

**Class of 1969**

**Class Agent**

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**Our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion: 31 May – 2 June 2019**

Gentlemen of Class of 69,

We had a good **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion!** It was a great weekend and a lot of fun at Big Bash 2019, with Friday and Saturday full of activities, and evenings with excellent dinners from Bon Appetit. The late spring weather was perfect, with mild temperatures and no rain (for a change). **77** of us returned to the Wabash campus and signed the Big Red Book. Not a record but a really good representation of our Class of 69 for our **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion**. It was great to see everyone again! We handed out our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Memories Book, reunion shirts and patches. And thanks to Dave Sadler we even found a way to staple the patches onto the red hat the Alumni office handed out at registration. Here is a good picture of our class, mit Frauen. You can see all our **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion** and Big Bash pictures at [www.wabash.edu/news/archives](http://www.wabash.edu/news/archives).



After a busy Friday the evening highlight was President Hess giving each of us our **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion** metal and we giving him our Class gift. The Class of 69 presented President Hess and Wabash College a check for \$12,768,910. This is the sum of our gifts to the College for the last five years and our pledges for the next five years. This is a new **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion** gift record for the College. A remarkable achievement!



We thank all who gave to the College to make this generous gift possible. I especially want to thank Dave Pancost and Jack Brown as gift co-chairs for their work with Dave Troutman in bringing our gift together. Our Class of 69 gift is the culmination of years of hard work and the result of your exceptional philanthropy. Noteworthy are the many contributions you made over the years to our Dean Moore Scholarship Fund, contributing to our Class gift total. Again, a special thank you to all who gave to Wabash over these past years.

On Sunday as Big Bash 2019 was winding down we had a good brunch, with our Class of 69 winning a few awards. We won the Robinson –Reagan Award for the chapel sing. In the face of stiff competition and a critical jury we did a remarkable job singing 'Ol Wabash. A very special thanks to Dave Sadler for organizing and leading us in our chapel sing on Saturday. I wish we had recorded it and made a CD.



We also won the 1928 Attendance Award for the highest number of class members attending Big Bash, the 1909 Trophy Cup Award for the highest percentage of class members in attendance, and the Edmund O. Hovey award for highest percentage in a reunion class who made a gift to the College.

We hope you will enjoy our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Memories Book. It took about six weeks to gather and organize the material and pictures. I want to extend a special thanks to Christina Egbert and Kim Johnson in Communications & Marketing, Beth Swift in Archives, and Dr. Dave Phillips for their help in gathering the material and their excellent support. Christina did a superb job assembling the book. Crawford Industries produced the cover. Spi Binding in Darlington, IN bound the book.

I want to thank our Class of 69 Reunion Committee for their dedication and hard work to communicate and motivate their pledge brothers and classmates to return for our **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion**. I know they spent many hours reaching out to you. I also want to thank Michelle Janssen and her Advancement Office and Steve Hoffman and his Alumni Office for our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion and Big Bash 2019. I extend a very special thanks to Michele Ward and Mike Warren for their exceptional support to our Class of 69 for our **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion**.

For our **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion** I had the honor and privilege of inviting Robert Pugh, age 95, Wabash '49, to return to campus for the Friday Big Bash Reunion dinner. Robert is from Crawfordsville but had not been back to Wabash in many years. This was his 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion. He said he really enjoyed the evening with so many young people. As I mentioned when I introduced him, he is a veteran and survivor of WWII. He served as an infantryman in the 103<sup>rd</sup> Division, 9<sup>th</sup> Army, liberating the town of St. Die des Voges in Alsace 23 Nov 44, was captured on 1 Dec in Selestedt (south of Strasbourg) by the Germans, was a POW for six months in Lukenwald (south of Berlin), barely survived (many US soldiers died), liberated by the Russians in April. He wrote a book on his captivity. An amazing story! I am glad he enjoyed his 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion with us. **Some Little Giant!**



**Giving** As we approach the end of our fiscal year I want to encourage those of you who have not yet given to Wabash to consider a small gift before 30 June. This will give you a place of honor on our Class of 69 2018-19 Honor Roll. There is still plenty of room on our Honor Roll. As always you may give at [www.wabash.edu/egift](http://www.wabash.edu/egift), call 877-743-4545, or mail a check to Wabash College-Annual Fund, 301 W Wabash Ave, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Gifts must be made online by midnight June 30<sup>th</sup> or postmarked June 30<sup>th</sup> to receive credit for this fiscal year.

As we look to the future I will continue as your class agent and will try to send you letters and updates from time to time. There is always a lot going on at the College. This fall we look forward to Homecoming on 28 September, playing Denison, and the Glee Club Homecoming Concert. The classic Monon Bell Game will be at DePauw on 16 November. We hope you will come back to Wabash for a football weekend, for any weekend or any time. As President Hess closed the 2019 Big Bash Weekend he reminded us Wabash will always be your home. You are always welcome on campus.

For a couple days and a few brief hours, we were able to come together and share our memories and stories, sing 'Ol Wabash, and relive the spirit of Wabash. To those who came back, even for just one day, I thank all of you for coming. Those who wanted to return but could not make it...we missed you, and wished you were with us. Those who did not wish to return...we missed you too!

And now as "the western sun is painting in flashing glory, across the skies with gorgeous dyes the color we love so well", our Alma Mater reminds us "These fleeting years we tarry here beneath the Scarlet sway, beguile us with their subtle charms, then quickly steal away".

Our **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion** is now a memory. Keep Wabash on your mind!

and remember...

**WABASH ALWAYS FIGHTS!**

My best wishes to all for a good summer!

*Ken*

**W69**