

Class of 1964

Class Agent
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Dear Classmates,

The end of the calendar year has always been a time of reflection and celebration to me. We reflect on happy and sad events, goals met and missed, and of loved ones lost. 2019 has been filled with all of these.

We celebrated our 55th Class reunion May 30th – June 1st. The turnout was less than our 50th, but that was to be expected. To illustrate my point, rather than a class photo we were combined with other classes in a photo entitled “Golden Little Giants”. Dern whippersnappers!

Director of Alumni and Student Relations Steve Hoffman delivered some pertinent information about our giving and other stats you may find interesting and helpful.

To wit:

- 5155 total donors giving to Wabash
- 43.5% of alumni gave (about the consistent giving of our class)
- Ranked in the top 15 of all U.S. liberal arts colleges
- On “Step up for Wabash Day”, (4/10/19) \$1,165,444.00 were raised in 24 hours
- In one year \$165 million were contributed towards a Giant Step Campaign goal of \$225 million.

Those figures are not only impressive, but they are heartwarming in that they represent the continuation of the Wabash College spirit, support, and hope for the future of the College as it approaches its 200th year of Liberal Arts education for men.

I pause here to both celebrate and reflect on the lives of two classmates, one esteemed professor and one passed administrator who have left us this year.

➤ **John Mikesell passed away September 12th.**

John L. Mikesell died on September 12 at age 76. He was born in Bloomington and lived most of his life on family land in rural Monroe County, and spent his early childhood in a house without electricity or running water. In elementary school, he milked cows every morning before heading down the road to a 2-room schoolhouse, Phillips School. From these beginnings, he went on to develop as a teacher and scholar: he graduated valedictorian from Bloomington High

School, received his BA from Wabash College, and an MA and PhD from the University of Illinois. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After his first job working for West Virginia University, he joined the faculty of Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs, ultimately returning to live with his wife and three children on the family land he'd grown up on and which he called home for the rest of his life. Over the course of his career, he became an expert in international sales tax, fiscal reform matters including macroeconomic policy and budget policy, intergovernmental fiscal relations, institution building, and building local fiscal capacity. He is internationally recognized as a world expert in general sales taxation, described by colleagues as a "walking encyclopedia of tax policy." Although he remained on the faculty of SPEA for his entire career, his expertise led him across the world: he traveled to the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan on World Bank public budget system reform missions; lived in Ukraine and Russia for a year (each) working on USAID intergovernmental fiscal reform projects; and visited China on numerous occasions as Senior Research Fellow with the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy to help China develop a property tax. He also led a five-year joint partnership between SPEA and public administration schools in Saratov and St. Petersburg, Russia. Closer to home, he served on the Indiana State Budget Agency's Revenue Forecast Technical Committee for over 30 years, receiving the Sagamore of the Wabash award for distinguished service to the state in 2016. His curriculum vitae is blinding with achievements. He was editor-in-chief of Public Budgeting & Finance for fifteen years, and received the Wildavsky Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement from the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management and the Steven D. Gold Award for Outstanding Contributions to State and Local Fiscal Policy from the National Tax Association. He published over 240 articles and book chapters and six books, including Fiscal Administration: Analysis and Applications for the Public Sector, the standard public finance and budgeting textbook in graduate public affairs programs across the country (now in its tenth edition). John was named a Chancellor's Professor of Public and Environmental Affairs Emeritus in 2008. He was a consummate researcher, a "scholar's scholar," who had a knack for exploring a topic in a way that cut directly to the questions policy makers were asking. As a writer, John was famous for his footnotes, which incorporated interesting anecdotes, historical details, and amusing jabs at legislators. John also loved teaching, and while some students may have found his gruff demeanor intimidating at first, many credit his mentorship with changing their lives. John was deeply pragmatic, and could be taciturn in the extreme. He didn't suffer fools, schmooze, or deviate from his principles. He could be counted on to say only what he meant. His family can't think of a single time when he lied. While living in Kiev, Ukraine, John developed a love of ballet that would continue throughout his life. This intrigued and surprised his family, who were more accustomed to his practice of carrying the ugly canvas briefcase his kids had bought him for Christmas when they were young and continuing to use the same windshield ice scraper (also a child's gift) from the mid-1970s onward. He felt most at home in the woods where his family lived, and could identify any tree by its bark alone. In the summer, he looked forward to collecting chanterelle mushrooms and in the winter, he looked forward to making maple syrup. He loved and respected animals, and they loved him back. Stray dogs often found their way to the Mikesell house and were never turned away. Cats favored his lap and routinely stranded him in chairs, for he was a man who understood the compliment, and gift, that is a cat who has chosen to sleep on you. He died from a type of leukemia with a short and brutal prognosis that he outlasted with characteristic stubbornness. He is preceded in death by his parents, R.M. Mikesell and Minnie Shigley Mikesell, and many beloved dogs and cats. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Karen Mikesell, his children, A. Elizabeth Mikesell, Thomas M. Mikesell, and Daniel G. Mikesell; daughter-in-law Kimberly H. Mikesell; grandson Theodore Mikesell; the cats

