

Class of 1967

Class Agent

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BIG BASH 2022 – our 55th

The 50th reunion is the big one for most classes, and ours was no exception. We set some records for our 50th in 2017. After that, we join the pool of the Golden Little Giants – all those from classes beyond the 50th – and congregate in a larger group of officially senior citizen Wallies. When Duane sent out the last letter, there were 9 classmates (Phil Coons, Rick Helm, Duane Hile, Earl Houck, Haines Lockhart, Robbie Robinson, Ron Salamone, Jerry Schaefer, Fred Siegel), 8 spouses, and Fadia Williamson signed up. They all came – and so did Dave Bloomer, Mike Butler, Ed Culver, Ron Sheese, John Zimmerman, and 2 more spouses. Not too bad. We all had a good time catching up with one another and even making a few new friends among the other Golden classes. We had the largest contingent of any of the other Golden classes. Here is our “class” photo.



Our past reunions were always fun and filled with fond remembrances and good stories from our College days; this was no exception. The Chapel Sing competition is one of the reunion highlights. Remember our Homecoming Queen leading the procession for our 50th? It is the ten classes celebrating the reunion who normally compete in the Chapel sing, with everyone gathering on the stage at the end for the encore. Well, **Haines Lockhart** got the Golden energized to be included in the class roster and worked with the Alumni staff to get the Golden on stage to sing. It took us a little longer than the young guys to climb up to the stage, but we made it. And, of course, Haines insisted we do it right – meaning the second verse, too. Some of us couldn't remember what we had for breakfast, but the words to Old Wabash are somehow etched in our brains. We were rewarded with a standing ovation and a few misty eyes, both on the stage and in the main chapel. (They might have just been applauding the fact that we all made it through the song without falling down or having to take a pee break, but we'll take what we can get!)

It really was an emotional event. As **Robbie Robinson** summed it up: "The entire weekend was very moving, and emotional, for me. Just being with people that I have known and trusted for 55 years was a wonderful gift. And the setting was incredible; the campus looked terrific. I am now a "Golden Little Giant", as were all of us who graduated in 1967 or earlier. When each class sang Dear Old Wabash in the Chapel sing, all the other classes clapped vigorously when the Golden Little Giants were asked to come up to the stage to sing; very respectful. It drew tears to my eyes. I was just so grateful to be there. I look forward to our 60th (God willing) !!!!!" I think that sentiment was shared by all of the 1967 contingent in attendance. Others who attended, please chime in with your favorite parts of the weekend back at Wabash.

Bob Meyers was one of our classmates who could not attend the recent Big Bash. He is spending the month of June on a bicycle tour visiting the 9/11 sites. We look forward to getting his recap of that trip for a future letter.

In a previous letter, we mentioned the idea of a Fall get together for a football game. We proposed the October 15th home game against Ohio Wesleyan. What do you think, guys? Anyone interested? While the Big Bash is fun, it is also fun to be on campus when school is in session and there is a chance to meet with the current students and swap some "then and now" stories.

June 30th is the end of the College fiscal year. Special thanks to all of you who supported the College during the year, especially on the very successful day of giving this year. The College reports that it is on track to meeting the Annual Fund goal of \$3.6 million this year. We are, however, still a bit over 400 alumni short of meeting the goal of 40% alumni support for the year. Yes, the dollar amounts are important, but the giving rate is also a factor in the College rankings from the influential higher education authorities like *US News* and *The Princeton Review*. If you haven't made a contribution to the College this year and still want to support your alma mater, there is still time before the end of the month.

A few months ago, my county newspaper had an article about a local guy, Dr. Mardy Goethe, a retired psychologist and a lover of words and language. His hobby is collecting quotations. I picked up his book "metaphors be with you", a grouping of "the ten best things said on 250 topics". One of those topics is Old Age. That hit home. We are all into, or certainly approaching (depending on your point of view), that stage of our lives. Some of the ten quotations on this subject included in his book made me think a bit. "I suppose real old age begins when one looks backward rather than forward" (Mary Sarton). Or "To me, old age is always fifteen older than I am" (Bernard Baruch). Or "I don't know how you feel about old age, but in my case I didn't see it coming. It hit me in the rear." (Phyllis Diller) Or "Old age is a special problem for me because I've never been able to shed the mental image I have of myself – a lad of about 19." (E.B. White) And "Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative." (Maurice Chevalier) So here's the homework assignment, guys. What is your view of being in that 76-78 years old range? Some days I feel every bit of those 77 years, but other days, not so much. What keeps you going?

Hope you all have a pleasant summer. As always, we look forward to hearing from you. Pictures are also welcome so we can jazz up these letters a bit. And I'll pass along, with attribution to **Rick Helm** (as I don't want to take credit for this) – The Earth's surface is 70% water. That water is uncarbonated. Therefore, the Earth is flat. Your comments are welcome.

Be well, gentlemen.

WAF,
Earl