

Class of 1968

Class Agent
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Dear Friends in the Class of 1968,

Your class letter is admittedly a bit obtuse—something for everybody—this time. It contains a LOT about what's happening at Wabash, since Hugh Vandivier '91 of Advancement has energetically provided a ton of good information for you. Helped the letter quickly grow to 10 pages. Also, too much sad news to report. Please send me your **stories and pictures**, so I may include more of them in a brighter letter. You'll see a few significant changes to the landscape at the 'Bash. I missed last year's Homecoming due to a funeral, but let's all come "Home" next year! I wish you all the very best!

Jim Roper '68



11-30-19 Thanksgiving Photo of Mike Gallagher and his clan. Nice.

11-25-19 Lee Cline Obituary-- a class of '65 Beta, and always the champion alumnus recruiter for Wabash. Wabash College has learned that Lee Cline passed away on November 15. His obituary follows: Lee Williamson Cline was born June 19, 1944 in Fort Sills, Okla., to Glenn Williamson Cline and Virginia Jo McCarter Cline. He departed this life Nov.15, 2019, after fighting cancer for five years. Visitation and funeral services were Monday at Memory Chapel in Laurel. Lee Williamson Cline Lee enjoyed his profession as a lawyer, anything Wabash College and reading. He was a faithful member of St. John Episcopal Church in Laurel. He will be remembered most for the work he did with Wabash College with recruitment and mentoring young men. He took a lot of pride helping those men and made life-long friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Glenn Williamson Cline and Virginia Jo Cline; and infant son Nathaniel H. Cline He is survived by his loving wife and best friend Betty Cline; daughter Meghan Cline Rotter; grandchildren Daniel and Emma Rotter; son Christopher B. Cline; and grandchild Stormie Cline.



Scott Klika visits the Angor Wat in Cambodia (above) and Luang Prabang, Laos (below). **[What an amazing and wonderful itinerary.** Scott, we'll have to chat again. Seam Reap was in Rouge-land when I served in the Khmer Republic. And I lived in Luang Prabang before the roads were paved!]



Steven J. Klein -- Not in the class of '68, but many of us knew this great guy as a friend and quiet but most accomplished leader on the staff at Wabash.

Steven J. Klein May 7, 1955 ~ November 29, 2019 (age 64)

Obituary



Steven J Klein of Battle Creek passed away peacefully at home on November 29, 2019 as a result of cardiac amyloidosis. He was 64 years old. Mr. Klein is survived by his wife of 37 years, Anita Klein of Battle Creek; a daughter, Allison Eskinazi (Mike) of Baltimore, MD, a son, Garrett Klein of Lafayette, IN; a sister, Laurie Klein of Mill Valley, CA; and father, Earl Klein of Yonkers, NY. He also is survived by many cherished in-laws; and several dozen nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his mother, Sally Klein. Mr. Klein recently retired as Vice President for Enrollment Management at Albion College. Prior to Albion, he served as the chief enrollment officer at Wabash College (IN) for 17 years-the longest tenure in that role in the

College's 188-year history. During that time Wabash set records for applications and enrolled students. Earlier in his higher education career, Mr. Klein held positions at the University of Virginia and Shippensburg University (PA). He received his Bachelors degree from Cornell University, where he was a member and officer of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and a resident advisor. Mr. Klein also held a Masters degree from Indiana University. Outside of career and family, Mr. Klein was active in Crawfordsville's Mentoring Program, that area's United Way program, Crawfordsville Main Street and Kiwanis. He was a member of the Wabash College 1832 Society, a Life Member of the University of Virginia Alumni Association and in the Guardian Circle of US Aid for UNICEF. Locally, he was a Board Member of Temple B'nai Israel of Kalamazoo. Mr. Klein previously served as Chair of the Hillel Advisory Board at the University of Virginia and the Lafayette Jewish Community Religious School in Indiana. A life-long fan of the New York Mets, Mr. Klein was present at Shea Stadium on October 16, 1969 when the "Miracle" Mets won their first World Series. Other hobbies have included landscaping, fitness, tennis and following national politics. He also coached youth soccer in Shippensburg for four years. A memorial service is planned for Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 1:00pm in the Goodrich Chapel, Albion College. The family will also be sitting Shiva at their home on Monday December 9th and Tuesday December 10th from 4:00-7:00pm. Minyan will be at 6:30pm both days. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Albion College, the National Baseball Hall of Fame (Cooperstown, NY) or Temple B'nai Israel. Arrangements were entrusted to Kempf Family Funeral and Cremation Services, 2838 Capital Ave SW, Battle Creek, MI 49068. Please visit <https://www.kempffuneralhome.com> to view the on line obituary, sign the on line guest book or leave condolences to the family.