Sammy and Kimchi; and Maggie, the dog who is grateful for all the toast he used to sneak to her under the table. He enriched all of their lives immeasurably, and they already miss him terribly. Donations in his name can be given to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center (<https://www.exoticfeline Rescue Center.org/gift.html>) or the charity of your choice. The family will hold a remembrance ceremony on December. Online condolences, photos, & memories may be shared with family and friends at allencares.com

- Dr. Thomas Boyd passed away August 20th.
BOYD Dr. Thomas Andrew, was born in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky November 24, 1942 and died in Berea, Kentucky August 20, 2019. Tom retired from Berea College after teaching 29 years and serving as Chair of the Department of Sociology since 1987. While at Berea College, he was awarded the Seabury Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Elizabeth Perry Miles Service Award. Before beginning to teach in the United States, he served with the Peace Corps in Columbia, South America. Dr. Boyd studied at Wabash College; The Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands; and earned his Doctorate at Cambridge University where he was elected Phi Kappa Phi Professor of the year and Associate Member, Darwin College. He was published extensively. Tom began teaching at West Virginia Wesleyan College then taught at Wolfson College; The Hague, Netherlands; and University of Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa. He was also a visiting Professor of Sociology at Zhongshan University in the People's Republic of China; a Participant with Habitat for Humanity International in Peru; a consultant, Rural Development Planner/Trainer with United Nations Food and Agriculture mission to Zambia; a research assistant with the Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands and a workshop leader for Economic Development in Puerto Rico. Dr. Boyd also served at home for many years as a Director of Kentucky River Foothills Community Action Agency; a volunteer firefighter with the City of Berea; a supporter of Habitat for Humanity; co-founder and board member of the Kentucky Returned Peace Corps Volunteers; and a board member of the White House Clinic. After retirement from Berea College, Tom indulged his passion for word working and created many inspired word sculptures. Tom led a life of travel, service and humility that was particularly enriched by the time he spent in the Peace Corps and teaching at Berea college. Both organizations defined the course of his life and helped him to serve the people that he met with pride, passion and love. Before his passing he remarked that he had lived a great life and had accomplished more than he had ever imagined. He approached his final days with the following thought from Whitman's Leaves of Grass: "Free and light hearted I take to the Open Road."
- Dr. Vern Easterling passed away November 5th. Professor of Physics, 1962-2001.
Vernon J. Easterling passed away Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, at Lane House in Crawfordsville. He was born March 22, 1934, at Blairs Mills, Kentucky, to Edith (Cox) and Jesse Kermit Easterling. The family later moved to Michigan, and Vern attended Wyandotte High School, where he met Barbara Haynes. They married in 1956, the same year he received his B.A. degree from Eastern Michigan University. He later earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Wayne State University, where he was also a research fellow. In 1962, Vern accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Physics at Wabash College. Promoted to Associate Professor in 1969, he earned the rank of Full Professor in 1983 and remained on the Wabash College faculty until his retirement in 2001. He taught many subjects, including astronomy, which became both an academic specialty and an abiding personal passion. In retirement, he continued to assist with a music course, teaching about acoustics and helping students construct musical instruments. Vern was an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church, where he served in numerous roles, including senior

