

Class of 1967

Class Agents

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Classmates –

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Summertime, and the livin' is...absolutely crazy in the COVID 19 era. I hope you are all faring well and staying safe. I'm still waiting to see some pictures of masked classmates to add to the rogues' gallery. Send them to me and we will post them without captioning and play the "Who was that masked man?" game in a future letter. We would also like to hear how you are coping with stay-at-home orders, business closings, and other assorted COVID 19 restrictions. Since it seems we'll be facing these for a while yet, we could all use some tips and ideas for coping. My wife works for the Traveling Vineyard, a wine direct sales company; her business has been going very well the last few months! Her customers order on-line through her website and UPS delivers the wine right to their door. I've also noticed the "glass only" containers at the landfill have been filling up more rapidly the last few months. The beer bottles, wine bottles, and liquor bottles far outnumber the pickle jars, olive jars, and pasta sauce jars. I guess that is all evidence of one way to cope. Just sayin'.

Classmate news has been sparse the last few months, but a fraternity brother **Ed Cook** has stepped up a couple of times with some fun items. In May an email from Ed appeared in my queue with the subject line "Whale Poop". How could I not open that one? And ten other guys also could not resist. It was the catalyst we needed to get back in touch with one another and catch up. And here is an observation Ed made that hit home. "Earl, I think one reason we don't contribute more news for the monthly class agent report is that many of us don't feel all that newsworthy compared to others who may be traveling extensively and contributing to saving the planet. I am proud to be associated with those who can and do contribute their many talents but all I can do is watch in awe from a distance. Keeping up with 6 inherited grandkids and 5 pets takes all the energy I can muster most days. But if you want to work the whale poop story into a slow news month, more power to you." It really is good to hear from old friends – from the spectacular to the mundane events, just to stay connected – especially in these times when many are sheltering in place and minimizing in-person social interactions. So, Ed – Thanks for being a catalyst in getting some old friends together on-line and eliciting some updates. Hopefully there are some other classmates out there who might step up and send in some updates, memories, or just a shout out to old friends. Or maybe just an "I'm still kickin" acknowledgement. It's all "newsworthy" to our classmates.

Ed actually sent me another item. He got a solicitation from Wabash Assistant Wrestling Coach Lincoln Kyle who was collecting some stories from wrestlers about why they chose Wabash and some wrestling-related stories. (Maybe some of you also got such a request?) Here was his reply: "Good Day, Lincoln. You bring up an interesting memory for me. Just one wrestling memory from about 1964-65. Because I am not really a wrestling alumnus. I "wrestled" one match as a favor to a football/wrestler friend, Jerry Abernathy, got pinned in less than 30 seconds by the #1 wrestler in Indiana at the time, Harold Poole, and was awarded 3rd place in the 190 lb.? weight class; thereby earning 1 point for the meet. I also

injured my shoulder, in a futile attempt to keep from being pinned in 20 seconds, and it still bothers me to this day. I'm not sure how I got on the wrestling mailing list but it would probably be better for everyone if you were to delete me. I hereby give you my recommendation and permission to do so. Thanks anyway for reaching out. I don't know how often this tactic of weight class augmentation was employed or how ethical it was. None of the coaches (Max Servies?) were directly involved as far as I knew. At least I don't remember talking to any of them. But it was an interesting experience for me and I would probably be dumb enough to do the same thing again if I had the chance to live my life twice.
Edward Cook, '67 WAF"

I did hear from **Duane Hile** with an update on his COVID-era life: I'm finally back to serious biking after 14 week lay off during knee surgery rehab. Quickly got back to some of our grueling trails with elevations and length, riding every day there is no rain. We had to cancel plans for several trips: family reunion in Colorado for our 50th, literary tour in England, bike/barge tour on the Mosel, several weeks of Rails-to-Trails rides throughout the Midwest, and Wabash football games (increasingly looks like no season).

Duane's parenthetical comment at the end was spot on. While we thought we might be encouraging you to get together for the Homecoming football game this fall to visit the new stadium and catch up, it is not to be. Here is the announcement from the College on fall sports -- Wabash College joins with the other members of the North Coast Athletic Conference and will suspend intercollegiate athletics competition through December 31, 2020. The conference, which had previously been working toward a modified fall schedule built around a health and safety plan developed by the athletic and medical staffs of member schools, was forced to re-evaluate its plan following new guidance released last week by the NCAA. All of the College's sports programs will be affected, including those sports with non-traditional fall seasons (golf and tennis) and those not affiliated with the NCAC (wrestling and volleyball). Wabash offers 13 intercollegiate sports in NCAA Division III. The Little Giants won NCAC titles in football and indoor track and field in 2019-20, while finishing second in basketball and cross country, and third in soccer and swimming. The College's wrestling team ranked fifth in the nation at the end of the season. When competition was halted in March, Wabash led the NCAC's men's all-sports race.

Current plans are that the College will welcome the class of 2024 to campus August 7-8, with classes beginning August 12. It will be a different environment, with emphasis on maintaining the health and safety of all students, faculty, and staff. Wabash has worked with the Independent Colleges of Indiana to obtain PPE for the Student Health Center, masks for everyone on campus, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer. We are placing plexiglass barriers in offices where transactions must take place, and encouraging virtual appointments and meetings. Consistent with our Gentleman's Rule, there will be an emphasis on personal responsibility for maintaining the health of our community. Each member of the college community will receive a CARE (COVID Action, Response and Education) package containing two masks, a thermometer, starter amount of hand sanitizer and refillable water bottle. The College has also published guidelines for safe campus events and limits on guests visiting campus. Wabash remains viable and strong and continues to change lives for young men.

The COVID era has introduced several short term changes...and probably some long term ones as well. The next few months will be interesting to watch.

Stay safe and be well, guys. Keep in touch with your extended family and friends. And send us some updates, some pictures, some memories, and some personal news to share. As the national theme goes, we are all in this together. Let's stay connected.

WAF.

Earl