

### Class of 1968

**Class Agent**  
**Jim Roper**

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### Dear Friends in the Class of 1968,

I hope things are normalizing where you are. We are doing fine about 1100 miles west of C'ville. Colorado is still enjoying a great summer. As always, if you have a free moment, please drop a line about what you are up to, the latest photo of yourself & family. Kids, pets, spouses—we'll pass the word. Your classmates want to know. Meanwhile, take good care of yourself. WAF.

**Jim Roper '68**

**From Nick Pitz**

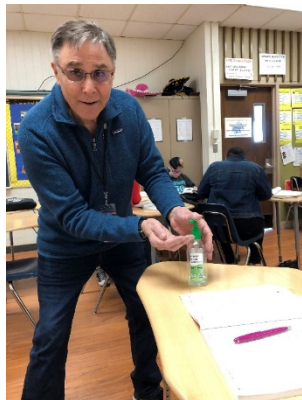
Hi Jim!

6-25-2021

Ten days ago I handed in my keys, computer, and school ID to Davenport Community Schools. Now begins the second retirement. After teaching for 45 years in three countries and surviving the pandemic, I have decided that it's time. It has been a rewarding ride.

At the German-American Heritage Center in Davenport, I still plan to volunteer and work on the program committee. (Four years ago Wabash religion professor Derek Nelson gave a talk on Martin Luther to a packed program room to start our series marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.)

Since the world is opening up again, we hope to do more traveling. Will let you know if we get to CO to play in the snow.



Barbara and I celebrate the end of (my) radiation therapy. >

< Here's Nick. Looking good after 2 careers.





**Mike Dybel** turns 75. Complete with cake! We're with you, Mike!

Also ...08032021 On July 18, 2021, we ventured east from Reykjavik on the Golden Circle route. We visited the World Heritage Site of Thingvellir National Park where Iceland's first National Assembly was founded in 930 A.D., the Gullfoss waterfall (Golden Falls), and the Haukadalur geothermal area.



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Designed as a comprehensive campaign to allow alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, and friends to impact all Wabash students, gifts to the College between July 1, 2017-June 30, 2023 count toward the \$225 million Giant Steps goal. This includes all unrestricted gifts to the College's Annual Fund.



Wabash College President Scott E. Feller expressed his gratitude to the alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends who donated more than \$3.6 million to the College's Annual Fund in 2020-21. It marked the highest annual fundraising total in history.



7-31-2021

The Wabash College baseball team received the Team Academic Excellence Award from American Baseball Coaches Association in an announcement on Thursday. Wabash earned the recognition after posting a

3.35 team grade point average for the 2020-2021 academic year. The ABCA honors high school and college programs with a team GPA of 3.0 or higher for the entire year.

**Mike Gallagher 08062021**

My almost hole in one today, 1 foot birdie putt.



JR adds: Nice!

AND 9-10-21

Oswego New York today golfing with brother Tom- and cousins Bill and Patrick Gallagher- who I had not seen in 62 years!!!



8-9-21 And a Happy Birthday to my “neighbor” ,

**Van Butler**, in Durango.

THEN, on 8-23-21: A hole-in-one.



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Wabash College continues to be ranked in the Top Tier of National Liberal Arts Colleges according to U.S. News & World Report in its annual Best Colleges rankings, which were released Monday. Data was collected on 1,466 colleges and universities in the report.

by Jim Amidon • August 20, 2021

**Joseph O'Rourke, Jr.**, who taught speech and debate at Wabash for 37 years, has died at the age of 93.

Affectionately nicknamed “Papa Joe” by his adoring students, O'Rourke joined the Wabash faculty in 1960 and taught continuously until his retirement in 1997. Together with Vic Powell, they produced generations of articulate communicators and brilliant lawyers, as well as state and national debate champs. O'Rourke chaired the Speech Department (now Rhetoric) for 20 years.



### **Joe O'Rourke**

He was born May 11, 1928 in Davenport, Iowa and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from Southwest High School in 1946, after which he enlisted in the Army and served as part of the General HQ staff during the occupation of Japan.

After his service, Joe returned to attend the University of Missouri for undergraduate studies and enlisted in the ROTC program. While at Missouri, he met the love of his life, Beverly Miller, while both were working together in the Theater Department.

Upon Graduation in 1952, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and served as an Information and Education Officer with multiple assignments stateside. Joe and Bev were married in 1952 and stood united for the next 66 years until Bev's passing in March of 2018.

Joe began his teaching career in Speech and Theater at the University of Hawaii-Hilo from 1954-1956, after which he returned to University of Missouri to teach while earning a master's degree and Ph.D.

Bev and Joe moved to Crawfordsville in 1960 for what Joe described as "a temporary assignment." But the two of them fell in love with West Central Indiana and would spend the rest of their lives at Wabash in Crawfordsville.

Joe was very active in the community, serving in Kiwanis and at his church, St. John's Episcopal Church. He helped launch the Sugar Creek Players and Vanity Theater, was a leader of the Montgomery County Democrats, and was a founding member of the Montgomery County Leadership Academy. He was also instrumental in launching the Opportunities to Learn About Business program at Wabash.

At his retirement ceremony in 1997, friends from campus and alumni across five decades of Wabash alumni gathered to celebrate his accomplishments. Long-time Wabash Magazine Editor Steve Charles captured the event – and Joe's impact on Wabash students – perfectly in his [coverage of Joe's retirement ceremony](#). Follow-up letters from alumni appeared in a subsequent issue of Wabash Magazine, which included some of [O'Rourke's famous witticisms](#).