warden, junior warden, lay eucharistic minister and pledge secretary. He was closely connected to the Episcopal church camp, Waycross, for which he served on the board and as camp director one summer. He also was co-sponsor of the Wabash 'shOUT Club and a member of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and Kiwanis. An avid outdoorsman, Vern loved tennis, biking, camping and hiking in state and national parks all around the country, and competing as a member of numerous faculty intramural teams, most especially softball. He passed on his love and appreciation for science, nature and athletics - particularly tennis - to both his children and his grandchildren. Vern was also a handyman, seemingly always busy with home improvement projects of one sort or another, and often enlisting his grandchildren as assistants. Vern is survived by his wife, Barb; children, Doug and wife Lucinda Brogden; Mark and wife Marilyn; Ken and husband Diego Cardenas; and Susan Albrecht and husband Brian. He is also survived by grandchildren, Jason Easterling and wife Stacy; grandchildren, Kristen Albrecht and Jackson Albrecht; and great-grandchildren Ashlyn, Sean and Richard Easterling. He was preceded in death by his parents; and two siblings, Joy Rose and Kermit Easterling. He is survived by siblings, Jean Brunell, Virgie Williams, Keith Easterling and Steven Smith. Vern had been a resident at Lane House for five years, where he and his family loved and appreciated the care and support of the Lane House staff. Vern's kindness, patience and ever-present humor will be missed by all who knew him.

- Steven Klein passed away November 29th. Chief Enrollment Officer for 17 years. Steven J. Klein of Battle Creek, Michigan, passed away peacefully Friday, Nov. 29, 2019, at home, as a result of cardiac amyloidosis. He was 64 years old. Mr. Klein is survived by his wife of 37 years, Anita Klein of Battle Creek; daughter Allison (Mike) Eskinazi of Baltimore, Maryland; son Garrett Klein of Lafayette; sister Laurie Klein of Mill Valley, California; and father Earl Klein of Yonkers, New York. He also is survived by many cherished in-laws; and several dozen nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his mother, Sally Klein. Mr. Klein recently retired as Vice President for Enrollment Management at Albion College. Prior to Albion, he served as the chief enrollment officer at Wabash College for 17 years -- the longest tenure in that role in the College's 188-year history. During that time Wabash set records for applications and enrolled students. Earlier in his higher education career, Mr. Klein held positions at the University of Virginia and Shippensburg University (Pennsylvania). He received his bachelor's degree from Cornell University, where he was a member and officer of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and a resident advisor. Mr. Klein also held a master's degree from Indiana University. Outside of career and family, Mr. Klein was active in Crawfordsville's Mentoring Program, that area's United Way program, Crawfordsville Main Street and Kiwanis. He was a member of the Wabash College 1832 Society, a life-member of the University of Virginia Alumni Association and in the Guardian Circle of US Aid for UNICEF. Locally, he was a board member of Temple B'nai Israel of Kalamazoo. Mr. Klein previously served as chair of the Hillel Advisory Board at the University of Virginia and the Lafayette Jewish Community Religious School in Indiana. A life-long fan of the New York Mets, Mr. Klein was present at Shea Stadium on October 16, 1969 when the "Miracle" Mets won their first World Series. Other hobbies have included landscaping, fitness, tennis and following national politics. He also coached youth soccer in Shippensburg for four years. A memorial service is planned for 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 in the Goodrich Chapel, Albion College. The family also will be sitting Shiva at their home on 4-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9 and Tuesday, Dec.

10. Minyan will be at 6:30 p.m. both days. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Albion College, the National Baseball Hall of Fame (Cooperstown, New York) or Temple B'nai Israel. Arrangements were entrusted to Kempf Family Funeral and Cremation Services, 2838 Capital Ave. SW, Battle Creek, MI 49068. Please visit <https://www.kempffuneralhome.com> to view the on line obituary, sign the on line guest book or leave condolences to the family.

Following Thanksgiving we entered another period of thanks and praise, as we celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas. These are truly holidays (holy days), and aside from the hustle and bustle, we give thanks. For those of all faiths or no religious affiliations I offer my most basic conviction: We have all been placed on this earth to serve others.

May you all enjoy this very special time of the year and welcome a new year filled with hope and anticipation.

Yours in 'Bash,

Ron