



Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1981

Class Agents

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Is Spring in the air where you live? It has been wet and snowy in the West and very cold, snowy and icy in the Midwest certainly wet here in the mid-Atlantic. Spring can never come too soon and that is especially true this year. I know that I look forward to my first cherry blossom season in our Nation's Capital.

Unlike most Class Letters, I will begin with an update about a classmate, our own Class Agent of 38 years, Stephen Pavy (I only hope he is not too irritated by this prominent positioning). First, Stephen is doing well recovering from heart bypass surgery a little over a month ago. I was able to visit Stephen at the very end of 2018 with my family. Stephen looked great and fit and was probably as healthy an individual as we have in our class. We met him at his home just after he finished playing tennis, got an all too short tour of his property and then went into Sonoma for lunch. We heard about how he was enjoying retirement and all of the additional projects he was going to be undertaking at his home. Just over two weeks later he was having heart surgery. That shortness of breath he said he had experienced over the years and attributed to asthma was in fact coronary artery blockage that was uncovered and addressed by what sounds like very thorough diligence and follow-up by his physicians, which Stephen reported on Facebook. I am sure that his otherwise superior physical and mental health has been a great aid in his recovery.

I know Stephen is always happy to hear from classmates. I think you can consider this all the more reason to reach out to Stephen as you will probably reach him (and give him information he can share in the next letter). It is also a reminder to schedule your annual physical and talk to your doctor about what more you should know about your health in relationship to your family's medical history and unexplained symptoms you have recently experienced.

Our classmate Chris Braun is an alumni candidate for Wabash College Trustee. You can vote for Chris on line at <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/eservices> until April 23. Our classmate Dave Lewis is also a current Trustee of the College.

Wabash basketball hit national news recently as a Wabash sophomore Jack Davidson set the all-time NCAA record at all divisions for most consecutive free throws made at 95 (the prior record was 94). Jack and his teammates had a great basketball season finishing third in the conference, including splitting games Wooster, and Wittenberg the first and second teams in the conference and winning 21 games. Wabash just won its sixth North Coast Athletic Conference Men's Indoor Track and Field Championship since 2011. Wabash captured the team title at the 2019 NCAA Division III Wrestling Central Regional on Saturday. Six Little Giant wrestlers earned top-three individual places in the tourney to earn qualifying spots at the national championship meet to be held March 8 and 9 in Roanoke, Virginia. The swimming team completed a good season. The Lacrosse team in its X appears to be off to a strong start. Golf and baseball are about to start.

The College's Giant Steps fundraising campaign is continuing to surge forward. The campaign reports having raised just over \$154 million towards the goal of \$225 million. There is probably more than a good chance that the College has or will be holding an event somewhere near you. One of the principle goals of this campaign is build up the endowment so that Wabash can continue to support students financially along the lines of the generous support available to us. For example, the Wabash Promise provides the following financial aid for Indiana students

- Academically qualified Federal Pell Grant recipients, from Indiana, will receive grants to cover the balance of all tuition and fees not covered by government grants.
- Academically qualified students from families residing in Indiana, with adjusted gross incomes up to \$125,000 will receive grants to lower the Wabash tuition and fees to the equivalent to tuition and fees at the state's flagship university.

The range of academic scholarships tied to GPA and test scores range from \$17,000 to \$30,000/year (this is a replacement for the old Presidential Scholarship). This is in addition to Lilly Scholarships, Honor Scholarships and Snodell Scholarships (for students from Chicago, Northern Illinois, Southern Wisconsin and Eastern Iowa). More information can be found a <https://www.wabash.edu/admissions/finances/sources>.

I have not had the opportunity to be back on campus this semester and so I have not had the chance to visit Wally's the pub and restaurant that is located on campus in the location that formerly served as the faculty lounge in the Sparks center. It is open Thursdays through Sundays.

If I have missed birthday's or over life events on Facebook, I am sorry. I am spending much less time on social media (I expect some of you spend no time on it and never have) due to a combination of lack of time and in part intention. I started

down the social media path to be a better class agent. Facebook does certainly offer the ease of making some connections and keeping in somewhat regular contact with many of you. Certainly, some of the more recent Wabash graduating classes make such regular use of Facebook to be connected as to not really need or use Class Agent letters.

I look to develop a more focused way to use Facebook and other social media platforms to support my Class Agent activities. I just finished a book by Cal Newport (and saw him speak, a benefit of living in a big city) called *Digital Minimalism* (it seems to get prominent shelf space in airport bookstores at the moment as it is a pretty good cross-country plane read). In this book Newport addresses the way that social media and the mobile phone have changed over a very short time to have a very significant hold on the time and attention of so many and how in reaction there is a growing movement to limit the intrusion of social media and connected technology into our lives and relationships. I have read most of Newport's books and have commended his *How to Be a Straight A College Student* to my daughter and Wabash undergraduates and *Be So Good They Cannot Ignore You* to recent graduates.

If you find yourself in DC, please drop me a line. It would be great to see you, but I am also happy to share some tips on places to eat and drink.

I look forward to hearing all the news you will be sharing with Stephen, that I am sure he will gladly share in our next letter, when you catch up with him during his recovery.

WAF,

Peter

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