

### Class of 1981

#### Class Agent

**Peter Wright**

**Mike Robak**

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It was a memorable weekend of reunion, reopening and reconnection. While our "formal" 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion was rescheduled from this past weekend to a tailgate at the Wabash football game on October 16th, for 12 of us it was a happy reunion (and as we did 15 years ago at Big Bash we had the most guys from a single class return to campus). On a perfect weather day, the following guys made it back to campus:



Scott Boone  
Tim Butler  
Allan Clauser  
David Dingley  
Lou Fenoglio  
John Helm

Mike Kraus  
Doug McKay  
Mike Robak  
Rob Stevenson  
Ron Vogel  
Peter Wright

It was not just the first time any of us had been back on campus in 15 months for some of our classmates it was the first time in 15 years or more.



Lou Fenoglio even took a break from mowing the grass at his place on nearby Raccoon Lake to tour the new football stadium. Thanks to those who scheduled Zoom calls with their fraternity brothers.



It sounded as if the some of the Betas got together on Friday for some golf. Doug and Cindy McKay hosted a delicious dinner at their home for Sigma Chis and were gracious enough to have invited me. Ebe Cotton and his wife were at this dinner, but unable to make the Saturday trip to Crawfordsville. At dinner I learned that Dave Dessaur has written a book deciphering the many hidden messages in *To Kill a Mockingbird* in his book *Harper Lee and*

*Me*. It is available through Amazon [https://www.amazon.com/David-Dessauer/e/B08VS33P5K%3Fref=dbs\\_a\\_mng\\_rwt\\_scns\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/David-Dessauer/e/B08VS33P5K%3Fref=dbs_a_mng_rwt_scns_share). Dave is quite the Renaissance man. I have downloaded his book and look forward to reading it.

The College food service set up a catering truck that served delicious beef brisket and pulled pork sliders. Mike Kraus brought his son (from the Atlanta area) along with his 3-year-old grandson, who very much enjoyed the lunch and handout foam finger. Wally's Pub (located in the Sparks Center in what used to be what I think was called the Faculty Dining Room just to the left of the entrance) was serving adult beverages. I read Wally's Wednesday June dinner menu. If you are in Crawfordsville in the next few weeks at dinner time you will not find a better deal on a steak dinner anywhere (I think that would probably include eating at home) then at Wally's Pub. (Doug, Mark and Lou take note).

I had the chance to catch up with Scott Boone who made it up from North Carolina. He was there with his father, who is Class of 1960. Everyone should aspire to look as good at their 61<sup>st</sup> reunion as Scott's Dad.

I had the chance to speak with Dale Milligan (of Milligan's florist in Crawfordsville) who came for a tour. Dale is a member of the Wabash Class of 1949 (I did the math, he graduated 72 years ago, he is 96 years old).



The football stadium is certainly something to see, and it is best appreciated by being inside the very large and nicely appointed upstairs. As we all remember the old stadium was about as basic as could be and it is likely your high school stadium and certainly the stadium of the high school your children attended was superior.

The new top of the stadium will work well for entertaining recruits. It can and will be used for alumni events and possibly Board of Trustee dinners as it has a full catering kitchen. Brent Harris helped in the planning and worked with the architectural firm (that had just before been working on the Rose Bowl) to have a state-of-the-art video/audio system employed that also greatly simplified the wiring and cabling and so saved thousands of dollars on the project.

My description of the stadium and my photos below are inadequate to capture what the stadium is like. There is a single set of stands (no more stands on the visitor's side) that rises



much higher than the old stands. On top of the stadium there are now some suites in addition to dedicated rooms for radio, the coaching staffs and other services. There is a great aerial view of Fischer Field (the soccer field).

The incredible transformation of campus that has taken place in the 40 years since we graduated is due in part to your steadfast support and generosity. Wabash was there for us because of the generosity of generations before. Wabash is

knocking on the door of entering the top 10 of schools with the highest percentage of donors.

This is an important metric that the College uses in seeking grants as it demonstrates the strong and deep support the College has in its alumni. Below please find the current Honor Roll. If you have not yet had an opportunity to give during the College's fiscal year which ends June 30 please consider doing so [www.wabash.edu/give](http://www.wabash.edu/give). If you have not regularly donated, then please consider our 40<sup>th</sup> a good time to start.



I would like to report that our classmate Mike Robak has volunteered to be a co-Class Agent with me. After the background check, training (hazing has now been banned), and ceremony all of which might be otherwise described as a brief discussion on the Mall followed by a welcome handshake and an email exchange on Monday, Mike is now a co-Class Agent for our class.

