



## **Class Agents Letter**

**Class of 1980**

**Class Agent**  
**Ken Williams**

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Dear Classmate,

Another year is almost gone, and I hope it was happy and prosperous for you and your families. I hope you have a great holiday.

Since taking the position as your class agent, I have been pleased to reconnect with many of you. I hope to reestablish contact with many more in 2022.

I have a lot to report, so here it is.

### **Annual Giving and College Development Plans**

On November 6, I attended the Class Agent Forum at the College. I received some great news about our fellow alumni and about the future of Wabash College.

The College came very close to its annual giving goal, as over 43 percent of all alumni and students contributed to the College. Hugh Vandivier, the associate director for annual giving, noted that only a very small minority of colleges and universities achieve a goal of 45 percent in a given year, and that is our goal for next year. Let's do our part in 2022 and contribute to Wabash – remember, NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL.

The College's new President, Scott Feller, also addressed us regarding what has happened at the College and what is in store for the future. He proudly invited all Wabash Men to the new Little Giant Stadium, which is a marvelous structure with several modern amenities. President Feller also pointed out that thanks to our generous contributions, all debts incurred toward construction of the stadium have been paid. To all who gave toward the project: Much gratitude.

President Feller also unveiled Wabash's next goal: a modern new campus center that would replace the Sparks Center (at Sparks's location). President Fuller stated that we need a campus "living room", a place where everyone could gather. In addition to being an events space, it would be a place for independents to eat, and provide an alternative food service for fraternity members on weekends and late nights. (As one who still remembers that long walk down Grant Avenue toward fast-food heaven on Sunday nights, this sounds like a good idea.) The College is currently making plans, and I will keep you abreast of any developments.



President Feller also addressed challenges that the College faces. He confirmed what many of us may have been suspecting: demographics are working against Wabash. Not only are we facing declining birthrates in our population, but fewer and fewer young men are choosing to attend college. He stated that it takes at least two visits to sell a young man on Wabash. If you know of any high-school students who would make good candidates, please submit your referral here: <https://apply.wabash.edu/register/refer> and let the Admissions Office take care of the rest.

### Class of 1980 News



At Homecoming, **Joe Impicciche** received the Clarence A. Jackson Award as a distinguished alumnus. Joe received the award for his outstanding work in healthcare administration. Joe worked as a healthcare attorney for many years; he also earned a master's degree in healthcare administration from IUPUI. Since 2019, he has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Ascension Health, the nation's largest non-profit Catholic healthcare system. He was cited for his work in dealing with the COVID pandemic, as well as for providing healthcare services and resources to impoverished and underserved communities: a calling he rightly considers a "healing ministry". In 2019 and 2020, he was named one of the most influential people in the healthcare field. Congratulations, Joe, and well done!

I recently finished reading **Dave Dessauer's** book, *Harper Lee and Me*. The book is the product of Dave's lifelong fascination with Lee's masterpiece *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Extensively and meticulously researched, Dave explores the symbolism and metaphors that Lee wove into her narrative. He also provides an interesting rebuttal to those who contend that Lee's childhood friend Truman Capote was the true author of the novel. *Harper Lee and Me* is available on Amazon.

I had a nice visit with my pledge brother **Mike Gullifor** at our reunion on October 16. Mike and his wife Jody will celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on November 21. They currently are enjoying retirement and their grandchildren while planning their next adventure.

The best part of this job is hearing from all of you. Please let me know how you prefer me to contact you: through email, text, social media, or good old-fashioned letters. You may write me at [wabashagent80@gmail.com](mailto:wabashagent80@gmail.com), or get hold of me through the College Alumni Office.

If you or your spouse are on Facebook, I invite you to join our Facebook page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3897490623604919>.

I look forward to hearing from you. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Ken Williams

Class Agent