



## Class Agents Letter

**Class of 1966**

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Dear Class of 66ers:

Since our last communication, a lot has happened. The Hunan Virus has tossed every college, including Wabash, for a loop. However, it is in the Wabash response that ability and quality come to the fore. WABASH (continued and continues to) ALWAYS FIGHT and responded - the whole Wabash Family (Students, Faculty, Administration, Parents, Alumni, Friends of the College) - in an extraordinary leading and positive way. Wabash housed the students carefully and held in person classes ... creatively using the College assets to protect everyone and at the same time accomplish the "Wabash Education" in the way we understand this to be. While sports teams were not holding contests ... they were meeting and safely working/practicing their craft, as designed by caring coaches and teachers. Student activities even included the Freshman Chapel Sing conducted across the length of the mall and "homecoming" house decorations competition. Other schools in our association simply went to the computers with students staying away and clucked and said with regard to Wabash efforts ... "Orville it will never fly". AND ... all the while ... WABASH ("Orville") WAS FLYING. The Administration, Faculty and Students were creative, careful, and caring for one and another. Example: the fall semester started little early, conducted in creative "classrooms", continued without a mid semester break, and ended just prior to Thanksgiving ... (to begin again after Christmas). Wabash is a "village" of concerned citizens all working together to accomplish the safe and outstanding education we all understand IS WABASH.

We alumni ... also responded.

- Our Alumni and friends 7<sup>th</sup> WABASH ONE DAY OF GIVING this spring set records
- 6,051 Alumni Family and Friends gave more than \$25,000,000 in 2019-2020 fiscal year
- 5,078 Alumni joined the Giant Steps for Wabash Campaign in the 2019-2020 fiscal year
- The present total in the Giant Steps for Wabash Campaign is \$198,000,000

Across the country in comparing Wabash with the other national liberal arts colleges, the following was reported by The Princeton Review, US News & World Report:

- #1 Alumni Network
- #1 Internship Program
- #4 Most Accessible Professors
- #7 Best Career Services
- #7 Best College Newspaper
- #8 Professors Get High Marks
- #9 Alumni Participation (with annual giving and student assistance)



- #10 Most Active Student Government
- #11 Best College Theater
- #13 Best Health Services
- #17 Great Financial Aid
- #19 Best Classroom Experience
- #20 Best-run College

Our Alums ... are not only there with financial support (described above) BUT ALSO with “boots on the ground”. Last spring, when companies (due to the challenging business environment) were announcing rescinded job offers and cancelled internships ..... Wabash reached out to Alumni and, within 24 hours of being alerted, the Wabash community responded with 200 offers of help. You explain this to other schools and they just shake their heads in awe. A WOW MOMENT !

It is no wonder that Wabash students respond:

- 98% of Wabash graduates secured their 1<sup>st</sup> destination within 6 months of graduation
- 87% of Wabash Graduates report they would choose Wabash again

While I have been unable to be on campus, my information is that Wabash housing gets better and better, the library enhancement project moves right along, the new Wabash Football and Track/Cross Country Stadium is complete and will open for competition (the tracksters are already using the new track and field venues), and there is a new basketball floor in the basketball facility and improved sports dressing areas. (And these are items that I know of). Also note that next November 13, 2021 we will be playing the Wabash/DePauw Football Game at our refurbished home: The Little Giant Stadium.

We are 55 years after Wabash, rounding the bend and entering the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. It impacted me that some of our buddies like Lee Cline and Bill Steger are already in the end zone. I suggest a proposal for the Class of 1966. Before we spike the football, how about another visit to C’ville for a gathering of the Class of 1966. Our 55<sup>th</sup>. The first week period in June: THE BIG BASH. Just to meander around, check out progress and changes and spend some informal/quality time with each other. I want to start your thoughts going in that direction. Wabash has always been a quiet good place, full of good people, optimistic, and working/preparing students to accomplish a great future. That darn virus put the temporary stops to our visits. The pics on the College web site are nice but just not the same. I (we) lost something. I want us to get it back.

AND an additional final item to consider: if you can, send a gift off to the Wabash Annual Fund (the fund for the day to day operations of the College and benefit of the students). Our Class is always thought of by the College Administration as one of the strong classes. “A Horse”. Give of your time by visiting and your support with a gift to the Annual Fund. The amount is not as important as being a stand up member of a leader class. Just do it. Plan and show up for the 55<sup>th</sup> class gathering next spring. More on the event will be forthcoming. Just mark it on your calendar the first week or so in June.

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Jay