



**Pactoracles  
Class Agent's Letter  
For The Wabash College Class of 1971  
January 29, 2020**



**50<sup>th</sup> Reunion: June 4-6, 2021**

## **Class of 1971 Loses Mike Dill**

Mike Dill, former class agent of our class and trustee of the college, died from an ongoing illness on November 22, 2019.

Several Wabash Men, including four men of the Class of 1971, attended the funeral service in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on December 7. The funeral service ended with the Wabash Men singing *Old Wabash*—not with much talent but with a lot of heart.

Mike said to me and probably to others: "Wabash, it's the people." So much of his life—family, church, Wabash, and business—was about people. He was devoted to all of them. He was most devoted to his beautiful family. And our condolences go out to Shelley, their two daughters, and his brother Mark '75.

Mike served on the boards of Tulsa Boys' Home, Tulsa Catholic Diocesan Investment Committee, Bishop Kelley High School, and San Miguel School.

Mike hailed from Williamsport, IN, in rural Warren County, Indiana, about 45 miles from Crawfordsville.

He was a loyal brother of Phi Delta Theta.

As an alumnus, Mike maintained a passion for recruiting students to Wabash. He recruited one student while both were passengers on an airplane. The National Association Of Wabash Men honored Mike as an "Admissions Fellow" in 2008, after giving him the Alumni Award Of Merit in 2005.

Starting in 2001, he served as a Wabash trustee. As a trustee, he focused on admissions and finances.

He did well in business, retiring as Senior Vice President at American Funds Distributors, Inc. He was financially generous with Wabash. Along with his brother Mark, he established the Lawrence and Velma Dill Scholarship, honoring their parents, in 2002. This fund provides scholarship assistance to Wabash students who are graduates of high schools in Jasper and Warren counties.

He also established the G. Michel Dill Fund which enables students to explore off-campus opportunities in the summer outside of the normal academic year. As stated on the college's website, proposals should be student-generated, arising from interests stimulated by a student's coursework and Wabash experiences. A student's proposal should expand or deepen an area of study in a way not available through Wabash's traditional programs.



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Mike also established a third fund, the Small Business Internship Fund. Its purpose, according to the website, is "to provide support for internship opportunities for Wabash students in small businesses and entrepreneurial ventures. The internships should focus on allowing students to gain experiences across as many different aspects of business as possible. The first priority should be to place the interns in companies with Wabash alumni connections. The internships will usually take place in the summer months and are not limited to any particular geographic location. The Fund will provide as many student internship experiences as possible with a competitive hourly rate. The College will invite internship hosts to contribute to the Fund as a way to perpetuate these experiences. The Dean for Professional Development will oversee the Fund."



These classmates attended Mike Dill's funeral, December 7. From the left, Ron Flynn, Tom Martella, Ed Pitkin, and Jon Pactor. The first three are his Phi Delt pledge brothers.



Mike on campus in 2003.

In 2002, Mike explained his vision for the internships. "These internships, whether they're in Greece, Spain, Mexico, or even New York, help students see the world through a new lens. I submit that the real value of internships is not so much academic content, but the increased confidence the students have in themselves."

Here are just two examples of the impact of Dill internships on current Wabash students from the summer of 2019.

1. Study of virology and public health in Europe. "Walking through the crowded London streets, unsanitary Paris Metro, and traveling all around Europe...has allowed me to understand the threat of antiviral resistance better, new viruses appearing, and bioterrorism," wrote Matt Rapp '22, a pre-med student.

2. Working for suicide-prevention at a non-profit in Chicago. "This opportunity has been a greater experience than I could have ever asked for. It has completely reshaped how I approach mental health, both for myself and those around me. I have even had to confront my own stigmas and am a more empathetic person because of my experience with Hope For The Day," wrote Kaleb Wood '21.

The internships are close to 20 years old. The immense good to Wabash students and to people beyond Crawfordsville cannot be measured by data.

Mike was known for this wisdom: "Be thoughtful, be generous, and always be thankful. And have a little fun along the way." He said it. He lived it.

Mike will always be Some Little Giant to me, to the Class of 1971, and to all of Wabash College.

## **With Our Classmates. . .**

**Alex Miller** writes: "I retired in 2019 after 34 years of Naval Service and 14 years in the defense contracting business with L-3 and Deloitte Consulting. I am enrolled at George Mason University relearning Russian, and I consult a tad for a small Cyber firm that does business with DOD and the Intelligence Community. Brenda and I split our time between our home in Fairfax, Va. and our condo in Florida. My older son Chad has two sons and is a psychiatric social worker in Phoenix, AZ. My younger son Patrick has two



*Brenda and Alex Miller.*

daughters and just retired from the Marine Corps as an Intelligence Officer. He is very fortunate to be able to participate in a Microsoft software training program for military members leaving the service. Liberal arts triumph again! We are blessed and remain very active with travel, golf, and time at the gym. In fact, we will celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary this June with a trip to South Africa. Life is good."

