



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1972

Class Agent

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Gentlemen:

I wanted to get one last letter to you before we jump into the year 2020.

I received a couple of notes from you since my last letter, plus a couple of updates from the College which I'll also share with you.

It was really exciting to see two sporting events involving our Little Giants playing teams in the Chicago area over the last month (pretty rare events!): The first was Wabash playing the North Central College Cardinals in the 1st round of the NCAA Division III Football tourney, at NCC in Naperville, Illinois. While I teach at North Central, there was no question where I would sit and pledge allegiance! Great crowd on the Wabash side. While the Little Giants put up a good fight in the first half, the Cardinals from NCC took over in the 2nd half to win 51-15. (It should be noted that last night (Dec. 20th), NCC won the NCAA DIV III Championship). I also saw the Little Giants play the Elmhurst College Bluejays in Basketball in Elmhurst, Il. (I also teach occasionally at Elmhurst). The game was tied 33-33 at the half, but Wabash eventually lost 83-66. Again, a huge Little Giant crowd attended. Great to see our team play in the Chicago area!

News from the College

Annual Giving...The College is aggressively working towards its goal of raising \$1.8 million in gifts before we ring in the New Year. Thank you to all who have given so far in 2019. There's still time to contribute this year. ANY amount is welcome by the College to support its mission of providing the best liberal arts education to students now and into the future. You all know how much you loved your experience at Wabash. Please help to ensure future generations can continue to benefit from our great College. The class of '72 always does a great job. Please help us continue that tradition.

Please make a gift to Wabash by Tuesday, December 31. Here's how:

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



Steve Klein... The College just shared the news that **Steve Klein** passed away at his home on Friday (Nov. 29) after a long battle with a heart condition, cardiac amyloidosis. Steve served Wabash as its Dean of Admissions for 17 years and brought to the College some of the largest and most diverse classes in school history. He was also very active in the Crawfordsville community. More recently, Steve was Vice President of Enrollment at Albion College under President Mauri Ditzler.

New Football Stadium... Renovation on the current Hollett Stadium began on December 16 and they've already knocked down the visitors stands. Bricks will be retrieved and available for sale later. As you'll recall from my previous letter, a group of anonymous donors came forward to fund a much-needed and more modern new stadium...These donors have chosen to pay tribute to former Wabash football coach Frank Navarro by naming the playing field in his honor.

News from '72

Guys...After my last lengthy, newsy letter, I heard from just 3 of you! **Please** take a few minutes to email me something about what's going on in your life. I'm sure everyone in our great Class of '72 would appreciate hearing from you. Here's what I received;

Heard from **John Bridge** an interesting and impressive fact. As far as we know, our Class of '72 has had at least 3 members who have been named "Wabash Man of the Year" by the IAWM: **Don Shelbourne** ('19); **John Bridge** ('18); and **Frank Hagaman**, who received the award a few years ago (not sure which year). That may be the record!

From **Doug Lehman**: "I am still practicing law full time in my hometown of Wabash, IN but my wife Minda and I try to get away for long weekends about every 6 weeks and go to our place in Petoskey, Michigan. Between loving that area and being vice president of our homeowner's association there, we always have plenty to do there. A few years ago I ran into classmate **John Failey** in the parking lot of a nursery there."

"The big news in my life continues to be my involvement with the United States Navy. I retired in 2002 as a Captain after 30 years of service, mostly in the reserves. These last 4 years, I have been on the board of directors of the USS Indiana Commissioning Committee, Inc. and the USS Indianapolis Commissioning Committee, Inc. The Committee is responsible for funding and planning all of the pre- and post- commissioning ceremonies related to the USS Indiana SSN 789 and USS Indianapolis LCS 17.

The Indiana Committee was instrumental in getting the USS Indiana, a fast attack nuclear submarine, commissioned September 2018 at Port Canaveral with approximately 5,500 in attendance for the ceremony. We raised enough funds to not only cover all of the pre- and post- commissioning ceremonies including a reception for the 5,500, but to also provide a \$100,000.00 scholarship fund for sailors assigned to the USS Indiana and their dependents."

“The Indianapolis Committee just finished commissioning the USS Indianapolis LCS 17. The commissioning was at Burns Harbor, Indiana—the first full size warship to be commissioned in the State of Indiana. I had the privilege to have dinner one night with Dick Thelan, one the last remaining survivors of the heavy cruiser Indianapolis CA 35 sunk at the end of WWII. Because of the history behind the name USS Indianapolis, we had 10,000 people at the commissioning despite the cold, windy and rainy weather. It was a great event.” Thanks for all the great info, Doug (hope you didn’t mind the edits!)

Finally and sadly, a special thanks to **Mike Hammond** for reporting to me that **Terry McCooe**, former Beta and dentist in southern Indiana, passed away last summer.

That’s all for now...Again, Hope you all have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

All the best,

Rick