

# WABASH COLLEGE



## *Class Agents Letter*

Alumni and Parent Relations

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## Class of 1977

### Class Agents

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Latter part of May 2017,

It was a warm and sunny day back in May 1977, when nearly 170 of my Wabash College classmates and I participated in baccalaureate and commencement ceremonies. This past Sunday, another 189 young men earned the honor of being Wabash College graduates. They join us in a much longer chord of alumni spanning time and memories that traces back into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to the college's first commencement ceremony in 1838. Their diplomas, like ours, are inscribed in Latin on sheepskin. The bell which President Hess used to ring out the graduating class is the same one which President Thaddeus Seymour used to ring out our class, the same one Caleb Mills rang in the first decade of Wabash's founding. Here's a link to a story about the 179<sup>th</sup> commencement: [https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\\_id=11023&photo\\_album\\_id=4720](https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_id=11023&photo_album_id=4720)

We could learn more about the three Fulbright Fellows Wabash has (Austin Dukes '17 will be an English Teaching Assistant in Spain, Stephan Jones '17 will be Fulbright's first-ever English Teaching Assistant in Honduras, and Alex Waters '16 will be doing medical science research in Norway), the third time in the last four years the college has achieved such an accomplishment. We could examine the outstanding involvement of Wabash men in the College's Democracy and Public Discourse and Global Health initiatives, where "our guys" were presenters sharing their findings and work at an Indiana Public Health Association (IPHA) conference at Purdue University regarding mental health in Indiana.



But there really isn't a need to do this. Wabash is as great of an institution of higher learning today as it was 40 years ago, perhaps even greater. We know this from our own personal "body of work" – our activities, achievements, successes (and failures) since we left the "hallowed halls" on May 15, 1977.

This will be my last plea to you and my other fellow classmates about returning to Crawfordsville for our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion and festivities celebrating Wabash and its alumni scheduled for June 2-3-4. The "main event" is our class dinner on Saturday, June 3. I hope that many of you who live within a 3-5 hour drive of the college who haven't yet committed will make a decision to join us for that terrific time. There are other activities as well, including our classmate GREG BIRK being part of a talk on Saturday on Wabash's outstanding track and cross country programs. Below is a link to all the details; you can sign up from that link. Deadline is Wednesday, May 24. **BE IN THE PICTURE!** <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion/schedule>

**ADDITIONALLY** – Can you help us with "free" TWR at the dinner? That's correct. Wabash has extended an "open bar" invitation for those alumni classes whose members make contributions (large or small) in numbers exceeding a goal of 80 contributors. At last count (Monday May 15) we had 70 members of our class who've given to Wabash so far in this academic year. If we get to 80, drinks at the dinner are on the college. So, even if you can't be there, you can make as little as a \$10 contribution to the college and then (jokingly and accurately) tell all your classmates and friends "drinks were on me" at the reunion dinner. If you've given already, thanks. If not, here's a link to make that gift: <https://www.wabash.edu/ecommerce/>

**AT END:** *When college days are past, as long as life shall last, our greatest joy will be to shout the chorus.*

Little did we know, as we memorized the song Old Wabash back in 1973, how true those words would become. My life has been enriched and strengthened by how Wabash molded me, shaped me, and taught me to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.

Chances are it did the same for you. **So here's my concluding request – let's stay connected!** Let's celebrate our later-in-life successes, comfort each other through challenges, and remain as united Wabash men as we were on the steps of the Chapel more than 40 years ago.

*The honors won by each loyal son, In highest rank shall instate her.  
Forever more as in days of yore Their deeds be noble and grand.  
Then once again ye Wabash men, Three cheers for Alma Mater*