



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1981

Class Agents

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Dear Class of 1981 classmates:

This letter will share with you some sad news about two classmates as well as good news about our class and College.

The first sad news to share is the passing of our classmate, Dr. Kevin Altman. Kevin passed away in Grand Rapids on November 2nd after his leukemia returned and rapidly took his life. He is survived by his wife, Sherry and four grown children. Kevin was a Neurologist at Metropolitan Hospital in Grand Rapids. Jay Fisher, Wabash class of 1966, and the long-time leader of the Grand Rapids alumni group attended Kevin's funeral and provided the following report and photograph (below):

"Kevin was very proud of his being a Little Giant. I took a picture of a memorabilia table at the funeral home. Enclosed is a copy. Note the "Alabama Bound" button. I suspect we both went to the Alabama National Championship Game in 1981. I didn't know him then. One of the things he was very thankful for and commented on was the visit to his hospital bed by Joe Haklin during one of Joe's "Wabash visits" to our area."

At the Monon Bell game I caught up with Lou Fenoglio, a fraternity brother, who was in touch with Kevin recently and was able to attend Kevin's funeral.

Honorary 1981 Classmate Larry Frye died November 16, 2018. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Barbara, sons Mark and Eric, daughter Heather, and three grandchildren: Connor, Olive and Nicholas.

Larry's passion was volunteering to help others as a CASA volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for abused and neglected children, Montgomery United Fund for You, coordinator for the annual Wabash fraternities residential fund drive, Montgomery County CROP Walk for local and worldwide hunger relief, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery, Boy Scouts, Nourish

(Backpack) program and other non-profit organizations. He was a member of the First Christian Church and the Kiwanis Club.

If you recall, Larry was the head librarian at Wabash College during our tenure there.

A recollection from Stephen Pavy:

“I worked with Larry at Lilly Library as well as with him in the Wabash Service Organization Alpha Phi Omega. Larry had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh. He was one of the most dedicated persons I have ever known who literally gave each minute of the day in service to other people. When he had the opportunity to choose a class to belong to as an honorary member, I was thrilled and a little choked up when he chose our class, the Class of 1981. I know of no finer Little Giant than Larry Frye.”

Giant Steps

Wabash College just announced the largest comprehensive fund-raising campaign in its 186-year history. ***Giant Steps: A Campaign for Wabash College*** seeks to raise \$225 million. The campaign is off to an incredible start.

At an event at the Indiana State Museum on the Friday before the Monon Bell game, President Hess announced that Wabash has already raised \$150 million in the leadership phase of the campaign, which is more than the College raised in any of its previous campaigns. This very fast start was helped immensely by the single largest gift ever given to Wabash. Paul Woolls '75 and his wife, Betty O'Shaughnessy Woolls have made a \$40 million unrestricted gift to Wabash.

More than 30 gifts of more than \$1 million were announced at the campaign kickoff. Included are gifts that provide endowed scholarships, faculty chairs, funding for Wabash's innovative Liberal Arts Plus initiatives, gifts to enhance Wabash's recreation and athletics facilities and resources that will permanently endow cross-cultural domestic and international immersion learning experiences.

The campaign will focus on four specific areas: further endowing Wabash's generous scholarship programs; funding faculty professorships, chairs and academic programs; providing immersive learning experiences for all Wabash students; and funding capital projects and the Annual Fund.

Here is a quote from former Board Chair Steve Bowen, who with his wife made a large gift to the campaign.

“The Giant Steps we will take for Wabash will provide funding for scholarships, faculty and academic programs, immersive experiences, and our physical campus,” said Steve Bowen, former Chair of the Wabash Board of Trustees. “But the fundamental goal of

this campaign — the thing we simply must do — is to grow our \$320 million endowment substantially between now and our 200th anniversary in 2032. Our task — and our responsibility — is clear. We must do better for Wabash men. We must do better for our College. This is our goal and we will take Giant Steps necessary to achieve it.”

Good News

In case you did not hear, Wabash won the 125th Monon Bell game on a cold day in Crawfordsville. The football team also beat Wittenberg this year and only had one loss to Denison, which tied with Wabash and Wittenburg for the conference championship. However, Denison got the automatic bid to the Division III playoffs because Denison had the longest winning streak in the conference. (Denison lost to Wittenberg the week before they beat us and we beat Wittenberg after losing to Denison.) The soccer team also had a very successful season.

Since July of this year, I have been living in Washington, DC, still awaiting confirmation by the Senate. I often wear Wabash wear on the weekends. I am particularly glad I did a weekend a few weeks ago. As I was moving some stuff from our apartment into our storage unit, I met my neighbor in the adjacent apartment. He noticed my Wabash shirt and said his father went to Wabash. He said his father was born in 1959 and I said so was I and so thought I would be his father's classmate. His father is our classmate Pete Schiavone. David, Pete's son and his wife are serving in the Air Force and living in the Navy Yard in DC. Pete and I have been in touch since the chance meeting.

I have also had people stop me in stores wearing my Wabash gear. One guy told me his grandfather taught math at Wabash (I had not heard of the gentlemen). Another asked if it was the Monon Bell week. Wabash is coming out with a new look for Wabash wear (a new “W” to help distinguish ours from the “W” for Wisconsin). You might want to ask Santa for some new Wabash wear so that you can spark the conversation about our *alma mater*.

I have the opportunity to see our classmate and my fraternity brother, Jeff Struewing and his wife, Paula on a fairly regular basis as they live just outside of DC in Takoma Park, Maryland. Our class otherwise does not have much of a DC metro area presence. Wabash as a whole is pretty well represented in the DC metro area.

Let me know if you are traveling to DC.

I hope you and yours had a great Thanksgiving holiday and best wishes for the Holiday Season.

WAF,

Peter

Peter Wright

