

# Wabash.

**Class of 1968**

**Class Agent – Jim Roper**

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## Class Agents Letter

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July 8, 2019

**Dear Friends in the Class of 1968,**

It's that time again. Here's another letter. I hope all goes well where you are, and you are benefitting from the latest technology in health screens. Here in Colorado we're still recovering from eighteen inches of heavy May snow, that pulled a ton of large limbs down. Not sure those trees will survive.

If you like what you see here, please join the fray and send your update with a photo. They make these letters better and easier to complete. Take good care!

**Jim Roper '68**

**From Nick Pitz:**



Hi Jim!

The last part of the letter you sent after our 50th reunion was for me prophetic. You said, "Be sure to get your yearly scans and checkups" or something similar. After a referral from our family doctor, I am now a prostate cancer survivor and recovering well.

Started skiing again on Jan. 21 and am trying to prepare for skiing with our son in Switzerland in March. We



were in Winter Park over Christmas, but that was too soon for skiing after my surgery. We had fun as a family regardless. If we come back to ski Summit County, I will give you advanced warning.



Our 50th was truly memorable, and I have lots of pictures to prove it. My only regrets are that I didn't see enough classmates outside of my fraternity and could have attended more of the planned events if not for schedule constraints. My thanks to all who did so much to make it happen.

While I continue to teach German part time on both sides of the Mississippi and serve on the Program Committee of the German-American Heritage Center in Davenport, there are no guarantees for work next year. Maybe I could just retire?

Your report of Jeff Moon's death saddened me because we had some great discussions on campus about education and a myriad other things. He was obviously a highly regarded teacher and a great conversationalist. I hope that all of us can continue to enjoy good health and the things which make life meaningful.

**Nick Pitz**

**Wabash Wrestling Team is rated number 4 in the country. Yeah!**



To view the latest Wrestling Newsletter control/click on the link below

[January 2019 Wrestling Newsletter](#)

Feb 09 2019 Wabash won four individual titles and earned 27 top-six places to capture the team title at the 2019 Mid-States Wrestling Tournament held Saturday at Alma College.

[Wabash College Athletics](#)

02-09-2019

The Wabash track and field team turned in four first-place finishes Saturday to win the team title at the 2019 DePauw Indoor Invitational. <https://sports.wabash.edu/.../wabash-wins-depauw-indoor-track...>



02-11-19 And where would we be without a Mike Dybel enigmatic photo? Photos?



First boxing lesson with Victor Shilove, welter weight Golden Gloves Chicago champion '89 and '90, U. S. National champ '93 and '00, Europe Champ '96 and '99, and World Champ Kansas '04 and '08.

### Wabash College Athletics

02-16-19

Jack Davidson broke the all-time, all-divisions NCAA record for consecutive free throws made, ending his streak at 95 in a Wabash 89-76 win at home over Oberlin.







Dan Vannatter 4-6-19



Wabash College Athletics - April 26 at 6:39 PM ·

Wabash College 174-pound national champion Darden Schurg has been named the 2019 d3wrestle.com Wrestler of the Year. Schurg joins Riley Lefever as the second Little Giant to earn the award.



**Jim Dashiell**

10 May

Some pics of beautiful Reelfoot Lake in TN. My friend, **Jim Elder**, and I spread some ashes of our friend **Jim Cromer**, at his family's request, there this week. The fishing was poor but the trip was rich in meaning to us.

**Wabash.**

Class of 2019

**1<sup>st</sup> Destination Secured  
by Graduation**

**87%**

National Average at 6-months: 64%

**First of May I had a nice visit from Al McElfresh**, who was in Colorado with his lovely bride on a trip for business. Same Al we all know and love. We sat in the bleachers in windy 35-degree snow showers and watched my senior son get RBIs at The Classical Academy High School. Then, only half-frozen, we proceeded to Pine Creek High School to watch my junior son hit his classic doubles. Sorry, Al, I'm afraid I was not much of a host. Right now our lives are about baseball. We'll do better next time. Please come again. Al also visited **Dr. John Hudson and Dot**, who are moving, Boulder to Broomfield. Life is good.

### **IF you missed the letter from Jay Allen, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, here are**

**highlights:** In spite of the cold, drizzling conditions, we celebrated an impressive 198-member graduating class and two outstanding Honorary Degree recipients: Mauri A. Ditzler '75 and Robert H. Johnson H'77. Quinn Cavin and Jaleel Grandberry gave Commencement addresses that were inspiring and thoughtful. It is, indeed, an accomplished class: 87% have already settled in to their first destination plans — whether in jobs, graduate or professional schools, or service. Five members of the class received prestigious Fulbright Fellowships and another four earned Robert Orr Fellowships (Wabash has had 22 graduates receive Fulbrights since 2014).

Of those incoming students who have declared a potential major, 42 indicated interest in one of the College's new majors — Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) and Computer Science.

The Giant Steps Campaign, which went public on November 9, has raised \$161 million in gifts, pledges, and bequests to date on the way to a goal of \$225 million.

The Campus Plan recommends a new campus center/dining hall, renovation of Lilly Library, and improvements to Center Hall as top priorities, and contemplates locations for new student housing, academic/IT facilities, and parking.

The value of the College's endowment is approximately \$325 million, which is a 6.4% increase since Strategic Investment Group began managing the endowment nearly three years ago. The growth rate may seem modest, but it's important to know that Wabash's endowment draw has provided \$50 million to the operating budget during that time period. Reducing the draw rate will allow our endowment to grow at a faster rate.

