



Class Agents Letter

55 for '66

Class of 1966

Class Agents

Cal Black

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Alumni and Parent Relations Office

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Dear Men of '66

OUR 55TH REUNION 10/15-16, 2021

Wabash will host our 55th reunion along with other class years ending in 0, 1, 5, and 6. However, we will have some special events/treatment as the other classes tailgate in Mud Hollow prior to the Wooster football game at 1PM.

SCHEDULE FOR '66

10/15-Hospitality Room at the Hampton Inn after dinner (on your own)

10/16-Dedication of The Class of 1966 Lodge at 11AM-meet on the steps of the Allen Athletics Center at 10:45AM. Unveiling of plaque with names of all donors inscribed thereon.

10/16-11:30AM-Special tailgate luncheon in the Allen Athletic Center

*Register for lunch and complimentary game ticket here www.wabash.edu/bigbash or by calling the alumni office at 765-361-6360.

10/16-1PM- Football game vs. Wooster

10/16-6PM- Reception and dinner at the Crawfordsville Country Club. The cost is \$40 and includes tax and gratuity.

10/16- Hospitality room at the Hampton Inn after dinner

10/17- Breakfast at the Hampton Inn-on your own time.

A SPECIAL WEEKEND

We are the first class to present a class gift for the 55th reunion. Usually, the 50th reunion is the last formal fundraising effort. However, several classmates have worked very hard to raise funds to name the Lodge for our class, and this is now a new challenge to the other classes as they celebrate their 55th reunions. THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE HELPED ESTABLISH A NEW TRADITION AT WABASH!



ADMISSIONS AND ATHLETIC RECRUITING

There were 219 new freshmen this year with 42 legacies. Alumni referrals can be submitted online at: wabash.edu/refer. It is always interesting to see how many students participate in varsity sports out of the entire student body of approximately 850 students. After conversations with the coaches, these are the numbers for each sport:

Baseball-41	Soccer-38
Basketball-19	Swimming-30
Cross Country-23	Tennis-13
Football-125	Track and Field-50
Golf-14	Volleyball-13
Lacrosse-25	Wrestling-61



The most difficult task of being a class agent is notifying you of the loss of classmates, faculty and staff.



Joe O'Rourke passed away in Des Moines, IA and his obituary follows. He was a tremendous teacher, wonderful person and significant influence on so many Wabash students-SOME LITTLE GIANT-JOE O'ROURKE!

Joseph O'Rourke, Jr., who taught speech and debate at Wabash for 37 years, has died at the age of 93.

Affectionately nicknamed "Papa Joe" by his adoring students, O'Rourke joined the Wabash faculty in 1960 and taught continuously until his retirement in 1997. Together with Vic Powell, they produced generations of articulate communicators and brilliant lawyers, as well as state and national debate champs. O'Rourke chaired the Speech Department (now Rhetoric) for 20 years.

Joe O'Rourke was born May 11, 1928 in Davenport, Iowa and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from Southwest High School in 1946, after which he enlisted in the Army and served as part of the General HQ staff during the occupation of Japan.

After his service, Joe returned to attend the University of Missouri for undergraduate studies and enlisted in the ROTC program. While at Missouri, he met the love of his life, Beverly Miller, while both were working together in the Theater Department.

Upon Graduation in 1952, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and served as an Information and Education Officer with multiple assignments stateside. Joe and Bev were married in 1952 and stood united for the next 66 years until Bev's passing in March of 2018.

Joe began his teaching career in Speech and Theater at the University of Hawaii-Hilo from 1954-1956, after which he returned to University of Missouri to teach while earning a master's degree and Ph.D.

Bev and Joe moved to Crawfordsville in 1960 for what Joe described as "a temporary assignment." But the two of them fell in love with West Central Indiana and would spend the rest of their lives at Wabash in Crawfordsville.

Joe was very active in the community, serving in Kiwanis and at his church, St. John's Episcopal Church. He helped launch the Sugar Creek Players and Vanity Theater, was a leader of the Montgomery County Democrats, and was a founding member of the Montgomery County Leadership Academy. He was also instrumental in launching the Opportunities to Learn About Business program at Wabash.

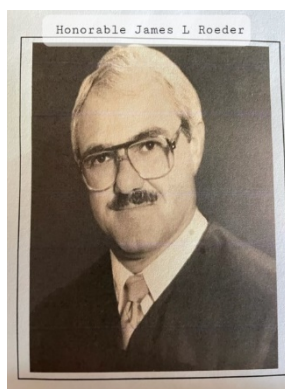
At his retirement ceremony in 1997, friends from campus and alumni across five decades of Wabash alumni gathered to celebrate his accomplishments. Long-time Wabash Magazine Editor Steve Charles captured the event – and Joe's impact on Wabash students – perfectly in his [coverage of Joe's retirement ceremony](#). Follow-up letters from alumni appeared in a subsequent issue of Wabash Magazine, which included some of [O'Rourke's famous witticisms](#).

