

### Class of 1977

### Class Agents

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Hi Guys!

So, anything much new happening in the world since our last class newsletter went out 11 months ago? As the globe turned upside down due to Covid-19, and then we traversed the most divisive presidential election of our times, Wabash carried on. The college held classes – live and in person – for the entire Fall 2020 semester. In fact, over a few weeks in the semester the College had ZERO Covid-19 infections. That is a tribute to excellent planning on the part of our new president, Scott Feller, and his special assistant Dr. Ann Taylor. A couple of “infographics” about how the college handled the coronavirus are illustrated below for you.

Greg and Herm and I had our own “Zoom” meeting recently, and we decided we wanted to get a letter out to you in three parts. Part I is news about the college. Part II is next about our class (more sad than happy this time around). And Part III is about planning for the future. June 2022’s ‘Big Bash’ reunion marks 45 years since our graduation. We are seeking to widen our circle of collaborators, so to speak, in order to have some great get togethers both in 2022 and in 2027. A few of you may have heard that I coached HS speech and debate for a long time, and one favorite mantras to my students is **P-P-P-P-P, or proper planning and preparation promotes perfect performance.** That’s where we want to head in 2021 and beyond. So here goes:



### **I. COLLEGE NEWS: You can find some of this for yourself at <https://www.wabash.edu/news/>**

Wabash College earned the top spot for three degree programs—Classics, German, and History—in the 2021 College Factual rankings, and three more programs are in the top 1% among U.S. colleges and universities. Wabash received a No. 1 ranking in “Best Value Colleges for History,” “Most Focused on Classical Languages and Literature,” and “Most Focused on Germanic Languages.” Here’s a link to the story:

[https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\\_ID=11631](https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11631)

Also, professors Laura Wysocki (Chemistry) and Sara Drury (Rhetoric) will lead a \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study the impacts of deliberation on undergraduate STEM education. The effort, titled “Developing Deliberative Pedagogy for Use in Chemistry Classrooms” will include researchers from Colorado State University, Gustavus Adolphus, and St. Louis Community College.



And also – Maybe you were one of the 200 alumni who responded to an email, titled “Calling the Wabash Nation” in the spring, when it was apparent that due to Covid-19, many current Wabash students would lose out on summer internships and fellowship opportunities. If you are, you went a long way towards helping Career Services find summer jobs and internships for students. Here is a link to that story:

[https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news\\_ID=11615](https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11615)

CHAPEL SING – Yes, in the midst of a global pandemic, Wabash traditions continue. Here are some pictures of this year’s Chapel Sing event:

[https://www.wabash.edu/photo\\_album/home.cfm?photo\\_album\\_id=5267](https://www.wabash.edu/photo_album/home.cfm?photo_album_id=5267)

Finally, I (Kerezy) want to draw your attention to a powerful Chapel session the college held, outside this fall, on racial/social justice. It’s about a 30-minute watch. Here’s the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Laa8h1VUnI>

**SPRING SEMESTER AND BEYOND** – Spring semester classes will begin January 25, and the college will have some staggered “reading days” in the semester instead of a full spring break. The NCAC has canceled conference championships for winter sports, though the Athletic Department is looking at competition with conference and nonconference schools that share the same commitment to daily symptom monitoring, testing, contact tracing, and quarantine as Wabash.

Commencement is scheduled for May 16. The 2021 “Big Bash” dates will be June 4-5-6.

For more information on how the Wabash campus continues residential teaching and learning through the pandemic: <https://www.wabash.edu/covid/>.

For documents, including weekly updates from President Feller and Ann Taylor:

<https://www.wabash.edu/covid/documents>.

For the latest in events on campus, many of which you can join virtually: <https://www.wabash.edu/calendar/>

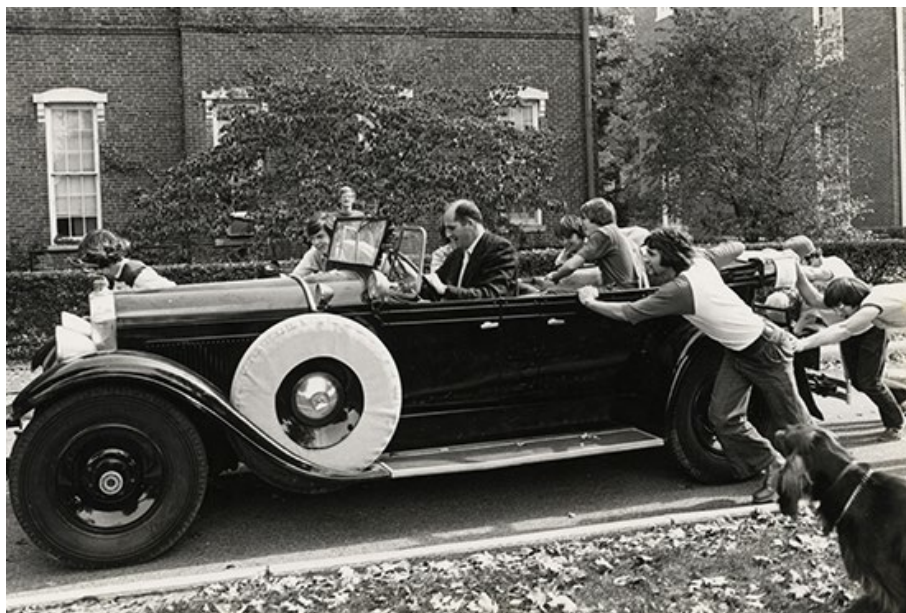
The Bachelor: <https://www.wabash.edu/bachelor/>

