



Class of 1985
Class Agent Letter
April 2020

Class of 1985:

As Mr. Taggart said in Blazing Saddles, “What in the wide wide world of sports is a-goin' on here?!” People dying left and right; ball games cancelled; gatherings of all sorts cancelled or postponed; nothing is crowded except the hospitals; large sectors of the economy shutdown; workers and students trying to do at home what they normally do elsewhere. Note to world: Pandemics are *not* fun. Let’s skip them in the future!

1. Class of 1985 updates:

- a) I had a quick call with John Williams. He is doing well, but very busy playing doctor in St. Louis. Since he had to get back to work, I decided to have a TWR for him and all the other Wabash medics and pharma heroes who are too busy right now saving the world to pour one for themselves.
- b) What’s new with you? Let Kyle (kcarr1@mhc.net) and/or me know what you’re up to so we can give our classmates the information! Also, be sure to notify us or the Alumni Office (at alumni@wabash.edu or at 765-361-6360) of any changes to your contact information).
- c) More Class news is available on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/206066189687/>

2. Wabash news:

- a) Wabash transitioned to virtual classrooms effective with Spring Break. Word from C’ville is that Educational Technologist Aaron Elam has moved mountains after the College decided to suspend in-person classes and help Wabash move teaching and learning online. You might appreciate this quote: “The adaptivity and the willingness of the faculty to take this head on and not let it intimidate them is the most impressive thing I’ve seen over the last week,” he said. “The sheer tenacity of our faculty to do what they can in using what they have to maintain the level of education that our students expect has been really impressive. It really harkens to the Wabash Always Fights mentality.” You can read more about his efforts here:
https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11574
- b) Most students are home for the rest of the semester. The few remaining on campus are still getting housed and fed, but “social distancing” is the current lifestyle. All of the campus operations continue except most of the staff are teleworking.
- c) Among the postponed gatherings are Commencement and the Big Bash. President Hess reports, “We’ll have a live-streamed Virtual Commencement on Sunday, May 17 at 2:30 p.m. While our seniors will not be surrounded by their faculty, staff, coaches, and our Trustees, we will make the best of it. Each graduate’s name will be read and a photo will appear on screen; we’ll have a senior speaker; and I will use Caleb Mills’ bell to ring out the Class of 2020. While

these plans are being solidified, we are also beginning to imagine, with student input, an on-campus Commencement at a later time.” This year’s Big Bash reunion, scheduled for June 5-7, is postponed, and the new date will be forthcoming from the College.

d) One thing that continues on schedule (but mostly to an internet audience) is the Chapel Talks on Thursday morning. They can be seen live-streamed at 11:10 a.m. EDT here:

www.wabash.edu/live.

Religion Professor Derek Nelson (Wabash ‘99) gave a talk April 2 which was particularly timely. He discussed the life and philosophy of German theologian (and anti-Nazi activist) Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Dr. Nelson quoted Bonhoeffer’s pre-war question, “What kind of person can possibly lead in the aftermath this crisis?” You can find Dr. Nelson’s full talk “Life Together, Apart” archived at:

<https://vcloud.blueframetech.com/broadcast/embed/179663?w=640&autoplay=1>

e) In what would count as the biggest news from the College if we weren’t in a **PANdemIC**, Gregory Hess announced that he will step down as Wabash President on June 30 to assume the role of CEO at International Education of Students Abroad. Dean of the College Scott Feller, who has been with Wabash for more than 20 years, will become Acting President of the College. Here’s the full story: https://wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11568

W.A.F. (at a healthy distance, with clean hands!)

Mike Gilvary, 1985

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p.s. My boss wants me to spread a little tax-related news. Most married folks whose joint income on their latest tax return was below \$198,000 and most single folks whose income was below \$99,000 will be getting an “economic impact payment” surprise refund in the near future. If you’ve already filed your return for tax year 2019 or 2018, the IRS will compute your payment and send it to you without any special action needed on your part. (If you haven’t filed your returns for the past couple years yet, *what are you waiting for?*) If you got a regular tax refund by direct deposit, the economic impact payment will go automatically to the same account. Otherwise, you will [soon] be able to contact the IRS website with your banking information for direct deposit or you could wait for your paper check. There are a few more tax benefits in the latest COVID legislations. More information is available at:

www.irs.gov/coronavirus

p.p.s. Here is an idea if you are trying to figure out what you could do with the surprise refund: You can make a donation to Wabash:

- online at wabash.edu/give
- by phone at (877) 743-4545, or
- through the mail to:

Wabash College Annual Fund
301 W. Wabash Ave
Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933-0352