

Class of 1966

### Class Agents

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Dear Class of 66ers:

I thought it would be enjoyable (hopefully for all of you) to receive a class letter which just meanders across topics of information I found of interest and thought you would as well.

**SCHOOL YEAR.** The Wabash school year started with 235 Freshmen of which 48 were legacies and from 14 States and 8 Countries. I attended the Football Homecoming weekend and witnessed the Chapel Sing. This year Lambda Chi was first (dethroning Sigma Chi who came in second). Once again, the Betas locked arms and guarded the front door of the Chapel ... which for some reason that I am not aware of violates a Chapel Sing rule and were once again disqualified (a tradition). The Sophomore class returned 90% (retention), which is second in % to only the Class of 2005. Pretty darn good and a testament to the workings of the systems and faculty/staff in place to help with this result.

**PRINCETON REVIEW research and rankings.** The Princeton Review surveys Liberal Arts Colleges nationally to determine how the students rate them (and thus compare with others). Wabash significantly held a leadership position in the following subjects (the number is the rank among its fellow schools with a description of the subject):

- **#2 Best Alumni Network**
- **#2 Best Internship Program**
- **#3 Most Accessible Professors**
- **#4 Lots of/Active Greek Life**
- **#5 Best Career Services**
- **#5 Participation/Everyone Plays in Intramurals**
- **#10 Professors Get High Marks**
- **#10 Best College Newspaper**
- **#13 Best Classroom Experience**
- **#13 Great Financial Aid**
- **#13 Best-Run Colleges**
- **#15 Best Health Services**

**GRADUATION AND ALUMNI:** Wabash Career Services related that the Class of 2019 who graduated this spring reported 87% as landing their first destination by graduation day. (Note National Average for 6 months after graduation is 64%.) Career Services reported 88% Law School Acceptance by those applying and 94% Med School Acceptance by those applying. And **FORBES** ranked Wabash 9<sup>th</sup> out of 200 for the Happiest and Most Successful Alumni (How about that ... you happy and successful guys!!!)

**COLLEGE FINANCE ITEMS:** The strength of the College comes from you the alumni and donors.

- ❖ **The ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING** (held one day in April of each year) is one of the significant economic bastions for the success of the Annual Fund each year (which Annual Fund is one of the significant backbones of Wabash success.) This past April 10, 2019 Day of Giving:
  1. \$1,165,444 was raised by 3,805 donors
  2. By way of comparison, Wabash raised \$1,361.50 per student, Purdue's One Day of Giving brought in \$958, Earlham brought in \$683, and Valpo \$226.
  3. Wabash Alumni and Friends also include Affinity Challenges in this Day of Giving. The Class of 66 had a Class Challenge in which 58 participated and their gift augmented. All total, from all the affinity challenges, \$60,250 was added by participating in these challenges. *(NOTE TO SELF ... Guys ... next year when making a gift look at the affinity challenges and be guided accordingly to maximize the impact of your gift.)*
- ❖ **TOTAL ANNUAL FUND GIVING FOR YEAR END 2019:** was \$3,403,071 with 5,155 Alumni donating, comprising 43.5% of living Alumni. (ANOTHER NOTE TO SELF ... Guys ... if 177 Alumni who did not contribute to the Annual Fund would have done so, Wabash would have ranked in the top 15 in the Nation for Alumni percentage giving. COME ON YOU 177 !!! So close ... so close.
- ❖ **GIANT STEPS CAMPAIGN:** The Goal is \$225,000,000. Of this goal, \$166,470,589 has been raised/committed to date. This is the backbone of the Wabash future short term/medium term/long term. *If you find yourself able, really really really think about being a part of this effort. Every gift counts toward the Campaign.*

**CAPITAL PROJECTS:** Wabash is focused, focused, focused upon upgrading, modernizing, leading with state of the art educational and Wabash life focused facilities. These include

- ❖ **RENOVATION** of Martindale (completed) and the Independent Village of housing (completed).
- ❖ **OBTAINING THE PROPERTIES** comprising the Wabash Avenue Entrance area to the College (completed)
- ❖ **BUILDING THE GATEWAY TO THE COLLEGE "Front Door"** recreating the original Class of 1898 steps and dedicated to Rem Johnston '55 (Just completed ... a great prostate "HELLO")
- ❖ **RENOVATION/MODERNIZATION** of (First Projects) Lambda Chi, FIJI, Beta, Theta Delt and then (Next Projects) the remaining fraternities.
- ❖ **LILLY LIBRARY** emphasizing academic engagement and technology hubs, group study and technology and tutoring (the library which will be one of the leading ones other schools come to see how to do it).
- ❖ **NEW LITTLE GIANT FOOTBALL STADIUM AND TRACK FACILITY** at a cost (which funding has been raised) of \$13 million, includes new field turf, new running track and field facilities, handicapped accessible with elevator, a "Hall of Giants" tunnel to the field, and ... YES LADIES ... new modern restroom facilities which will handle the crowds. The stadium construction will begin in 3 weeks and be open and functioning for the next fall school year !
- ❖ **WE WANT MORE !!!!!**

*Jay*