



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

P.O. Box 352

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Web site: www.wabash.edu

Email us: alumni@wabash.edu

Phone: (765) 361-6369

Class of 1980

Class Agent

Jim Miller

jmiller44@indy.rr.com

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Greetings Classmate!

We last communicated prior to “Our Wabash” -- Wabash College’s 5th annual day of giving on April 18. That one-day funding raising event, once again, yielded tremendous results. Nearly 5,200 gifts from 3,710 donors were made, smashing the previous year’s record by 21.8%. A total of \$1.02 million was raised – making it the most remarkable single day of philanthropy in the history of Wabash College. Thirty-seven percent of Wabash alumni gave during “Our Wabash” – besting alumni participation from Notre Dame (17%), William & Mary (13%), and Cornell (6%) on similar one-day giving events. A tip of the Wabash beanie goes to all of you who made “Our Wabash” a huge success!

The College’s alumni fiscal year ends next Saturday (June 30), so there’s still time to give to the Annual Fund. Here’s how you and your friends can make a gift to Wabash: (1) online at www.wabash.edu/give or (2) by phone at 877.743.4545.

News from the College

- A total of 199 graduates joined our ranks as Wabash alumni on May 13. Included in that total were 75 seniors who graduated with honors. The College bestowed honorary degrees on John N. Fox, Jr. ('64), Rem “Big Cookie” Johnston ('55) and John C. Schroeder ('69).
- As of mid-May, the College had received 283 deposits from entering freshmen (Class of 2022). That was eight more than the recruitment goal. One of the best ways you can help Wabash is to refer prospective students, and it can be easily done online at: www.wabash.edu/alumni/student/refer.
- The Class of 2021 numbered 246 new students from 15 states and 18 international students from 11 different countries. The lion’s share of that class (81%) and most of the student body are from Indiana, although recruitment from adjoining states, Arizona and Texas remains strong.
- Wabash has partnered with Sasaki, a Boston-based firm, to develop a comprehensive campus life master plan. The plan will look at all campus infrastructure, conduct conversations about dining, athletics, space utilization and a campus center, and assist the College in developing priorities and fund-raising materials, once the master plan is established.

- John Kerezy ('77) recently published a book on Wabash athletics for the years 1977-1982. *Glory Reborn* is a trip down memory lane about Wabash's athletic prowess during that six-year period, including the 1977 Stagg Bowl, 1982 NCAA III basketball championship, and notable successes in swimming, track and cross country and wrestling. What I particularly enjoyed was reading about names and personalities who I haven't thought of in over 30 years. It's a good read and I recommend it. And, *Unforeseen – The First Blind Rhodes Scholar* is Professor James J. Barnes' account of how he responded to what life gave him by giving back to others. Both books can be ordered online through Wabash's bookstore at bookstore@wabash.edu.
- Wabash had another stellar year in athletics. In baseball, the Little Giants won a school record 32 games and captured the North Coast Athletic Conference tournament crown to advance to the NCAA Division III playoffs for only the second time in school history. In the NCAC, Wabash was runner-up in football, indoor and outdoor track, 3rd in cross country and soccer, and 4th in swimming.
- And, of course, the Monon Bell is in its rightful place, perched high above the entrance to the athletic complex, thanks to a scintillating 22-21 Monon Bell victory at DePauw last November.

News from our Class

Over the past several months, I've heard from several of you, but I'd be great to hear from more. Feel free to contact me anytime at jmiller44@indy.rr.com or 317.332.3305 (cell) to share your news with your classmates.

Upcoming Alumni events

- July 19 – The annual Mitchum Crock golf outing at Plum Creek Golf Club (Carmel, Indiana), hosted by the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men. (12:30 p.m. shotgun start) – This event is FULL.
- July 27 -- The IAWM will host its annual Indianapolis Indians evening at Victory Field. The Indians will play the Louisville Bats in a doubleheader starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$9 and must be reserved by July 20. Contact Kyle McClammer ('08) at k.mcclammer@gmail.com for more information.
- August 9 – The "Big Cookie Open" at the Orchard Ridge Country Club in Fort Wayne (Noon shotgun)
- September 28 – Wabash Homecoming vs. Wooster
- October 6-7 – W.A.B.A.S.H. Day
- November 10 – The 125th Monon Bell Classic at Little Giant Stadium

You can learn about local alumni events in your area at www.wabash.edu/alumni/regional_groups.

Wabash license plates in Indiana

It's time for me to renew my license plates in Indiana, but, sadly, it won't be a Wabash plate. For the past several years, I've had Butler University plates on my Volkswagens because I'm a huge Butler basketball fan, many members of my family, including my wife, attended Butler, and, frankly, the Wabash plate does not match the distinctiveness of the College. In fact, it's difficult to distinguish the Wabash plate from that of Indiana Wesleyan. Admittedly, the Wally Wabash plate of years ago was somewhat goofy, but it was at least distinctive, and you knew it belonged to a supporter of the College. If you agree, let me know and maybe we can advocate for a change, so my next VW and your car will be properly adorned.

Big Bash 2020

The College just hosted the annual Big Bash in early June. The Class of 1980's next reunion – our 40th -- will be at the 2020 Big Bash in Crawfordsville. It's never too early to begin planning for that event. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know at jmiller44@indy.rr.com or 317.332.3305 (cell).

On a personal note Some of you are aware that I have been dealing with a serious medical condition over the past several months. My prognosis for full recovery is good, thanks in large part to the support and prayers from family, friends, colleagues and people I've never even met. I've received hundreds of cards, notes, e-mails and texts – many from the Wabash community. For that I am eternally grateful and humbled. God bless all of you!

Yours in Wabash,

James E. Miller
Wabash College Class Agent for 1980