



## Class Agents Letter

Class of 1967

### Class Agents

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Classmates –

Happy New Year to you all. 2020 – The start of another decade. Born in the 1940's and now entering the 2020's, we have lived in nine decades. It is kind of awesome to think back over our lives and see all the changes that have taken place. We aren't quite antiques yet (at least if we believe that an antique must be at least 100 years old), although we probably sometimes feel like it. Things that were "science fiction" when we were kids are now reality and part of our everyday lives. We can only dream about what our kids and grandkids will see when they reach our age. I did have to wonder, though, when I got ready for my annual physical last week. I dutifully signed in to my "portal" account at the doctor's office and saw results of my lab tests – the LDL, HDL, BP, BMI, A1C, PSA and all the other numbers. And then the reminders – eye exam due 9/2020 (it's on the calendar), colonoscopy due 5/2020 (oh, Jeez, again!), bone density scan due 6/2020 (eh, that's nothing), Plevnar 13 due 06/2075. What? 2075? Are you kidding me? Zoster due 01/2070. Really? I pointed those out to the doctor (who looks like he's about the age of my grandkids) and he just smiled and said it gave me something to live for. But then he did say they might need to update their software. Oh well. Happy 2020, y'all. Let's hope it is a good year.

### Classmate news –

We start off with a sad note. The College informed us of the passing of **Dick Buckingham** on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Here is the obituary: " Richard Leroy Buckingham, 74, of Exeter, and a former longtime resident of Hampton Falls, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at the Hyder Hospice House in Dover after an extended period of declining health. He was surrounded by his loving and devoted family. Richard was born on September 27, 1945, in Wabash, Ind., the son of the late Ralph and Luella (Sell) Buckingham. He shared over 52 years of marriage with his wife, Cheryl (Robins) Buckingham. Raised in North Manchester, Ind., Richard graduated from Manchester High School with the Class of 1963 and earned his Bachelor's Degrees in Economics and Psychology from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind. Shortly after graduation in 1967, he married Cheryl, his high school sweetheart, and they moved to Cambridge, Mass., where Richard pursued his Master's Degree at Harvard Business School. He left school to serve his country as a commissioned officer with the United States Navy and upon his discharge returned to Harvard to complete his studies. After completing his post graduate degree, Richard and Cheryl moved to Minneapolis for a few years, ultimately settling in Hampton Falls, N.H., in 1978 where they raised their family. Richard spent his career in finance working for several companies. In his semi-retirement years, he worked as a financial consultant. While in Hampton Falls, he and Cheryl were active parishioners of the Hampton United Methodist Church. Richard will be fondly remembered as an adoring husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was an avid reader who loved playing golf, watching collegiate sports, traveling, and most importantly spending time with his family. Surviving family members include his wife and best friend, Cheryl Buckingham of Exeter; his son, Blake Buckingham and his wife, Amy, of Brookeville, Md.; his daughter, Amber Buckingham of Stratham; and his loving grandchildren, Drew Buckingham and his wife Sarah, Trevor, Carter and Cooper Buckingham and Garrett and Nick Frattali. In addition to his parents, Richard was predeceased by his sisters, Beverly Frieden and Janet Buckingham. SERVICES: Visitation will be held from 1-2:30 p.m., on Sunday, January 12, 2020, in



the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home Crematory, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton. Services will immediately follow at 2:30 p.m., in the funeral home. Burial will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to [www.LittleAngelsServiceDogs.org](http://www.LittleAngelsServiceDogs.org) . Please visit [www.RemickGendron.com](http://www.RemickGendron.com) to view Richard's memorial website, to sign his tribute wall, and for additional information." RIP, Dick.

We received the following from **Phil Coons**:



Here is a photo of me at the Indianapolis Historical Society in front of the Wabash Christmas tree. It was one of 92 this year for the yearly Festival of Trees.

On the medical front, I've just recovered from a nasty case of pneumonia which necessitated an ER visit. I'm facing 3 surgeries in the coming year...cataracts in both eyes and a basal cell carcinoma in my right ear. Fortunately all three can be performed on an OP basis. Oh, the joys of growing old.