I received this note from Cal Black '66, reinforcing what I have always believed about Wabash and Depauw.

Men of Wabash,

This email was sent to me by Scott Olmstead, father of Olmy '04 who is our offensive line coach. Scott does video work for Ohio State, but he never misses a Wabash game. He takes hundreds of pictures of the Wabash games and never will take anything in return. He is a man of character and pride, and I always welcome his evaluations of Wabash events. This email should make all of us very proud of what is going on at Wabash. WAF!

Cal Black '66

Thanks for the email. It was nice to have a Saturday "off" to relax at home and watch the Buckeyes versus Michigan. You know that I enjoyed that game. After traveling to and from football games so many weeks in a row, eleven in all, it was nice to have a Saturday morning that we did not have to wake up at 4:30 to get ready to travel to the game.

Man-O-Man, I will tell you the DePauw parking/ tailgating situation was an absolute train wreck. We were the very first vehicle to arrive at 6:00am and the campus police, as well as local police, did everything in their power to screw with us. *It was a nightmare!* There are far too many stories to write them all down here. I love the police, but these guys were simply out of control! As I commented, they could ruin our tailgate but they could not take away the fact that we had the Bell (at that time of morning).

However, I will tell you two observations that I walked away with from the 126th Monon Bell Classic. In 2016 when DePauw won the Monon Bell in Crawfordsville, as we drove back to our hotel we passed by the DePauw parking lot. By that time of night it was completely empty, at least the cars and people were gone. I simply could not believe what I was seeing. I saw a parking lot that was so buried in trash I do not believe you could see one inch of asphalt pavement. It was loaded with trash and it was deep. You would have thought that they saved up all of their trash from the previous year to dump it on the Wabash campus. I was told Wabash had to get two front loading bobcats to clear away all of the trash. If I had not had my In-Laws with me, I would have stopped and taken some photographs to accompany a letter to the DePauw University President. It was an absolute embarrassment.

STORY 1 - As this years loss came to a conclusion it took me a little extra time to pack up all of my camera gear into my wagon. Let's just say the shock of the game left me moving slower than normal. As I departed the stadium, I looked around one final time. That is when I saw members of the Sphinx Club walking row by row thru the Wabash side of the stands with trash bags in hand picking up trash. Picking up trash IN BLACKSTOCK STADIUM!!!! These are young men that want to get on with their lives as much as the next person, but no, they were cleaning up the opposing teams stadium!

STORY 2 - Still moving a little sluggish after the game, we were about the last vehicle to leave the Wabash designated tailgate / parking area. Do you want to guess what I witnessed?!? You guessed it, I saw *EVEN MORE* members of the Sphinx Club walking with trash bags and trash barrels in hand cleaning up the parking lot of the Wabash fans. Do you think maybe these kids would have liked to return back to campus to enjoy a beverage after a hard loss, but no, they were cleaning up OUR parking area on *THEIR CAMPUS*.

Of course I would have liked to have won the game, but what I witnessed spoke volumes to me, VOLUMES!!! They say true charity or acts of kindness occur when no one is watching. I seriously doubt that anyone from DePauw even noticed. BUT I DID!!! I mentioned the story to one of the coaches later that evening. He followed up my story by telling me a DePauw maintenance person was in the Wabash locker room as the team was ready to depart for home. This DePauw person mentioned that the locker room was cleaner following the game than before Wabash even got off the bus to initially enter the locker room, cleaner than they had found it.

Like I said, I want to win the game, but I'll gladly embrace my stories from the 126th Monon Bell Classic.

WABASH ALWAYS FIGHTS!

I hope that you will stop in for a visit:

www.scottolmsteadphotography.com

* * *

Giving to Wabash :

- Email: giving@wabash.edu
- Phone: 877-743-4545
- Online: www.wabash.edu/give

Demolition on **Hollett Stadium** started on December 16, and they've already removed the visitor's stands. Bricks will be retrieved and available for sale later.

Wanna watch??? (control/click:)

https://public.earthcam.net/tJ90CoLmq7TzrY396Yd88OKDI5xTmNWkuuuW4RgawYw/wabash_college/camera_1/view_1



12/08/19 Wabash captured five individual titles and 23 top-eight finishes at Saturday's non-scoring Indiana Little State Wrestling Tournament hosted by Marian University. (JR notes: I recall 3rd was the best I could do in Little State. Mark Sutton did better!)

* * *

For Scarlet Honors Weekend (which replaced Honor Scholars), Admissions reports 238 registered, which is up from last year. They're also reporting increases in applications, admits, and deposits from this time last year.



