

Class of 1968

### Class Agents

Jim Roper

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Alumni and Parent Relations Office

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Dear Friends in the Class of 1968,

Welcome to 2021. Hope it found you well and prosperous. A lot of things are yet uncertain, but plans are in place. Like a football schedule. Homecoming is set for 18 September. Hope it all works and we can meet again. If you'd like to make this a better letter, please send an update and photos. Your classmates love to hear about YOU. Meanwhile, take good care!

Wabash Always Fights!

Jim Roper '68

From Todd Eads, 20201208



Jim, Just reviewed the latest class news so I thought it could be time for the update! Yes, still alive, social distancing, doing all that we can to stay safe and avoid Covid.

In September, we moved from Elkhart, IN to Charles Town, WV. Three of our sons (Scott and family, Jeff, and Brent) are in northern Virginia ( oldest son, Todd and family, is in Indy and daughter Stacy and family in Denver). Valorie wanted to be Grandma to two little girls across the line in Virginia...so we moved! Charles Town is in eastern WV, and is ~60 miles northwest of Washington DC. We're at the north end of the Shenandoah Valley. The Blue Ridge mountains are to the east (6mi.), and Harpers Ferry is 10 miles to the northeast, so we

are close to lots of history. In fact, Preserve at Barleywood, where we live, was part of a large land holding of Samuel Washington, George Washington's brother (Charles Town was named after another of George's brothers). Once we get settled in, we plan to do lots of visiting historical sites, plus spend lots of time enjoying the mountains. There is an open invitation to any and all to come see us if in the area....stay if you like! We have a guest room ready! Lots of wineries and breweries here... With Covid keeping us under the radar for the past nine months, the move has been the most exciting thing that we've done, so not much more to pass on....we are fortunate in the fact that we moved from a Covid hotspot to here....Elkhart County has almost 17x more Covid deaths than Jefferson County, WV where we are(274/17)..total Covid cases are over 12x more ! Plus, military pensions and social security are not taxed in WV! Just keep staying safe, as with so many other things, we'll get through this one way or another!

Yours in -kai-, Todd

# W.



**I had to post this.** Not long ago, our dear friend from a nearby class had serious cancer surgery. NOW, here he is, doing his thing in California. **Jim “Cody” Roeder.** Inspirational. (From Cal Black, 2020-12-15.) You may remember Cody from the football field. Coach Keuffel had a play where a running back joined shoulder-to-shoulder with the blocking back (that would have been a large Phi Delt named Chilowski) and blocked the contain guy. In practice, I was the contain guy, and they knocked me through the air. I was impressed.

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From the College: We encourage you to take a look at our new **Whenever.Wherever.Wabash** website, your resource for a wide range of engagement opportunities for you and your entire families. Check it out at [www.wabash.edu/www](http://www.wabash.edu/www). Bookmark this page to stay up to date on all of our offerings.

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**Wabash College 12-23-20** Not only does Wabash have the fifth-winningest football program in NCAA Division III history, it also has some of the highest academic and co-curricular rankings in the nation. It seems that winning—on and off the field—is the oldest Wabash tradition.

From our dear friend and classmate, **Ron Hill**: 1212820

Jim, Always enjoy hearing from You. Your photos tell your story and are enjoyed. You and Wabash were a special part of my life. Hard to believe that was 53 years ago.

2020 has been a strange year for us all. Who would have thought that a trip to the grocery store would be our planed outing of the week. Geri and I have both been well. Our daughter Nicole is teaching and lives in St Louis with her four Sons. Ages 20,18.16 and 9. The oldest is in his second year at a Community College. The Second oldest is on Campus at the Missouri school of Engineering. He was quarantined 3 times as a precaution his first semester. Classes have been mostly virtual for both. The 16 year old is a Sophomore and the 9 year old is a 3rd grader. Both on their laptops from our house most days. Melissa, our second daughter,lives in Boston area with her husband and 3 sons. Melissa and her husband have been working from home. Sons schooling some virtual and some in class. Our visits limited to FaceTime.

