



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1972

Class Agent

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Gentlemen:

Greetings from Plainfield, Illinois! I imagine many of you have been thinking: "We haven't had a Class Letter for a long time...What happened to Fobes?" Well, I have no excuses! I just haven't gotten the job done and I'm very sorry. Hopefully this note will make up for it a little. I have lots of news from the College, plus many updates from fellow Class of '72 classmates. I just spent the last weekend at Wabash for the annual **Class Agent's Forum**. Agents from every class attend, receiving great updates from the College President and key senior Wabash staff members on what's going on at our Alma Mater. My job is to pass this info on to you. The College looked great...so many things happening. I can't wait till our **50th Reunion** at the Big Bash in late Spring 2022. I really hope/expect a huge turnout from our Class. We have always stood out as one of the best alumni classes in terms of giving, success, accomplishments, participation...That will continue when all of us gather in C-Ville for a weekend of fun and fellowship. It will be here faster than we think. The other reality for me is most, if not all, of us reach 70 years old in 2020...Whoa!

News from the College

The **Giant Steps** Capital campaign continues with great energy. \$175MM has been raised in its first year against a goal of \$225MM. Annual Fund dollars raised for last fiscal year was \$3.4MM, with 5,155 alumni donors, working out to be a percentage of 43.5% participation. Our Class participation is close to that level of participation, and always is solid. I know we'll continue as we get closer to our 50th Reunion, where we will present a check to Wabash representing all our efforts. More on that later.

The number of **Capital Projects** (facilities) going on at Wabash is remarkable!

- >**Student Housing**: major renovation updates for Lambda Chi, FIJI, Beta and Theta Delt fraternities...
- >**Lilly Library**: Major renovations (the last renovation was 1991!); transition from a print-based resource center to academic engagement and technology hub; Converting space for group study, tutoring and technology.
- >**"Gateway Project"**: New Front Door to the College. Beautiful new entrance, including original Class of 1898 steps and pillars. It was dedicated to Rem



Johnston ('55), and was completed October 4th of this year.

>New Little Giant Football Stadium: \$13MM project, (totally funded by an anonymous donor.) Seating for 3,500 fans; new field turf, new track, more restrooms, relocated scoreboard, "Hall of Giants" tunnel to the field; Handicapped accessible, with elevator; field to be named for Coach Frank Navarro. Will open September 5th, 2020.

>Other renovations: President Hess told us many of the College's buildings are in great need of basic updates in terms of air conditioning, heating, electrical, etc...

So, the next time we all visit Wabash, we all will see lots of changes, but all in keeping with the traditional look and values of Wabash.

Monon Bell Classic. The 126th meeting of Wabash and Depauw will take place in Greencastle on November 16th. The two teams first met on the gridiron in 1890. In 1932, a locomotive bell from the Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville Railroad Company, also known as the Monon Line, was donated and became the winner's trophy each year. In the all-time series, Wabash holds a 62-54-9 lead.

FOX Sports Indiana and FOX Sports Midwest will again televise the Monon Bell Classic. 2019 marks the third consecutive year viewers around the nation will be able to see the action on FSI, and this year the game will also be televised nationally on FOX College Sports Atlantic, and streamed on FOX Sports GO.

News from '72

Lots of news from you, **and I greatly apologize for the lateness of most of these updates!**

Larry Zommick reports he's retired and has taken (or is taking) many courses at the University of Washington, including Modern and Biblical Hebrew, Philosophy, Anthropology and Music.

Dan Grube sent me lots of info last year. "6 years ago (February 2013) my wife of almost 40 years, Mikki, died rather suddenly. I have a son, Adam, who is now 45, and who is practicing Law in Germany. I have a 43 year old daughter, Amber, who has produced three incredible grandchildren. So I now have a 22 year old grandson, a 16 year old granddaughter, and a 14 year old grandson."

"For the last 21 years, I've been singing Bass in an all-male chorus called The Cold Spring Area Männerchor (German for Men's Chorus), where I've been a Board Member, Secretary, Treasurer, Performance Manager, among other things. I've done three concert tours in Europe, one in Canada, and in February, 2017 performed at Carnegie Hall, in New York. A little over 7 years ago, I took on a retirement job, as a driver for an airport shuttle company. To date, I've been to and from the Minneapolis airport over 2880 times, and have put well over 519,000 miles on their vehicles. So the drive down to Indiana for our high school reunion was a "walk in the park." But that job entails lifting

a lot of luggage for the almost 24,400 passengers that I've carried so far, so I find that I'm in better physical condition than I ever was when I was at Wabash."