NEW CAMPUS GATEWAY

September 27, 2019 The new entryway (at left) takes shape. In fact, the new campus entrance – the [Wabash Gateway Project](#) – was officially dedicated on Friday, Oct. 4.

Work began in June on the gateway with the goal of providing visitors with a clearer sense of arriving on campus, improving existing foot-traffic pathways, and to more closely link the College and the Crawfordsville community.



To further that link, matching street lighting will be installed along the edges of the Fuller Arboretum on the west side of Grant Avenue. This lighting will run parallel to the Downtown Loop Trail, a paved, landscaped, and lighted 10-foot-wide pedestrian and bike path connecting the College to the downtown. That work is scheduled to be completed in early winter.

The Wabash Gateway Project has been generously funded by several members of the Wabash Board of Trustees, and will be dedicated in honor of Remington A. Johnston III '55.

JR sez: Looks very nice, but I'll have to check to see if the begonias are still there!

* * *

The Professional Development Team released their Outcomes Report for the Class of 2019 with 99.5% of securing their First Destination by 6 months after graduation. The national average for students graduating from a 4-year institutions is 66%, and our colleagues at GLCA schools have an average of 74%. The Class of 2020 is well on its way. As of December 2, 12% of the class has secured a 1st Destination. I have attached a chart to distribute to your classmates.

* * *



[December 17, 2010](#)

[Beth Swift](#) Posted in [Dear Old Wabash](#)

As we approach Christmas there are always a few movies on my must see list each year...*It's a Wonderful Life* – to remind me that I am really pretty lucky. *Holiday Inn* to remind me how much I love to watch Fred Astaire dance, Bing Crosby sing and for the first use of Irving Berlin's song *White Christmas* in a film. And, of course the 1954 Technicolor *White Christmas* to remind me of just how wonderful the big production Hollywood musicals could be...all of those wonderful costumes, fabulous sets and marvelous show tunes... Imagine my surprise a few years ago when I learned that one of the characters in this film, **General Waverly, was a Wabash man!**

Ira Dean Jagger Wabash 1925

Dean Jagger was born in Lima, Ohio in 1903. He was raised on a farm not far from Fort Wayne, Indiana. He graduated from high school at a very young age, attended a Normal School (teacher's college) and was granted a license to teach students up to eighth grade.

At the age of 22, Jagger enrolled at Wabash where he joined the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. In 1927 Jagger heard about an acting school in Chicago and took off to follow his dreams. Jagger spent some time doing theater with a players group from Michigan, then landed in New York. In 1929 he made his first movie, "Woman from Hell" at the Fox Studios, which was the last silent picture made in Hollywood.

It was in the mid 30's that Jagger hit his stride as a character actor. From 1934 to 1937 Jagger appeared in 20 movies, including one that would be a big hit with many of our students today, "Revolt of the Zombies". In 1949 Jagger won the "Best Supporting Actor" Oscar for his role in "12 o'clock High" and in 1958 played Elvis Presley's father in the movie "King Creole".

All in all Jagger appeared in nearly 80 films and dozens of television shows as well. But it was his portrayal of Brigham Young in the bio pic of the same name that may have had the most impact on his personal life. When the movie premiered, the president of the Church of the Latter Day Saints praised Jagger for his portrayal of the Mormon leader. This began a friendship and in 1972 Jagger was baptized into the LDS church. It was through this connection that Jagger's papers and movie memorabilia went to the Lee Library at Brigham Young University. So if you happen to catch "White Christmas" this year, look for the General...

We will be out of the office over the holidays, but rest assured, "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas...just like the ones I used to know..."
Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Beth Swift
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To learn more about Wabash history:
<https://blog.wabash.edu/dearoldwabash/author/swiftb/>

Since most of our class served in the military, you will surely remember Dean Jagger's character in "12 O'Clock High." He was the calm admin officer while many aircrews were losing their right minds against impossible odds, and then he was caught after he sneaked aboard a B-17 for a taste of combat. We used that movie at Air War College in the early 1990's, in discussion of the cost of daylight "precision" bombing.