I did make this year's goal of 200 volunteer hours at Eagle Creek Park.

Phil

(Hope all the surgeries go well, Phil.)

And we also heard from **Phil Pearson** about a recent trip to Cuba.



I went with Road Scholar on a ten day trip to Cuba. It was a great trip, loved the people and enjoyed the sights. Cuba might be the safest country for Americans to visit, and Road Scholar provided a very well organized, enjoyable trip. Cubans really like Americans. A taxi driver told me, "There are two good things about America. Movies, and everything else!"

I replied to a friend who questioned my going to Cuba that if Cubans could vote to become the 51st state, they would pass it by a large margin. Then I relayed that story to a Cuban American who lives in Florida and visits Cuba once a month who immediately confirmed my assertion.

Cuba is a terrific destination - it's too bad the US government makes it so hard to go there.

We also got the following from **Steve Claffey**:

"Your Pantry Is Going to Be In a Movie

All- Feeding America has engaged Credo Nonfiction to produce a professional video about the Food Is Medicine (FIM) program funded by Anthem Foundation. We were told about 6 weeks ago that only one of the 8 food bank-hospital-pantry teams participating nationally in FIM would be selected to be the focus of the video. Sooooo, I am delighted and pleased to report that we learned yesterday that the Indy FIM

team of Gleaners, Eskenazi Health and Crooked Creek Food Pantry is the team selected. The filming and production is now planned for January or February.

Credo is an award winning nonfiction video production company located in Minnesota. I urge you to take 5-10 minutes to sample some of its work, including particularly the video on the Hamilton Project. The samples provided on its website (there are at least 20) are amazing and hooked me to 30 minutes of viewing. It feels like George Lucas and Steven Spielberg are coming to video the Indy FIM team in action and to tell the FIM story, which will mean to tell in part the Pantry's story.

Here is the web site link: <http://www.credononfiction.com/#projects>.

This is a big deal. Eskenazi is now pursuing funds to build a new building on campus for the Pantry, and it appears solidly determined to stay in the cutting edge forefront of the FIM revolution, which is now getting major traction in the health/hospital world. The FIM program and the team in Indy is attracting national attention. Now we just need more funding, which may be easier to obtain with an inspirational video.

As we get more details on the video production timing, I will let you know. Personally, I am going on a diet starting today to get in shape for the filming! No waiting for New Year resolutions. And, I am going to start a big push to get the floor redo approvals so Credo does not have to figure out how to avoid showing the carpet mess."

#### College News:

#### **New Little Giants Stadium**



Wabash College has announced plans to construct a new football stadium that will open when the Little Giants host Rose-Hulman on September 5, 2020. The \$13 million Little Giant Stadium will include seating for 3,550 fans in the main grandstand, suites, and the W Club Lounge. The new facility will also include game operations and media booths, relocated scoreboard, a new playing surface, all-weather track, and expanded restroom and upgraded concession areas. Crews started demolishing the visitor's stands on Monday, December 16.

September 5<sup>th</sup> might be a good time to plan a trip back to campus for the grand opening of the new stadium!

**Wabash receives a \$100,000 Lilly Endowment Grant.** Wabash College has received a \$100,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of the Endowment's Charting the Future for Indiana's Colleges and Universities, a new initiative. Through the initiative, Lilly Endowment is helping Indiana colleges and universities address their key challenges and take advantage of promising opportunities to enhance their relevance and sustainability. The phase one planning grant will help Wabash develop and expand student success and retention efforts.

Last May, Wabash achieved the highest four-year graduation rate in the history of the College, demonstrating that student attrition is not inevitable. The planning grant will allow Wabash to review successful strategies and collaborate with other institutions to build on best practices to ensure student success for historically underserved groups.