**Jim Rendel** writes that he "lost the love of my life," Nancy two and a half years ago to a rare blood cancer, multiple myeloma, and a still unidentified carcinoma after a 16-month struggle." He is keeping busy with his family and Nancy's, church missions and ministries, "lots of Chicagoland culture and shows and great travel." He states that he is already anticipating our 50<sup>th</sup>. He "will be forever grateful for our incredible Wabash welcoming spirit and hospitality for Nancy and always making her feel so at home" at prior reunions. His new address: 2887 Windsor Dr. Unit 207, Lisle, IL 60532-6212 and 630-247-7436 (c)

Take a close look at this play. The official did not. Disallowing a touchdown, he ruled it to be an incomplete pass although the Wabash receiver caught the ball and was about two yards in bounds. College rules require only one-foot to be in bounds. This third-down play came at the end of a tied Monon Bell game last November. Wabash settled for a field goal for a three-point lead, but DePauw quickly scored a touchdown in the last minute for a surprising 17-13 upset victory at Greencastle.



## May The Old Farts Be With You



### Our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion: June 4-6, 2021

The Wabash College Class of 1971 Will Have A Wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion In 16 Months. Mark Your Calendars Now.

Our prior reunions have been meaningful and fun for the men of our class and their ladies. The 50<sup>th</sup> will be our best yet.

Keep your eyes open for more announcements of the reunion.



## News From Campus

**Steve Charles Has Retired As Editor Of The *Wabash Magazine*.** Steve Charles is one of the greatest storytellers in the history of the Wabash people. Yes, I mean people because his work has been about the people.

Before he took over the magazine in 1995, it was slim, prosaic, and unexciting. All of Wabash knows that the magazine under Steve's leadership is packed with exciting, well-written, meaningful articles. The magazine has been loaded with humanity, history, and humor such that even readers who have no connection to Wabash would be interested, informed, and inspired.

Steve, The Storyteller, was always attuned for a story, especially one that connects humanity and Wabash. In 2017, he and I were having an impromptu conversation on campus. I commented about a story on adoption in the latest issue. The article quoted the wife of an alumnus as saying "Life is what happens to us when we are making other plans." I said to him that that quote actually was attributed to a Wabash alumnus from the early part of the 1900s. Without missing a beat, he yanked a pen from his pocket and began taking notes on the palm of his hand. He can be delightfully unique—as Wabash itself.



**Basketball.** The Little Giants stand 10-7 overall and tied for third place in a tough conference. Conference foe Wittenberg has lost one game this season, and Wooster three; both are ranked in the top 15 in the country. Wabash started off 14<sup>th</sup> in the country but is no longer ranked. You can watch the games via the computer usually at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

**Betas Temporarily Relocate.** The brothers of Beta Theta Pi had to vacate their chapter house for a few days because a water pipe burst in mid-January.

**ROTC Scholarships.** Wabash has established a new scholarship partnership with the United States Army and Purdue University. Wabash becomes Purdue's first Army ROTC partner institution. The program will provide up to three scholarships for entering Wabash freshmen each year. The scholarships will cover the full cost of tuition and on-campus room and board at Wabash as well as all costs associated with ROTC courses. Up to five additional freshmen selected for the program will receive a Wabash ROTC Scholarship and on-campus room and board their first year. These students will receive full-ride scholarships for their remaining three years at the college. Wabash students will live on the Wabash campus and participate in activities and intercollegiate athletics of the college. They will take leadership and officer training courses through the Army at Purdue's West Lafayette campus.

**Volleyball.** Wabash will start volleyball for the 2020-2021 season. It will be a member of the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL). The MCVL, formed in 2014, has six NCAA Division III schools: Adrian College, Fontbonne University, the University of Mount St. Joseph, the University of Mount Union, Olivet College, and Trine University. None of these schools is in our regular conference, the North Coast Athletic Conference.

**Wrestling.** The Little Giants, ranked third in NWCA rankings, took fourth place in the finals of the 2020 U.S. Marine Corps/National Wrestling Coaches Association Multi-Divisional National Duals Meet held in Louisville, Kentucky this month.

## **Thanks For Donating To Wabash This Fiscal Year**

These gentlemen and ladies have contributed to the annual fund so far this fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2019. Thanks to each donor. When we contribute, we say "thanks" for our own good fortune, for our great Wabash professors, and our Wabash friendships. If you are not on the list, join the list, which is current through January 25, 2020. Please contribute by mailing a check to Wabash College, Annual Giving, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or by contributing online at [wabash.edu/egift](http://wabash.edu/egift), or by calling the college at 877-743-4545.

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**Thanks for reading *Pactoracles*. It is my honor and responsibility to serve the Class of 1971.**

**Please contact me with news, comments, questions, or beauty tips. I welcome calls and e-mails.**

**Be sure to update your information on the Alumni Directory if you have a change of address, phone number, e-mail address, or employment. Or, you can provide me the new information, and I will take care of it for you.**

**If you are receiving this missive electronically, please print it and share it with your family and friends.**

**Your brother in Wabash,**



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