

**Class of 1964**

**Class Agents**  
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Dear Classmates,

In October of my freshman year I sent my parents a greeting card. It had a Wally Wabash caricature saying, "Six months ago I couldn't spell Wabash College, and now I are one." Fast forward sixty years to October 2020 and I am saying, "Six months ago I couldn't spell Pandemic, and now I are one."

On October 6<sup>th</sup> Connie and I were experiencing chills, breathing problems, and difficulty walking. We checked ourselves into Emergency at St. Mary's Hospital in Hobart, IN, and underwent a battery of tests where we were confirmed Positive for Covid-19 positive. We are at home now and slowly (key word) on the mend. We had been and still are praying for everyone involved in the medical field, from doctors to bed panners, who have spent countless hours tending to those suffering from virus.

We give thanks to God that we are recovering at home and also that we each had been in "clean rooms" on different floors, the opportunity to observe firsthand the toll this disease has taken on our care givers. These are dedicated people who risk their own health to tend to the ill, not knowing the effects on their own bodies. They have little rest, and are constantly fearing for their own families at home. Pray for them.

Here are a few snippets of observations from various sources I have found lately:

- 1) Signs of rational hope, which is not the same as reckless optimism.
- 2) On April 2 Mark Terry wrote in "BioSpace", Covid-19 is not flu, but more like chronic acute pneumonia, the ability of researchers to marshal technology and science to quickly test drugs for the disease has never been as strong as it is now, global communication and sharing information are significantly better than in 1918, which has seen researchers sharing data on the pandemic, the virus, and numerous drugs, and governments doing the same." He also mentions Gilead Sciences' testing of Remdesivir (of which Connie and I received doses in our hospital stay).

- 3) Today's issue 10/27/20 of the Chicago Tribune contains an article on Coronavirus titled ["Five Ways Doctors Say You Can Stay Healthy"](#), by Katherine Rosenberg-Douglas and Madeline Buckley. It is informative, but its length is too long to summarize. You may want to search for it.

This brings me to what Wabash College is doing to deal with Covid-19. I am pretty sure that President Feller was not expecting this baptism by fire to occur during the first months of his administration. However, he has certainly proved his mettle. I have been listening to his Monday broadcasts, and frequent updates about what the college has been doing to both dealing with the virus while ensuring that the quality of education has not slowed a bit.

This letter has been focused on the Covid-19 virus because of the severity and magnitude of the pandemic. There is more information to forward to you, so I will compose another letter to you very soon. In fact we will be conducting a virtual Class Agents Forum today (10/29) in a couple of hours. In the meantime here are two contact points for you to consult regarding how the campus is dealing with the virus: [wabash.edu/covid/](http://wabash.edu/covid/) and [wabash.edu/covid/documents](http://wabash.edu/covid/documents). I frequently to refer items that I refer to as "Wabash Pride", and here's another one: Under the direction of President Feller I applaud the response to Covid-19 by the entire Wabash community from its President to its faculty, staff, and most especially its student body, as a shining example of how Wabash College works. Let the alumni do its part by acting accordingly and advising others to do likewise. As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King expressed it, "We shall overcome."

Yours in 'Bash,

Ron