**Posted to FACEBOOK, May 22, by Rudy Altergott, Class Agent for 2013:**

**Morehouse graduate "motivated to go change the world" after billionaire wipes out students' loans**



#### **Rudy Altergott comments:**

May 20 at 11:05 AM ·

Along with Wabash and Hampden-Sydney, Morehouse is one of the last all-male colleges in the country. Hard for me not to smile when I see this. Onward and Upward.





[Jim Dashiell](#)

May 20 at 2:36 PM ·

Great Reunion Party at Jim and Sue Dashiell's home last week to welcome back Al Olsavsky for the evening. Al and Jim left the next morning for Virginia to join up with other hikers who have done the entire Appalachian Trail.

## **I received a change of address from Dr. Dave Cook—moving to Carmel:**

Lynda and I are settling into a new house, somewhat under protest. St. Vincent Hospitals here in Indy has decided that they need another new facility had have bought up pretty much all the land on the north (Carmel/Hamilton County) side of 96th Street between Meridian Street and Williams Creek a mile to the west. The buy-out includes the 13 homes in our former neighborhood - all to be bulldozed into oblivion. We had thought that our next home would be a nursing home or funeral home, but not to be. It was a choice of accepting a check for more than the appraised value and moving or staying and living on the edge of a parking lot with a 500 bed hospital 100 feet from our property line and ambulances and helicopters routinely rattling the windows. Not a happy choice, but not a tough one. We've been in high gear getting the new place whipped into shape and hope to have it largely wrapped up before heading off on a trip to Alaska followed by a cruise down the coast to Vancouver in mid-June through early July.

Dave



Just in case Mike Dybel is not your Facebook friend and you missed this:

**Michael Dybel** 6-1-2019 Visiting Class of '69 TKE fraters at Wabash College on their 50th class reunion. L to R - Dybel, Hanson, Sallot, Snodgrass, Whitmer, Fox, and Moak!

## **Wabash College**

6-19-19

NEW MAJOR: Thanks to an incredible gift from Tom '73 and Anne B. Walsh, the College will begin offering the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) major in the 2019-20 academic year.

The Walsh gift to the Giant Steps Campaign establishes a fully-endowed professorship; Dr. Nicholas Snow has been appointed to the position.

[https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\\_ID=11446](https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11446)

Jim Roper adds: FWIW: I did research for a masters degree at the PP&E Library at Oxford, which was just down the road from Upper Heyford where the Air Force had placed me. In those days (pre-word-processor) PP&E was one of the few libraries in the world that claimed to hold every book in print. You had to sign a promise to behave and not chew gum. You would request the desired reference, and in an hour or so it would be delivered. One day the guy next to me ordered a copy of the Times (as I recall) from the 1500's. And it showed up. Amazing. A class act. Hope this new Major works.





Wabash Swimming and Diving Earns Scholar All-America Team Recognition

Read the web story at the link below.

<https://sports.wabash.edu/news/2019/6/25/swimming-diving-wabash-swimming-and-diving-earns-scholar-all-america-team-recognition.aspx?fbclid=IwAR0JnI9Oj9HNvZC5UdiWKCIAFd5MR52gdLA48tmjc20eQU0YoidDFEJ-jNM>

## WABASH GATEWAY PROJECT BEGINS CONSTRUCTION

by Ryan Horner • June 17, 2019  Share: Facebook Tweet LinkedIn Email

The vision for a new “front door” for Wabash College began in 2016 when the City of Crawfordsville began planning its Stellar Communities Downtown Loop Trail project. During that process, the College partnered with the city to reimagine the relationship—and the pathways—between the two.

This week crews began work on the Wabash Gateway Project, which is expected to be completed in October. The goal of the Gateway Project is to provide visitors with a clearer sense of arrival on campus, to improve existing foot traffic pathways, and to more closely link the College and the city.



**Just Sayin’** ... The Roper home has had a baseball focus for many good years. This year our twins played Little League in a cold spring season and the older boys lettered at different high schools. So many terrific life-lessons in baseball. My favorite: “It’s the next pitch, not the last one!” My son, Matthew, graduated this year, but he played on the 4A Colorado Springs All-Star team that beat the Northern Colorado All-Stars 8-3. He played LF, pitched one scoreless inning with 2 Ks, and drove in a run with a single. His younger brother Joshua, 16, catcher, pitcher, infielder, got a call one Saturday from a former coach who was affiliated with a California competitive team, playing a tourney in Phoenix. They had some injuries and were down to nine players. “Can Josh play? We’ll send a plane ticket.” We said yes, but he had to play in his current 18U tourney championship game on Sunday. So I took Josh to the Denver airport Sunday night. In Arizona Josh pitched a total of 8 innings on Monday and Thursday, with zero earned runs, and 4 Ks. Monday he drove in the only run the team scored. Wednesday he played infield, had a single and hit the last pitch of the game 3-feet short of the LF fence. Three feet more for a walk-off. Woulda coulda shoulda. Joshua played a FiveTool tourney in Denver last weekend. He was “Dude of the Day” twice! From their web: “In Game 2 from DAB Dillion, Eagles Baseball blanked ABA 2022 Navy, 1-0. Josh Roper earned player of the game after striking out three batters in seven innings on the mound. Roper allowed one hit and zero runs.” He’s having fun and representing himself and Colorado well. Yeah, we’re proud.



**Above: Josh, Seth, Will. Left: Matt**

Sooooo, I’m gonna call this a wrap. If you have an update—like this one about my vicarious baseball life—please send it! Photos too!

With our 50<sup>th</sup>, we did very well in contributing to Wabash. It has fallen since! If you haven’t and intended to, please do, since the Giant Steps campaign to grow the endowment is fully underway.

Get those health screens. July is my month to get all that done, and if I can submit to the medicos, anybody can! Have fun! Be safe!

**Jim Roper ‘68**