"In May of 2017, I moved from Saint Cloud, Minnesota (population about 65,000) to Albany, Minnesota (population about 3000), when, at age 67, I took on a 30 year mortgage. That's either the height of optimism or folly depending upon your point of view. I like the slower pace!"

Don Shelbourne sent me a note way back in December, so his note is a little out of date. Don writes: "Bob Ivancevich and I went to our 50th high school reunion with Paul Gojkovich also. Good to see them there and looking forward to our 50th for Wabash." "I'm still practicing full time but I'm taking a lot of time off to go to our house in Naples to play golf and spend time with the kids and grandkids.

Carol and I are building a downsize house now after 20 years in our too big house for two people. We've now been married 46 years and have 7 grandkids with 2 in high school. Our kids are all married with kids and two live here but my son John lives in Chicago working for Morningstar and has two children 4 and 2."

"I still love working since I've stopped taking care of football teams and finally gave up doing Purdue this year after 36 years. I still take care of the Wabash kids and still support the school wrestling program. We have 50 kids on the wrestling team and our kids are doing well in school. When I was there we had 5 of us go to medical school and I'm trying to get the program at the same level academically again and it's working." Thanks, Don.

Speaking of Dr. Shelbourne, he was honored earlier this year by receiving the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men's "**Man-of-the Year**" award, for all his career work in orthopaedic sports medicine. As reported in a news release by the College, his son Brian '12, delivered a heartfelt description of a father, friend, mentor, and surgeon. "Unbelievable," was how Don described it after the fact, "I'm going to get emotional again, if I keep thinking about it."

Unfortunately, I pass on some sad news from the College:

>**Richard (Dick) Stout** passed away last year in Ormonde Beach, Florida.

Hugh McClelland sent me this note last year: "Sigma Chi fraternity brothers Billy Nielsen, Dave Garbison, Rod Kenley, Eric Garrard, Ed Powers, Ed Wright and I attended a 'Celebration of Life' gathering in Frankfort, IN last September."

"Suffice to say, Dick was one of a kind and will be missed, but the legend lives on, certainly in the minds of his fraternity brothers!" Hugh continued: "For me personally it was a helpful reminder that my timeline grows ever shorter and to treasure each day and the opportunities that come with." Thank you for sharing this, Hugh.

>**Larry Ladd** passed away in February, 2019. Larry was a Phi Delt at Wabash and played Football and Baseball. His obituary added: "Larry, of Deerwood, MN,

is survived by his wife, Lineya Ladd, his four daughters and 9 grandchildren. A native of Schererville, IN, Larry attended Lake Central High School. Larry was known as a "jack-of-all-trades": In his professional life, he was a teacher, a mechanic, and a carpenter."

>**Donald "Skip" Burhans** died on October 20th, 2019, according to the College. From his obituary: "A native of Peoria, IL, Skip is survived by his daughter, four grandchildren, his sister, and his beloved dog, Roxie."

A note: Unfortunately, this news of our classmates passing away is going to inevitably continue and increase as the years go by. It's tough. I will do my best to convey to you the information I receive from the College. If any of you learn of any deaths of your dear classmates, please let me know, and will pass the information on to you as quickly as possible...

And, last minute sad news:

Just before I sent this note to the College for distribution, I learned of the sad news that **Thad Seymour**, past President of Wabash, died this past Saturday, October 26th, at the age of 91. Thad obviously meant a lot to all of us since he took over the College Presidency in 1969 through 1978, when we were at Wabash, in the prime of our college years. I thought he was a great Wabash President...dynamic, fun, accessible...a true leader and supporter of our Class and of all things Wabash. While we were in school, I remember we had some interim Presidents our first year or so, but what a welcome, energetic addition to our experience when Thad became President. I can still hear his voice, and see that smile. ("Give me a W.....!")

On a personal note: Thad was extremely gracious to my grandfather, Bill Fobes (class of '10), and father Don Fobes (class of '34) during my time at Wabash. He was behind the honor given to my family recognizing my Dad and Grandfather's lifelong contributions to the College through the dedication of the Fobes Lounge in Sparks Center in 1972. He and Polly visited my mom and dad often when they were in their final years in Naples, Florida. I will always have a special place in my heart for Thad Seymour. I know all of you will.

Thad is survived by his dear wife, Polly, and four children.

Ok, that's enough for now. Please email me at rwfobes@gmail.com with news about you. If you send it to me, I'll publish it!! As we all grow older, this news becomes even more precious, as demonstrated in this Class letter.

Hope you all have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

All the best,

Rick