It's been too long since we heard from Bruce Malcolm Gras: 12-19-19



Hi Jim, Good Morning, I hope this email finds you and your family well. This is just a quick note to reconnect. It has been a tough passage for me for the last three years. In the course of various treatments, my heart stopped twice, once for 56 seconds and again for 94 seconds, while getting help for my kidneys and barely holding on through pancreatic cancer experimental programs. While those two times were very near death, I do have to report that there is no bright white light, just a scary darkness. The strain also brought my heart to its knees. I have had a couple of stents put into my heart's arteries, and when that was not enough, I underwent open heart surgery for a double bypass procedure. Sadly, while I made through all that, my marriage did not survive. It broke down from all the uncertainties and the

resulting stress. All that aside, I am healed and healthy, and a bachelor again (and I could use some tips for life in that situation, maybe from classmates?, since it has been so long since I was last solo). More importantly though, I thank the Lord that I am still among the living, even though that was in serious doubt for such a very long time. More later, all the best, **Bruce '68**

Did You Know? Wabash On My Mind Podcast Each week, Richard Paige interviews Wabash students, faculty, alumni, and campus visitors on a wide range of topics. You can see the full library and listen right from the website at <http://wabashcollege.libsyn.com/> or download it wherever you get your podcasts. Have an idea for a topic or person for the podcast? Contact Richard Paige at paiger@wabash.edu or 765-361-6377.



From Van and Mary Butler: Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from us to you!

We've had a wonderful year, and are continually grateful for the blessings of love, faith, good friends, good health, and a beautiful world, making every day an adventure. We wish you a 2020 of deep joy and peace. With love,
Mary and Van

GIANT STEPS CAMPAIGN AS OF 01-02-20
\$180,446,879 Raised of \$225,000,000
80% to Goal

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I was info-ed on the following message. More sad news.

From: Mark Sutton
December 24, 2019 at 8:22:37 AM EST

Sure not the news one would hope to receive on the day before Christmas, Weems; but I do appreciate your making me aware Bob's passing. As you can see, I'm relaying our correspondence to our fraternity brothers on my normal mailing list, as well as class agent, Jim Roper. (I'm assuming you also notified Nick since he was in that photo you attached.)

Sadly, we are at that age when such news will become increasingly more frequent. And I can't help but be inspired to make the best of that time we have left; and to appreciate that we are lucky to be able to do so.

Stay well, Brother,
Mark



From: Jim Williams

Mark --

Attached is a picture of Bob, me, and Nick Pitz at my wedding in 1968.

Our pledge brother/classmate Bob Dawson died today. His wife, Besse, called to let me know. I thought some of our fellow pledge brothers might like to know.

Bob had suffered from Alzheimer's for some time but took a very bad turn recently. He was in hospice for a week. He'd previously elected not to have any feeding or hydration. Besse said she had a

good visit with him this morning. He died sometime after noon. There will be no service. Besse put his obituary in the Houston Chronicle because of his long association with Rice University.

<https://www.legacy.com/amp/obituaries/houstonchronicle/194803441>

Wabash College President Gregory D. Hess and Acting Dean of the College Todd McDorman announced the promotion and tenure of five faculty members. Professors Bradley Carlson (Biology), Matthew Carlson (Philosophy), Damon Mohl (Art), Annie Strader (Art), and Heidi Walsh (Biology) all successfully completed the tenure process and will assume the rank of associate professor at the 187-year-old liberal arts institution.

Did anyone else watch the Alonzo Stagg Bowl D3 Championship Game? Great game. For those who were able to choke down the loss to Depauw, this game made the Wabash football season seem a bit better than it appeared. As NCAC Champs, Wabash played North Central College and lost that first-round game. BUT, North Central beat Mt Union in the second round and went on to meet and defeat Wisconsin-Whitewater in the referenced Championship Game. North Central's only regular season loss was to Wheaton College, traditionally tough. **It was funny at the time:** Waaaay back in the day (when we were in high school), the Junior High Football Coach at Hammond Gavit was Coach Nick. We, on the HS Varsity at the time, called him "No-Neck Nick," but not to his face of course. He was a young, sturdy guy, a good coach, and a friend. One afternoon his Junior High team was losing a game he thought they should be winning. At halftime, I watched as he had his team line up along the goal line, and he marched down the line, giving a forearm to the chest of each player, knocking them all down on their rears. Didn't say anything. His team won. Soon after, Nick went on to the football coaching staff at North Central College. I'm not sure he could use that tactic anymore, but it worked back then. I met Nick again when North Central's wrestling team came to Crawfordsville. Yeah, we won!

Received a nice note from **Al and Barbara McElfresh**. Al enjoys his weekly golf and is President of his HOA. He makes monthly trips from home in Venice, FL, to board meetings in New Jersey. All is well.

This arrived from **R. William VanderHaar**:

Dear Friends -



*We wish you a very Merry Christmas
We also hope 2020 brings you health, happiness, and God's love and
peace.*

Peace

Bill, Gabi and Hope

Thanks, Bill and Gabi and Hope. That's a good note to end on.

Best regards to the class of '68!

Jim Roper '68