many students were double vaccinated two weeks before going home after finals. https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11705



Commencement was held at Little Giant Stadium for both classes of 2020, for which Greg Hess returned to present diplomas, and for 2021. President Hess was also awarded an Honorary Degree from Wabash. Nearly 300 graduates gathered on the steps of the Allen Center (outside the Bowerman Lobby) to sing "Old Wabash" together after marching under the senior Arch next to Goodrich Hall. (Students are not to walk under the arch until they graduate. I guess we were not supposed to walk on the College Seal in Lilly Library?)

https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11721

Class Commentary:

Bob McElrov, MD

It was time for us to leave Empire as it became physically too much for us to keep up with three acres, the yard, main house and lodge. We hated giving up the view, the daily visit to Empire Beach, Jane's 1000 sq ft studio that I designed and a first rate kitchen. Empire is empty of residents most of March and our interest in long wintertime travel is diminished. We got the property ready for sale and sold it quickly for 10% more than asking and in cash. Empire remains a hot real estate market. We bought a condo in the Lone Pines subdivision off North Lake Road just outside Traverse City from a friend and moved in July 2019. Everything is closer which has been fortunate with the pandemic.

Jim McMichael

Jim is facing heart surgery so they have been staying close to home!

Walt Lippard

WK finally retired, after delivering 10,000 babies! Got hearing aids and cataract surgery keeping him busy! He sounds very enthusiastic about living life out....

Norm Beesley

Norm and Jo have stayed hunkered down. Jo did have a reaction to Covid vaccine.....

Norm reports that he talked with Hal Sommer and he is doing well!

Joe Kilev

Reports that he is cancer FREE! Back playing golf 3 days per week!!! He and Ann have been doing well considering!

Jan Wood

Jan reports that she is doing well and keeping busy...

Nancy Moore

Nancy reports that Jay is struggling with dementia and she is working very hard to keep him active and engaging...

Sam Hildebrand

Sam (with first time hearing aids) and Susie are doing great and fully shot in February! He is serving on the Animal Welfare League Board of Directors and preparing to launch a Capital Campaign to renovate and enlarge the present 7200 sf

Shelter building. The recently welcomed two New Grand dogs! (I watch Sam & Susie every Sunday morning on St. John's Episcopal Church live stream!)

Austin Brooks

Aus and Lucy have stayed close to home, visiting Indiana's State Parks where they find secluded spots to picnic. They both got thru the vaccine shots ok!

Bob Panzer

Bob spent time in the hospital with breathing issues (no cigars!). Beth fell and had a spinal fracture. Spent two weeks in the hospital which left Bob hanging a bit.

Earl Talbot

Earl was facing hip surgery. He and Lydia were staying home a lot. They watch their church attendance drop from 40 down to 15 on Zoom... Sad.

Charlie Bowerman

Corky and Charlie were elated that they would be moving out of their daughter's "pool" house and into their own new home nearby. They now live in Owasso OK about 45 miles north of Tulsa. They are fine and now have FOUR Great Grandchildren. (When you are blessed with three beautiful daughters, you can expect a bunch of grand and great-grandchildren!!!)

Mike Hughes

Mike is struggling with Vertigo issues (as am I!) and some energy issues. Rosie developed Parkinson's over a year ago in March, while hiking, she suffered a stroke. They got immediate attention and she has therapy three days a week. When I called, she answered and acknowledged who I was, then gave the phone to Mike. She is getting better every day.

John Birdzell

Birdy and JoAnn have been a great source of support to Barbara and me thru our health issues. They are shuffling between Crown Point, Scottsdale, and Petoskey as they are able. John & sister Susie are working on a Scholarship at Wabash

Joe Barnette

We met Joe and Charlene for dinner in Naples in March. It was their first 'outing' for nearly a year. They both look great and we had a wonderful time. Lately, Naples has been shrouded in 90 degree temps, so the Barnette's are enjoying their condo and not venturing out much. They plan to return to Indiana in June.

Pete Pippin

Pete and Janie were welcoming a new family of Bluebirds off their deck overlooking the pond. They are doing well and enjoying visits from their grandchildren! Pete plays Pickelball three days per week and loves it.

Bachmans

We got to spend 6 weeks in Naples at our daughter's condo. Then on April First, they had the audacity to want to use their own condo, so we had to leave! Bill Thompson '62 told us at lunch in Bonita Springs not to go home that weekend... "Half of Florida goes north that weekend!" Well, it was a disaster. From Montgomery AL to Indianapolis it was bumper to bumper traffic! Terrible. But thanks to Kim's other relatives not wanting to travel due to Covid, we got our shots and took off! Great time. Fabulous weather. Good seafood. Relaxing time. I developed Vertigo one day. Barbara had to hold on to me whenever I went to the bathroom (which is frequently!) We finally went to the hospital and they did a C-scan to be sure I had not had a stroke. The medication really helped. But Barbara started getting fever and lost her energy. Just recently, St. Vincent Carmel found out she is passing a kidney stone (without pain!!!) So, we will be getting that out and hopefully both of us will be getting back to normal. The way the grass is growing, I'm getting lots of exercise pushing the mower around every 3-4 days!!!

Please stay in touch! We wish to see everyone who can return to campus this fall. You can be proud of Wabash College as it continues to be a top ranked Liberal Arts College, graduating outstanding young men. Don't forget to add your contribution before June 30. www.wabash.edu/give. The College has had horrendous expenses during this pandemic year and they need your help!

Many Miles Before the Night.....

J B

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