He is survived by son Jerry (Linda) O'Rourke; grandsons Jonathan (Stacy) O'Rourke, Colin (Kristin) O'Rourke, and Christopher O'Rourke; niece Leslie Griffith and nephews Todd (Sue) and David (Susan) Griffith; and many great nephews.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Joseph O'Rourke, Jr. Award in Rhetoric, which is presented to the graduating senior with the best senior project in the Rhetoric Department. Gifts may be made through the Wabash Advancement Office, 301 West Wabash Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, [online at wabash.edu/give](https://wabash.edu/give), or by phone at 877-743-4545. Online condolences are welcome at [www.llescares.com](https://www.llescares.com).

A private funeral is planned for Saturday, September 4 at St. John's Episcopal Church. [Friends can watch a livestream of the service.](#)

A celebration of Papa Joe's life will be held in Spring 2022.

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**Lee Grogg** – 08-26-21

For my birthday this year, I'm asking for donations to Ryther. I've chosen this nonprofit because their mission means a lot to me, and I hope you'll consider contributing as a way to celebrate with me. Every little bit will help me reach my goal. I've included information about Ryther below.

Ryther provides exceptional therapeutic services to young people who are struggling emotionally and behaviorally so they may find a path to healing and hope.

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by Richard Paige • August 31, 2021

The Princeton Review continues to rank Wabash College among the best institutions nationally for undergraduate education in its annual college guide. Inclusion in The Princeton Review's Best 387 Colleges demonstrates that Wabash ranks among the top 15 percent of more than 2,500 U.S.-based four-year colleges. Wabash was one of seven schools nationally to be ranked on 10 or more of the publication's "Great Lists."

Great-Run Colleges (20 schools listed)

Great Professors (21 schools listed)

Great Professor Accessibility (23 schools listed)

Great Classroom Experience (28 schools listed)

Great Financial Aid (29 schools listed)

Great Career Services (17 schools listed)

Great Athletic Facilities (25 schools listed)

Great Intramurals (24 schools listed)

Great College Newspaper (26 schools listed)

Students Who Study the Most (27 schools listed)

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From **Cal Black**, regarding Jim "Cody" Roeder, '66, a friend to many in our class.

With a heavy heart and great sadness, I write to let you know that our brother Cody Roeder passed away yesterday, 8/31/21, after a very courageous battle with cancer. I have been in regular contact with Babs for several months while Jim's condition declined. Jim's determination, courage, attitude and continued sense of humor are what made him such a special person. Before he passed he told Babs he wanted to go out with his socks and boots on and he wanted to have his Wabash hat with him. She said all of those things happened. Cody Roeder-SOME BETA AND SOME LITTLE GIANT! -kai- Cal

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### **From Wabash: Thanks for a Record Year!**

Thanks to all of you who made a gift last fiscal year and encouraged your classmates to make one as well. Fueled by a record Day of Giving in April, you contributed to the highest annual fundraising total in Wabash's history. We ended up just 215 alumni donors shy of 45%, so it gives us a focus for this year. Here's the full story: [https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\\_ID=11765](https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11765)

### **Future Wabash Students**

Admissions reports that alumni referrals were down last year, so please encourage your classmates to recommend brothers, sons, nephews, grandsons, great-grandsons, or any high school student you think would make a great Wabash Man. Just fill out the streamlined form at [wabash.edu/refer](http://wabash.edu/refer). Need to find the Admissions Counselor in your area? Check here. Prospective students have plenty of opportunities to visit campus this fall. Find the schedule here. Registration for Scarlet Honors Weekend (December 10-11) opens in late September.

### **What's Happening**

We've seen great response to our online events at Whenever. Wherever. Wabash. ([wabash.edu/www](http://wabash.edu/www)). Seasoned and newly minted alumni, students, faculty, staff, spouses, families, and friends have all interacted with current and emeritus faculty in sessions on cooking and history, the chemistry of wine, and Hemingway's short stories. Look for new opportunities to experience campus online this fall. Find the log of latest news here: <https://www.wabash.edu/www/>

**(Roper adds:** I enjoyed the Chemistry of Wine session, being a chem major after all. My wife and I put a pretty good dent in all four bottles). Polished the Chardonnay.)

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**Wayne Kornas** Happy Grandparents Day to the best Gram and Papa around! Can't think of too many people that would choose to spend 8 hours in the car for 2 soccer games this weekend, but we are grateful they did! Two wins and Ivanhoe's made up for the miles and miles on I-69.

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Hey! Recommend brothers, sons, nephews, grandsons, great-grandsons, or any high school student you think would make a great Wabash Man. Just fill out the streamlined form at [www.wabash.edu/refer](http://www.wabash.edu/refer).



09-15-2021 Happy Birthday, **Dan Vannatter!**



**Phi Delt quorum at Homecoming.**

Russ Dukes, Dan Susie, and John Leahy were spotted at Wabash September 16.



**Dan Susie and John Leahy and spouses at Homecoming**

They spent time with **Jim Millikin** and **Steve Bowen** at homecoming. **Tom Bambrey** was there also. Did not see any others from the class of 68. Dan was recognized as an Admissions Fellow.

I'm calling this a wrap! Wabash football is picked to win the NCAC. They have a great QB and big linemen this year. Did you watch the games (Wabash is 3-0) on your monitor screen? I think the psychology is toughest for the DPU game, but the players should NEVER read the press opinion. I would love to hear your opinion. Y'all take care!

WAF!

**Jim Roper '68**