Sports, big part of the boys lives, soccer, wrestling, track and baseball ended in March. Colin a senior and his brother Carson a Freshman were on their HS Baseball team. Looking forward to playing together. Their season was called after one exhibition game. The start of Drive through graduations, birthday parties and socially distanced outdoor events. Maybe by next fall we will be able to try and restart a new normal. Stay well and have a Great 2021

Ron and Geri Hill

## ***Operation Frijoles Story Documentary 01-02-21***

Here's the link sent to the class of 1968 by the author/director **Scott Simpson**: Control/Click

<https://youtu.be/M51D8eITsbk>

Here are some **reactions from classmates**:

**John Leahy**: Great Job! Brings back fond memories.

**Jim Millikin**: Thanks for all your work. I remember a lot of the same details...I'd not heard about either Tom Allen or Steve Claffey being involved in the actual theft of the bell. Of course as a member of the class of 1968 (as is Tom) I choose to believe that version of the heist!! What an effort to put the film together ,... more than 50 years later.

**Ron Hill**: I always find the first few days of a New Year a time of reflection. The film was a great memory of our time at Wabash. Seeing your names in these E-mails has brought many more.

**Bill VanderHaar**: Some of you may have already seen this. It's interesting since it occurred at the time we were there, and I remember the event but not any details. I'm not sure how I got on Scott's list as a recipient, but glad I did. If you have more info, contact Scott directly. Happy New Year to you all. Peace.

**Mike Gallagher**: Thanks Bill, great to hear from you and happy new year! Yeah I watched the film yesterday after I received it from Scott Simpson also. Great fun!

## Buzz Madsen:

Dear Scott,

Great video!! I was initially reluctant to watch it after seeing the length of it ("Oh, there's a half hour out of my life"), but I was sucked right in and laughed out loud during your retelling of the heist. I'll share it with my DPU better half. That's sad about Jim Shanks. It's a strange phenomenon of life, that one sometimes finds out decades later that a person they knew has been dead for some length of time.

I was a sophomore at Wabash in the fall of '65. I was a FIJI living across the street from the fraternity house with three Delts, Jan Witteveld, Dick Markwald, and Steve \_\_\_\_\_ (I'll think of his last name in a bit\_\_\_\_; he became a dentist in Indianapolis, and my 55 year old memory cells are getting a bit fragile).

A couple minor points which you likely already caught. Jack Meng's last name rhymes with "bing" and "ring" with a little bit of "e" so it's not quite a dynasty. Chris Wooling's name is pronounced like "wool" and "ing." Your photo is of a '57 not a '58 Chevy. It's exactly 27 miles from Wabash to Depauw. That was important to know if you were getting your date back to DPU before curfew and their "*in loco parentis*" rules.

To the best of my recollection, it was the FIJI's late night caper that resulted in the liberation of the Monon Bell from the dastardly Dannies. Because I wasn't directly involved with the heist, I cannot say for certain, but my fraternity brothers who I would guess were most likely involved would be:

Gene Dieken. Gene was pretty quiet but a big guy and played football as a lineman. He would have been a good guy to have for the heavy lifting.

- Chris Wooling. Chris was one of the smartest people I've ever met; triple or quadruple 800 boards and a photographic memory. He was also one of the craziest. He had a Jeep. I think it was called "The Blue Booger." I think it was Chris and another FIJI who got popped for doing some off-roading through a mature corn field near Sugar Creek where we used to go party, study, fish, and etc. Sadly, Chris died wrapping his Jeep around a utility pole.
- Bob Marsh. He was Chris Wooling's roommate in an apartment down the street in the same block as the FIJI house. He also played rhythm guitar in our band, the Primates. He went to Culver. I wasn't able to locate him for our 40th reunion at Wabash. I was the Phi Gam housing unit reunion coordinator that year.
- Steve Johnson. Steve was from "the Region" and a wrestler. Known as "Beef," he had one of the two prized basement rooms. They were called "the Pit" and I don't recall the other. The rooms were off the bum room with the TV, beer machine, etc. I suspect there was a lot of plotting of one thing or another coming from those depths.
- Tim Morgan. Also a quiet guy but he was also, like Dieken, from Peoria. I'm pretty sure he played football at Wabash.
- Walt Grills. Walt was a Marine and our pledge trainer. Great guy and a good pick for black ops shenanigans.
- Steve Claffey. A natural leader, a debater, and a cool head. Later a district attorney in Indianapolis.