## II. CLASS NEWS

With sadness, we report that classmate and Beta Theta Pi fraternity brother Clark O'Shaughnessey passed away earlier this month. While an obituary is not available for Clark, you are welcome to provide your thoughts and memories on a virtual Tribute Wall. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Clark D. O'Shaughnessey, Visit the Heartfelt Sympathies Store, linked below:

<https://memorials.purdyfuneralservice.com/clark-oshaugnessey/4384061/>

All three of us have news updates also. Herm and Kitty have moved from their great getaway home on Lake Holiday back into the city of Crawfordsville. Greg and Carroll are stuck in Switzerland due to Covid-19 and – for the first time in many years – won't be able to travel back to the U.S. for the Christmas/New Year's holidays. And Kathy and I have downsized and moved into what will be our retirement home in Cuyahoga Falls, just north of Akron and about a 40-minute drive to my college, when/if we return to in-person classes in 2021. If you're ever in the Northeast Ohio area in the future, look us up! We're at 3212 Old Mill Drive, Cuyahoga Falls, OH, 44223.



We need more news from you! We realize that Covid-19 has made communication harder (save for our children/parents/loved ones, and there it's more important than ever.) But take a few minutes, please and complete the "where are you now" form for us please? Return it to Pam Rager at the college, [ragerp@wabash.edu](mailto:ragerp@wabash.edu), and she'll see that we get the news. Thanks!

*Why this picture? See the next page!*

## III. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Going forward, especially as we look ahead towards reunions in 2022 and 2027, we plan to have "reunion assistants" help us by connecting with classmates in living units and/or sports teams and/or groups such as the Glee Club. We have a general goal of getting one "caller and contact" per for every 5-7 guys in the class.

For example, GREG GABET, TIM SHEETS, and JERRY SHONKWILER have agreed to help me (Haffner) with the Sigma Chis. There are 17 in the class, so that should work.

Also, TED FERGUSON has agreed to help me (Kerezy) with the 13 TKEs in the class.

BIRK will lead with his Beta Theta Pi fraternity brothers (20). Are there others who will help him? Let Greg know at [gregbirk77@gmail.com](mailto:gregbirk77@gmail.com) please.

DELTA TAU DELTA (13) – We don't have a volunteer. Anyone there able to step up and help?

PH PSIs – We have DAN BROUGHTON, RICH COLGROVE, and BOB SNODGRASS (20)

LAMBDA CHI (6) – RICK BEYERS

PHI DELTA THETA (6) – STEVE BAKER

KAPPA SIGMA (17) – We don't have a volunteer. Anyone there able to step up?

PHI GAMMA DELTA – JEFF GUNNING and MATT HUNTER (17)

ALSO – Coach ROB JOHNSON will help us (Track and Cross Country Teams, Malcolm X Institute, others)

If someone who lived at Martindale, Wolcott or Morris want to help, let us know? Contact Herm at [hermhaffner@yahoo.com](mailto:hermhaffner@yahoo.com)

If someone wants to reach others on the football team, wrestling, swimming, WNDY, etc, same thing – let Herm know please? Let's use this time to plan ahead and re-connect some.

Thanks all.

**FINAL THOUGHT** --- In recent years Wabash Magazine has had a small feature called "The W Factor," tidbits of advice about what being a Wabash man means. One of the terrific Wabash men I reconnected with near the end of his life was our president, Dr. Thaddeus Seymour. Dad Thad Seymour died in fall 2019 at the age of 91. His obituaries defined him as someone known for his volunteerism and his commitment to community. Dr. Seymour and his wife co-founded the Winter Park-Maitland (FL) chapter of Habitat for Humanity in 1990, and he served as chairman on the board of directors. This Habitat chapter built more than 50 homes during Dr. Seymour's tenure on the board.

How do you want to be defined? What's the "W Factor" in your life?

Best for Wabash Always,

*John*

John Kerezy '77

PS – Please follow me on Twitter (@johnkprof) or Facebook. Any/all Wabash news I think is important to share, I share with you and other Wabash alumni via my social media accounts.

*Happy Thanksgiving*

# ***“Where Are You Now?”***

Wabash Class of \_\_\_\_\_

While you are holding this in your hands, take a moment to fill it out and send it to: Wabash College, Alumni and Parent Relations Office, PO Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. While you're at it, why not contact a fellow alum or professor you haven't talked to in a while?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Home Page \_\_\_\_\_

**Interested in serving your class as a class agent? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_ Not yet \_\_\_\_\_**

**Interested in helping the College with fund raising? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

## **Family Information**

☐ Single

☐ Married

☐ Partnered

(Spouse/partner's name) \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

☐ Father of (kid's name/s) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdays \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **Latest Employment and Education Information**

☐ Unemployed ☐ Self-employed doing \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Employed (where) \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Looking for work

☐ Retired

☐ In school at (where) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Working toward a (degree) \_\_\_\_\_ in (field) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Writing a book on \_\_\_\_\_

I'd really like to hear from (classmate/s) \_\_\_\_\_

Any other interesting news? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_