He is survived by son Jerry (Linda) O'Rourke; grandsons Jonathan (Stacy) O'Rourke, Colin (Kristin) O'Rourke, and Christopher O'Rourke; niece Leslie Griffith and nephews Todd (Sue) and David (Susan) Griffith; and many great nephews.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Joseph O'Rourke, Jr. Award in Rhetoric, which is presented to the graduating senior with the best senior project in the Rhetoric Department. Gifts may be made through the Wabash Advancement Office, 301 West Wabash Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, [online at wabash.edu/give](#), or by phone at 877-743-4545. Online condolences are welcome at [www.llesCares.com](#). A private funeral is planned for Saturday, September 4 at St. John's Episcopal Church. [Friends can watch a livestream of the service](#).

A celebration of Papa Joe's life will be held in Spring 2022.

Steve Hildebrand had open heart surgery in June and developed complications that led to his passing on 8/1/21. Steve was a Beta, Sphinx Club member, IFC representative and nephew of Lowell Hildebrand who was Director of Admissions when we were admitted. Steve had a wonderful personality, infectious laugh and was a dedicated Wabash man. Steve Hildebrand-SOME LITTLE GIANT!



Jim "Cody" Roeder passed away on 8/31/21 after a courageous battle with cancer for a number of years. He was a Beta, Sphinx Club member, four year starter on the football team, officer in the Beta house and man of conviction, strength, character and all that a Little Giant should and could be. He told his wife that when he passed on he wanted his Wabash hat with him! His obituary follows-SOME LITTLE GIANT-JIM 'CODY' ROEDER!

James LeRoy Roeder passed away peacefully on August 31, 2021 after a long, hard fought, and courageous battle with cancer. He was 77 years-old. Jim was

born in Seymour, Indiana on April 23, 1944. He was the firstborn son of John and Eva Roeder. He attended Immanuel Lutheran grade school in Seymour, Indiana, where he graduated as class valedictorian. He would graduate from Seymour Senior High School in 1962. While in high school he earned nine varsity letters in football, basketball, and track. He earned the honors of "Most Outstanding Athlete" in 1962, and "Most Outstanding Male Senior" in 1961 and 1962. Jim also won the South Central Academic Achievement Award in 1961. In basketball he was elected to the All-Regional and All-Semi State teams. He track he won the conference championship in 1962 for broad jump. His coaches nicknamed him "Cody" for his fast running ability. The nickname stayed with him throughout his life. After graduating from high school he attended Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana where he received a four-year athletic/academic scholarship. He was named the "Most Outstanding Defensive Player" for football in 1965. He was also a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. In 1965 Jim married Babs Bailey, his high school sweetheart and the love of his life. They had a successful marriage for over 56 years. He attended the M. B. A. program at Indiana University after graduating from Wabash. In 1968 their daughter, Lisa, was born and in 1969 the three of them moved to Auburn, California for a new job adventure with Arvin Industries. In 1971 their son, Brad, was born. In 1972 Jim embarked on a very successful business and legal career. While living in Auburn he was involved in Auburn Youth Soccer, Auburn Swim Team, and Auburn Little League Baseball, where he served as president in these organizations. He graduated from McGeorge Law School in Sacramento, California in 1976. He practiced law as a private attorney until 1985, when he was appointed by Gov. Dukemejian to the Placer County Superior Court. He served in that capacity until 2005 when he retired from the law. Upon retirement he went back to his roots and passion for being around his horses and cattle in the Sierra Valley. Spending time in the saddle and time at the family cabin was where he was the happiest. When he retired he started the Roeder Cattle Company, which he continued to operate and enjoy until his death. Jim was involved in the PRCA, Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association, as chairman of the National Grievance Review Committee in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 2019 he established the Roeder Athletic/Academic Scholarship at Trinity Lutheran High School in Seymour, Indiana. He was a man of character, steadfast faith in God, a strong work ethic, wisdom, and a crushing handshake that would bring you to your knees. Jim is survived by his wife, Babs, daughter Lisa (Caine), son Brad (Keri), granddaughters Elizabeth Sussman and Makenzee Roeder. He is also survived by his brother Max (Connie), and nephews Scott, Jason, and Brett Roeder along with their wives and children. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Plumas Sierra Cattlemen's Association P. O. Box 693 Loyalton, CA 96118 or Hospice of the Foothills 11270 Rough and Ready Hwy. Grass Valley, CA. 95945 or Jim and Babs Roeder Academic/Athletic Scholarship at Trinity Lutheran High School 7120 N. Co. Rd. 875 E. Seymour, Indiana 47274. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 11:00 at SpringHill Suites by Marriott 13535 Bowman Road Auburn, CA 95603.

As always, please let Jay and me know what/how you are doing so we may include that information in a class letter.

"These fleeting years..."

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