- Jack Meng. He became a hospital administrator in Green Bay. I believe he was fraternity president in '65-'66, and pretty much a straight arrow. Maybe he went along to post bond, shepherd the flock if it got too crazy, and so on. At first, I thought he would be an unlikely suspect, but...

It's possible they took two cars. That would explain why both Meng and Claffey's crew had Gene Dieken in their group. And why, with Gavin Lodge, I've got two cars full of possible suspects. It would also seem very cloak-and-daggerish to take two cars and switch the bell from the car that was involved with the actual heist to one perhaps parked on the edge of town. I believe I may have met Officer Whomever one night after a kegger. That was after we had driven through the backyards of some homes in Greendingle chucking out cherry bombs as we collected hanging laundry. (It seemed pretty hilarious at the time.)

I don't have my 2005 roster of 40th reunion FIJIs on my computer here in Phoenix. It's likely on my laptop in Wisconsin where we weren't able to travel this past summer because of the pandemic. Steve Bowen was the housing unit coordinator for our 50th reunion, I believe; he might have a good email contact list. I'll copy Steve, Terry Smith, and Jim Roper, to see if they can shake the bushes for some of our other FIJI classmates. And maybe they have better memories!!

Thanks for sharing your video. It brought back a lot of memories from that time. I left Wabash after that Fall '65 Semester. At that time, living off campus, playing in a band, and enjoying a full social life left me little quality time for academics. BTW, I recall I had one date with Kirkstaeter's daughter. We had a good time at a house dance at the FIJI house. Her father's nickname at Wabash--and perhaps at DPU, too--was "Crapsplatter."

Best regards, Carl J "Buzz" Madsen

Wabash, circa '68

Peter

Buzz;

You have a crisp memory. Well done.

The Chevy was distinctly a '57. I believe "Beef" now lives in Bozeman. Jack meng was also a cheerleader, fond of starting the W., W. WAB cheer in white trousers and sweater. he was responsible for pledge recruiting for our class at FIGI.

I wish you a great new year. best. P



1-09-21 **Mike Dybel** says,  
"Boo."

Refer a potential Wabash student: <https://apply.wabash.edu/register/refer>

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Wabash will face Allegheny College on **Sept. 18 in the first football game played at the new \$13-million stadium as part of the College's Homecoming celebration.** Wabash will formally dedicate its new stadium, including Frank Navarro Field, on that day. A former head football coach, Navarro led the 1977 Little Giants to the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl national championship game.

Found this online: 21 Jan 21. Bottom announcement came 1-29-21.



	<u>Rank</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Points</u>
	#1	Wabash College	41
	#2	Wartburg College	39
	#2	John Carroll University	39
	#2	Coast Guard Academy	39
	#5	Wisconsin La Crosse	35
	#6	Baldwin Wallace University	34
	#7	North Central College	32
	#8	Millikin University	29
	#9	University of Mount Union	27
	#9	Loras College	27

[www.nwcaonline.com](http://www.nwcaonline.com)

For the first time in nearly a year, the Little Giant basketball team returned to the court Saturday, Jan. 30, to take on none other than DPU. Due to COVID protocols, Wabash had a limited roster of six but played like Little Giants.

Here's the story: <https://sports.wabash.edu/news/2021/1/30/basketball-wabash-shows-its-fight-in-season-opening-loss-to-depauw.aspx>

Basketball video: <https://youtu.be/bC2Q-5xUJUQ>

And on Sunday, Jan. 31, the Wabash volleyball team teams played its inaugural match against Adrian College.

Volleyball video: <https://youtu.be/CfZtR8CGXM0>

Here's the story on the College's first volleyball team:

[https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\\_ID=11679](https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11679)

A week later, the volleyball team posted its first-ever wins by sweeping Wittenberg.