Please share information about you and yours, ask us questions about the College and generally let us know how we might be of service to you.

#### **Addendum to Peter's spot-on observations and well-done notes from the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion:**

I am pleased and honored to join Peter as co-Class Agent for the Class of 1981. Peter has been outstanding as our co and then single Class Agent. And it was during dinner at Doug McKay's that Peter inspired me to consider becoming a Class Agent. Stephen Pavy, though, is my North Star on what it means to be a Class Agent and I will endeavor to live up to that incredibly high bar. But I begin my run with a sad admission and apology – I managed to miss seeing most of our class that showed up for the 40<sup>th</sup>, including my first post college roommate, Dr. Mike Kraus. I am glad I got to see David Dingley as I had been living in Kansas City, MO for a few years where we were part of the few Wabash men (who got together) in that area.

My pledge brother Doug McKay and I were on a frolic of our own re-living 40-year-old memories and catching up. And that is Wabash, a place that, I think, lives with each of us in such a wonderful way. Doug and I did have a chance to meet Dr. Richard Warner, the current Chair of the History Department and a Professor who is very much in the tradition of the outstanding Wabash faculty we have known.

I am now in Minneapolis, but my immediate family is still in Greenfield and this new role gives additional reason to get home and visit. I look forward to working with Peter to keep us all connected to each other and to Wabash.

I am ever optimistic and looking forward to our 45<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> reunions, and the 2032 Bash Bicentennial. And any visits before and in between.

### **Fall Dates**

Homecoming – Saturday, September 18 (v. Allegheny)

40<sup>th</sup> Reunion Tailgate – Saturday, October 16 (v. Wooster)

Monon Bell Game Saturday – Saturday, November 13 (v. DePauw)

I look forward to seeing you in the Fall if not sooner.

WAF,

Peter

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### **Honor Roll as of June, 2021**

John and Michelle Ashworth III

Dean and Vickie Beckman

Jeffrey Been and Eric Graninger

Mark Benne

Mike and Lorie Bettice

Joe and Carol Boomhower

Scott and Jessica Boone 1832

Brian Bowerman

Chris and Trish Braun 1832

Allan and Brenda Clauser Jr.

Jim and Deborah Cooper

Doug and Shari Coplen 1832

Shawn and Debra Crane

Bryan and Catherine Daniels 1832

Bob and Michele DeFazio 1832

Dave and Kathryn Dingley 1832

Steve and Annette Doherty

David and Susan Downey

Brad and Lori Dubbs

Tom and Jane Elliott

Eric and Debbie Faires

Lou and Sally Fenoglio 1832

Gus and Rebecca Galante 1832

Cathy Greene ^

Randy and Monica Grimes 1832

Steve and Sandra Hartenstein

Dan Heiser

John and Tammy Helm

John and Sue Hilbrich  
Cris and Amy Johnston 1832  
W. Terry Jones and Susan Hoffman 1832  
Chris Keele 1832  
Fred and Stacie Kendall  
Steve Kindred 1832  
Carl Kipp III  
James R. Kipp, Jr. and Susan Paul  
Mike and Molly Kraus FACP 1832  
Doug and Patty Kvachkoff 1832  
Mark and Monica Lazar 1832  
Mike and Sandra Leagre  
David and Lynn Lewis 1832  
Dennis Lindauer  
Rolf Loescher and Donnamarie Darcy-  
Loescher 1832  
Arthur and Therese Lukowski Jr.  
Mark and Misty McGrady  
Doug and Cindy McKay  
Don Miller  
Carl and Cheryl Myers O.D.  
Jon and Sarah Myers

Bill and Kris Myers  
Bill Nesbitt  
Dave and Rhonda Paul  
Stephen Pavy  
Bill and Paula Payne Jr.  
Phil and Elizabeth Purcell  
Steven Riggs  
Michael Robak and Hattie Leiss  
Ned and Dawn Segelken 1832  
Frank and Julie Smaron  
Rolland and Sally Strasser  
Jeff and Paula Struewing  
Steve and Susan Thomas  
Stan and Janet Thompson 1832  
Ron and Julia Vogel  
Jay Want and Martina Schulte MXICC  
John and Ellen Weaver  
Tom and Denice Weber  
Monty and Lisa Woolsey  
Peter Wright and Nicki Bauer 1832  
Randy and Jo Ellen Zromkoski 1832

Take a look at the Big Bash Open Campus Photo Album on the College website:

[https://www.wabash.edu/photo\\_album/home.cfm?photo\\_album\\_id=5318](https://www.wabash.edu/photo_album/home.cfm?photo_album_id=5318)

