



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Office of Alumni Affairs

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Class of 1981

Class Agents

Stephen Pavy

Phil Purcell

Peter Wright

27 October 2017

Class of '81 classmates:

Sorry to be out of touch, but 2017 has been an 'interesting year'. First, I decided to retire at the end of this year. Naively I thought that should mean less work, right? Well, as it turns out, it is sort of like getting ready to go on vacation. Training my replacement and managing the transition has taken more time. The good news is that Will Phelps, Joe's grandson, is stepping into my position and it has been a joy to work with Will on the transition.

Then, my mother and sister were evacuated from Ft. Meyers, Florida in advance of Hurricane Irma. Once things returned to normal and they went home, we had perhaps a few weeks at most before the terrible fires started that engulfed Northern California, specifically Sonoma County and Napa County where I live and work. We were very fortunate and our home remained safe. We were packed and ready to evacuate for eight days – measuring the winds, the firefighting efforts and the progress of the various fires. It was a harrowing experience. So many lost so much – lives, homes, pets, farm animals and places of work. We are thankful to be alive and still in our home.

Lots of great news regarding Wabash these days. And if you haven't been back recently, you should plan a trip.

On September 12, 2017, Richard Paige wrote: "Bolstered by some of the finest undergraduate teaching in the country, Wabash College remains ranked among the nation's best colleges and universities by *U.S. News & World Report* in its annual rankings, which were released Tuesday."

"Of more than 1,600 schools graded nationwide, Wabash ranked in the top tier of national liberal arts colleges by the publication, a designation that places the College among the best of all 239 ranked liberal arts colleges..."

"Wabash was ranked #16 nationally in Best Undergraduate Teaching..."

"The *U.S. News* ranking comes shortly after Wabash was named one of the best institutions for undergraduate education by the *Princeton Review* in its 2018 listing of the top 382 schools across the country, ranking No. 4 for "Most Accessible Professors" and

No. 17 for “Best Classroom Experience.” Further, the College’s Schroeder Center for Career Development received high marks for its efforts, ranking No. 1 nationally in “Best Alumni Network,” and No. 3 in “Best School for Internships” to go with a No. 8 placement in “Best Career Services.”

Your Wabash education continues to hold its value and has probably become worth more over these (now) 36 years! (We started as freshman at Wabash **40 years ago this fall!**)

HONOR ROLE FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

Kevin Altman	Scott Jones	Tom Phillips
John Ashworth III	Terry Jones 1832	Phil Purcell
Jeff Been	Chris Keele	Steven Riggs
Mike Bettice	Fred Kendall	Bill Rippy, Jr.
Brian Bowerman	Jim Kipp, Jr.	John Ruddy III
Chris Braun 1832	Mike Kraus, FACP 1832	Pete Schiavone
Allan Clauser, Jr.	Doug Kvachkoff	Ned Segelken 1832
Jim Cooper	Mark Lazar	Rick Skertic
Doug Coplen 1832	Mike League	Frank Smaron
Bryan Daniels 1832	David Lewis 1832	Dave Steiner, PE
Dave Dingley	Jerry Lodder	Rolland Strasser
Tom Elliott	Rolf Loescher, M.D.	Jeff Struewing
Eric Faires	1832	Steve Thomas
Lou Fenoglio 1832	Bill Macon, Jr.	Stan Thompson 1832
Larry Frye	Mark McGrady	Ron Vogel
Mel Gore 1832	Doug McKay	Tom Weber
Kevin Hall 1832	Don Miller	Monty Woolsey
Steve Hartenstein	Kirk Miller	Pete Wright 1832
Doug Haywood, CPA	Carl Myers, O.D.	Brian Wyneken
Dan Heiser	Jon Myers	Kevin Young
John Helm	Bill Myers	Daniel Zajac
John Hilbrich 1832	Bill Nesbitt	Randy Zromkoski
Cris Johnston 1832	Stephen Pavy 1832	

It wasn’t our best year, but it wasn’t our worst. Out of 194 on our class roles, we had 67 contribute, so 34.5%. 14 classmates who gave last year did not give this year. With those additional men onboard, we would have climbed to 41.7%

Perhaps the most amazing statistic is that over our 36 years of being able to give to Wabash, ***a total of 162 men have made a gift at least once. Just imagine if we could get everyone who has ever given, to give this year – we would achieve an 83.5% giving rate.

Can we do it? What do you think? Wouldn’t that be awesome!??? Wabash is working to get to a 45% overall giving rate that might put Wabash into the top 10% nationally for giving percentage. It takes 117 men to donate to add a percentage point.

Class News:

- Jeff Struewing and his wife, Paula, lost their son, David this past August. I had the pleasure of meeting David and Jeff's daughter Ellie several years ago when the Struewings visited me in California. No words can express the terrible, terrible loss. You can reach Jeff at: jeff@struewing.us.
- I learned this past month that Kevin Altman has been going through a very challenging Leukemia-related disease saga for now over a year. He and his wife live in Grand Rapids and have been active with Wabash, visiting football games, etc., as well as participating in local Grand Rapids Area Wabash Alumni functions. Kevin said it was okay to contact him. He appreciates any support you can give him. Kevin would really like to know Wabash cares and that his classmates care. His info is: kevin.altman@comcast.net, Cell phone: 764-312-2807.

***I would love to get an email from each of you to share with our classmates!

Just a reminder: Wabash will celebrate its 200th birthday in 2032 – the year immediately after we, the Class of 1981 celebrate our 50th reunion. **I think that means we are the warm-up band!**

As we head to our 50th year and Wabash its 200th birthday, expect to hear how you can become re-engaged with Wabash (if you are not actively engaged now) and how you can help make Wabash part of your planned giving in your estate. We were all the fortunate recipients of the men and friends of Wabash who went before us. We stand on their shoulders and benefitted from their generosity. We, now, need to answer the call and “pay it forward” for the generations of Wabash men yet to come.

Don't forget, you can give several ways:

- By phone: 877-743-4545
- On the web: www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift
- By mail: Wabash Annual Fund, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (checks payable to Wabash College)
- And if you wish to speak to someone in the Development Office, visit: <http://wabash.giftplans.org/>

Sincerely,

Stephen