

Class of 1981

Class Agents

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This is a short note to end what many of us feels like another long Covid year. It was a good year for our class for reunions as we had two. The first reunion was this summer when the campus was opened back to visitors for the first time since the beginning of Covid. The second was a tailgate before a home football in October. See the photograph below of those of us who made it for our second 40th reunion in October. It was great to see everyone who was able to return to campus in June and October.



The new football stadium hosted its first game this year. The season was uneven, but most importantly finished on a high note. The Little Giants fell behind 21-0 after the first quarter to a DePauw team that had already clinched the conference and was going to the playoffs and only had a single loss on their record. The Little Giant offense, which was strong all season, got going and cut the half time score to 21-14. DePauw started the second half with a touchdown putting the Little Giants down 28-14, but from that point forward Wabash had one of all-time great second halves. The defense looked better than it had all season and the offense rolled going up 42-28. DePauw scored a late touchdown to cut the margin and had two chances on an onside kick in the final moments but the Little Giants recovered the kick and prevailed. See the photo of disappointed DePauw fans during the waning seconds of the game. It was an incredible game and we hope many of you got to see it live on a broadcast and you can watch the recording.



There is good news from the College at the end of the year. All graduates from the Class of 2021 have settled into their first destinations six months after Commencement. This once again bucks the national average of 59%. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/11831>. Wabash continues to produce good outcomes for its graduates. Approximately 30% of the Wabash student body is a first generation college student. That might have been the case when we first entered Wabash, but it is now clearly a more diverse student population ethnically and geographically.

The signs for a good incoming class next year are good. Honors Scholars which as you recall was held in the Spring has now been replaced with Scarlet Honors Weekend in December. This change was made because of the change in the time of students knowing their eligibility for grants and loans earlier than in the past. So now admission and financial aid awards must be communicated months earlier. Scarlet Honors Weekend returned on December 10-11 with more than 200 high school seniors and their families attending and 115 staying overnight. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/11849> Admissions applications are running

14% ahead of last year. Domestic applications are up 10% from 15 states. Indiana is up 12% in applications from its highest total in the last 5 years. And domestic applications from students of color represent 35.8% of the pool (a 5-year high).

Wabash has a new way to connect with the College remotely. It is called Whenever. Wherever. Wabash. On this site you will find things like highlights from the thrilling Monon Bell game, Office Hours with Dr. David Blix '70, live learning events with professors, Chapel Talks, podcasts, or on-demand videos. The College advertises this as your hub to bring campus to your living room. Whenever. Wherever. Wabash. even contains games for your kids or grandkids and new backgrounds for your Zoom calls. Just go to wabash.edu/www to explore.

Finally as a gentle reminder for those who make a gift before the end of the calendar year, check out these ways you can support Wabash and see some nice tax benefits: <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/11833>. Every gift directly supports Wabash students and adds to the momentum of the Giant Steps Campaign.

Here is wishing you and yours all the best of the holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Wabash Always Fights

Mike Robak
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