



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1977

Class Agents

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Hope you're in the picture as 2018 ends.

Hi Fellow Class of '77ers. Funny things happen when you move. Items you forgot you ever had suddenly show up in a folder or a stack somewhere. As Kathy and I downsized over the summer, some 1977 Commencement photos appeared out of nowhere.

One of those pictures is below. As 2018 winds down, I'm writing a quick missive to you in the hope that you are – and will remain – in the picture as one of many loyal Wabash alums.

In some respects, it's the best of times at Wabash. A full 100 percent of the Class of 2018 got in their "first choice" of graduate programs, medical or law school, or professional/career job upon graduation. We have no less than nine different "Top 20" rankings among all colleges in the prestigious Princeton Review. One study (not commissioned by the college) shows that Wabash graduates enjoy a \$363,000 salary advantage of the course of their careers, compared to the "average" college graduate. Right now our basketball, swimming, and wrestling teams are all ranked in the Top 25 programs among NCAA Division III institutions. Even the Monon Bell is where it belongs, in Little Giant land, just as it was when we graduated.

But in other areas, Wabash needs our help. Our endowment (on a per student basis) is less than that of many similar-type institutions. Some of our educational facilities are outdated, as are some of our athletic facilities as well. Other strong academic colleges offer some educational opportunities which – for now – are out of the reach of a Wabash man. These are some of the reasons behind the \$225 million "Giant Steps" campaign, announced in November.

This isn't a request for a Giant gift however. It's a request for a gift – one of any amount – before the calendar rolls from 2018 to 2019. There's a simple reason why – Wabash is striving to cross over the 45% threshold in alumni support. That would put us in a "Top Ten" type of category, which would then attract more foundation and corporate donors. In other words, **if you haven't given to Wabash in many years but give now, your contribution (only \$100, or \$200, or even only \$50) could be the one to launch us over that 45% mark and possibly unlock the door to hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars in additional support for our Alma Mater.**

If you've given already (and dozens of our classmates have), thanks! If not, you can help now by:

GIVING ONLINE AT: www.wabash.edu/give, OR

BY PHONE at 877-743-4545, or **BY MAIL** to Wabash College, 301 W. Wabash Ave, Crawfordsville IN 47933).

If you're at a point in your career or with your finances where you're considering additional tax benefits or giving non-cash assets to charities, there's no better place than Wabash. The college recently sent out a mailer about this type of giving. I'd be glad to email a digital version of it to you if need it. Contact me at johnkprof@wabash.edu for a copy. Please put "Giant Minds" into the subject line.

As always, I look forward to hearing news from you! The college maintains an ongoing alumni news website which you might enjoy. The link is here: <https://blog.wabash.edu/alumninews/>

Kathy and I wish everyone Happy Holidays, and I'd be remiss if I didn't ask you to keep me in your prayers and best thoughts come the beginning of 2019. I'm facing some minor surgery on January 8. Once recovered, I hope I'll be able to join with you in singing the chorus to "Old Wabash" over and over again as we approach our retirement years.

Long shall we sing thy praises,

John

John Kerezy '77