The planning grant will also be used to identify aspects of the College's innovative summer bridge program for underserved students, the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP), that can be scaled up to have a greater impact on even more students. WLAIP serves students with at least two of the three demographic factors on which the College is focused: students of color, Pell Grant recipients, and first-generation students. In the Class of 2019, WLAIP students achieved a four-year graduation rate of 80%, which was higher than the overall student population and much higher than the expected graduation rate for young men with this demography.

**New Army ROTC Scholarship program.** Wabash College President Gregory D. Hess announced the establishment of a new comprehensive scholarship partnership between the College, the United States Army, and Purdue University. Wabash becomes Purdue's first Army ROTC partner institution. The program will provide up to three scholarships for entering Wabash freshmen each year who are chosen by the Army to participate in the ROTC program. The scholarships will cover the full cost of tuition and on-campus room and board at Wabash, as well as all costs associated with ROTC courses. The value for four-year participants is in excess of \$240,000. Up to five additional freshmen selected for the ROTC program will receive a Wabash ROTC Scholarship and on-campus room and board their first year. These students will receive full-ride scholarships for their remaining three years at the College. Wabash students who are chosen for the program will live on the Wabash campus and participate in the full range of activities and intercollegiate athletics the College provides. They will take leadership and officer training courses through the Army at Purdue's nearby West Lafayette campus. Approximately 80 percent of the Army's officers come through the ROTC program. Scholarship recipients must complete a service requirement upon graduation from the program.

**Big Bash Registration is Open.** Time to mark your calendars for the Big Bash. Big Bash isn't just a reunion weekend; it's a chance for all alumni and their families to return to Wabash. Online registration is now open for Big Bash weekend, June 5-7, 2020, so make plans to attend. You're welcome to attend a class dinner on Saturday with guys you attended Wabash with (like the class of 1965 or 1970). Friday's alumni-faculty-staff symposium, our 11<sup>th</sup>, is *Wally Salutes: A Liberal Arts Symposium on the Military*. And check out Wally's the new campus restaurant and pub. Go to [wabash.edu/bigbash](http://wabash.edu/bigbash) to register, see the schedule, and find out who's coming. If you RSVP by Feb. 29, you'll save money on the registration fee. Might be time to plan a get-together of some classmates for a trip back to C'ville.

### **Miscellany.**

I see Phil Coons was wearing a Wabash jacket in the picture above. With winter in full force now, might be a good time to go to the Wabash Bookstore web site and order a new Wabash sweatshirt or jacket! I just ordered a new Wabash hoodie to wear for my morning manure pick-up task.

Our pun contest. We got one - yes just one – submission, so I guess **Rick Helm** is the winner. Here is his entry:

A horse goes into a bar and orders a pint. The bartender says, "You know, you're in here pretty often. Do you think you might be an alcoholic.?" The horse says "I don't think I am..." and promptly vanishes from existence. (See, this was a joke about Descartes' famous line from philosophy "I think, therefore I am." But if I had explained that before the rest of the joke it would have been putting Descartes before the horse. (this probably gets at least two, maybe three "groans", a "groan" being a measure of the awfulness of a pun.)

I did see **Phil Coons** forward a Facebook post for another one: What do you call Santa's little helpers? Subordinate clauses.

And I found another: A woman in labor was shouting: "Can't! Won't! Couldn't! Wouldn't! Didn't!" She was having contractions.

And finally, what is the difference between a cat and a comma? One has claws at the end of its paws and the other is a pause at the end of a clause.

Okay. Enough. We'll take votes from our loyal readers (both of them) – Who's jokes are worse, Duane's or Earl's? Or would you like to submit your own humor...or news...or something? Please – we need input!

January 2020 – time to make your new year's resolutions. How about including these?

In 2020, I will:

Make a contribution to Wabash College.

Plan a visit to Wabash – maybe Big Bash, maybe the September 5 opening of the stadium, maybe Homecoming.

Re-connect with an old classmate and swap some memories.

Pay attention to my health.

Send a class letter submission to Duane and Earl!!!

May 2020 be a great year for you. Keep in touch. Be well.

WAF

Earl