



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1964

Class Agent

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Dear Classmates,

At our Class Agents meeting at Homecoming men from the classes of 1949 to 2016 were represented, although not every year of course, but that gives you some idea of the broad spectrum of involvement and commitment by the group.

Princeton Review ranked Wabash Collage number one in alumni networking. I, personally will attempt to keep you more up to date in 2018 than I have in the past. The bar has been set high.

On our annual Day of Giving on April 19th, 3386 donors contributed \$887,680 in 24 hours. All students and 43.9% of alumni gave and the Class of 1969 topped the class numbers list with 112 donors. Incidentally 43% is about the Class of 1964's average level of giving annually, and last year's total amount of giving to the Collage was \$14.736 million.

Sadly, we lost several classmates in 2017. The first was Bill Diener. Bill practiced regulatory business law for forty years at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Prior to that he taught at Indiana University School of Law (Bloomington and Indianapolis) and Irish Literature at Butler University. Bill passed on January 6th.

Another loss this year was Heath Davis who died on January 31st. Heath practiced law with the firm of Overgaard & Davis and left behind his wife of 50 years, Jane.

We also lost Neal Merry on May 5th after a lengthy illness. Having majored in Environmental Biology at Wabash, Bill studied Natural Resources Management and Commercial Aviation Technology at Purdue. He became a flight instructor, and also worked promoting cranberries on his family's cranberry bog and for Ocean Spray Cooperative.

Although I was unable to gather more info on Heath, there is more info to be found on Bill and Neal through the Alumni Office. My apologies if I have forgotten anyone.

One piece of news that I have been remiss in forwarding to you is the result of my appeal to you a couple of years ago for donations for Jim Durham's funeral expenses. Within a week of my request ten of you responded with checks and offers to give more. The amount received was about half of the amount owed so I phoned the funeral home owners once more. They were so pleasantly surprised by the generosity of Jim's classmates that they forgave the balance due.

On our trip east to visit children and grandchildren we stopped in Danbury, Connecticut to visit the funeral home and thank them. We met Jim's good friend Bill Leukhardt, who along with Jim's former spouse Marcy had organized a memorial luncheon for Jim and spread his ashes on his favorite golf course, as were Jim's wishes.

Thank all of you for helping to bring closure to this matter. By the way, Connie and I met with Marcy in St. Augustine, Florida, where she and her husband reside. She is a lovely person and we still keep in touch.

Now for an upbeat item, and one a long time coming. Last December classmate Dr. John Mikesell received the coveted Sagamore of the Wabash award, presented by the Governor of Indiana to residents who have provided a distinguished service to the State or to the Governor. Dr. Mikesell, Chancellor's Professor Emeritus at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs – Indiana University Bloomington, was recognized for his many accomplishments in the field of public finance and in particular, his nearly 40 years of service as a member of the State Budget Committee's Review Forecast Technical Committee. I sent John a congratulatory note on behalf of our class back in December but neglected to forward that information to you. Mea culpa. John's e-mail address is mikesell@indiana.edu.

Finally, as we approach the "Over the Hill Gang" category Wabash has been celebrating class reunions every 5 years. Therefore as 2019 fast approaches we need to begin to plan the event. Those of you who were instrumental in the highly successful 50th reunion are invited to pitch in once more, but all are asked to be involved. I encourage you to contact me with suggestions for activities and for contact efforts. We should begin the organizing process in the spring, but please offer suggestions as you (or your wives) think of them.

May all of you have a very Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous Holiday Season.

Yours in 'Bash,

Ron