Here's the story: <https://sports.wabash.edu/news/2021/2/6/volleyball-scores-first-ever-win-with-sweep-at-wittenberg.aspx>

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Team	Set Scores		
	1	2	3
Adrian	25	25	25
Wabash	15	16	19

## 4-6-21 Volleyball Scores First-Ever Wins With Sweep at Wittenberg

02-02-21 **Mike Gallagher** Nice memories. With kids the Gallaghers have supported.



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02-04-21 Received a nice note from **Jim Altenbaumer**:

Out here in Iowa I don't have much contact with Wabash. I read your newsletters, check to see who has died. I retired in 2011 after serving congregations in Indiana, Ohio, and Iowa. My wife Anita and I will celebrate our 50th in June. We've enjoyed traveling, mostly US and Canada, but COVID has shut that down for now. The enclosed picture was taken at a nearby state park where we were able to have a one-room cabin by ourselves for a couple days last fall. Our son lives near us, in Waterloo, and our daughter lives in Mundelein, IL, where she and her husband each serve a church. She is the mother of our two grandchildren, whom we greatly enjoy. In retirement I putter around a lot; today looks like a day to shovel the driveway. I preach occasionally as a supply pastor. I've written a little, including a historical novel about the person who wrote the book of Revelation (It's not as nutty as it might sound).



We got our first vaccine yesterday. Because Anita had worked at a public health clinic in Waterloo and because my primary doctor is located there, we were included in a test run, as the clinic began to gear up to distribute the vaccine. So far, so good. Like many in the country, I suppose, we wonder what has happened to reason and civility in the country. Our health is good, and we're comfortable here, but we've looked into moving to "the home", as an old friend here calls one of the retirement centers in town. We hadn't thought much about what we'd do after retirement, but Cedar Falls is quite a good place. The University of Northern Iowa is here, and we enjoy its music, sports, and theater. I'm a member of the board of the Friends of TheatreUNI, the supporting foundation. Life is good for us.

I see you're in Colorado Springs. We have good friends in Denver and Longmont and have enjoyed several visits there. But our joy is up in Montana; Glacier is one of our favorite spots. We always take Amtrak from St Paul to Glacier's doorstep.

Thanks for inviting the input! Greetings to all the Wabash brethren! Jim

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**Summary of Jay R. Allen '79 (President of the Board) letter:** The Board of Trustees met January 29 for a series of virtual meetings – our third straight set of Zoom conversations with administrative leadership, staff, and faculty. Spring semester classes resumed on January 25. Spring semester enrollment numbers are expected to be at the same level as a year ago before the pandemic.

**Academic Affairs (Jeff Perkins '89).** Because of COVID, all senior oral comprehensive exams were conducted via Zoom.

**Advancement (Paul Woolls '75).** Overall giving to the College from July 1 to December 31, 2020 totaled \$12,605,100, which includes a \$1 million Charting the Future grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The Annual Fund, which is critical to sustaining Wabash's mission, is down slightly over last year.

**Budget and Finance (Ray LaDriere '78).** Wabash enrolls a significantly higher percentage of students from low- and middle-income families than peer schools yet loses a large number of academically strong recruits to large state universities (IU and Purdue).

**Building and Grounds (Cory Olson '85).** Construction of Little Giant Stadium is complete and a new, large parking lot on the west side of campus will be developed over the summer.

**Honorary Degree (Bob Grand '78).** Emeritus Professor Melissa Butler H'85 and former President Gregory Hess will receive Honorary Degrees during Commencement.

**Investment Policy (Ray Jovanovich '84).** The value of the College's endowment at the time of our meeting was approximately \$362 million, which is very close to its record high.

**Trusteeship (John Fox '64)** Please watch your email for an electronic ballot for NAWM Board of Directors and Alumni Trustee positions – the ballot will go out late this month.

**While our challenges are many, prudent stewardship of our resources and smart investments in the young men enrolled at Wabash are at the core of every decision we make.**

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Please send updates if you can. How did you dance with the draft? What are you up to now? Still working? Family? Got pictures? We would all like to hear about your post-Wabash experiences. Or any stories you are finally willing to tell about the Wabash days. Circle 18 September Homecoming. I hope to see you there.

WAF **Jim Roper '68**