



Class of 1985
Class Agent Letter
June 2021

Class of 1985:

1. Class of 1985 updates:

a) **Ron Bigler** passed along the following information:

1. After 32.5 years with GTE>Verizon, In June 2019 I opted for an "early out package". Spent a year on sabbatical, where I learned 1,000 new skills around the house, vehicles, bikes, etc.
2. June 2020, I started work for Frontier as Dir-Strategy and Execution for the Fiber-Served Communities for CA & TX. Hired in the midst of Chapter 11 restructure and COVID, it has been an adventure. This is professionally fun, as I see the improvements starting to take place.
3. Jennifer and I are great and adjusting to the freedom of empty nesting! This allows time to travel, like this past weekend to see Max Bigler '22 compete in track at the new Little Giant Stadium. He is looking for summer internships and enjoying his whole W experience. [What Ron left out was the fact that his son is *soaring* above the rest of the Conference in High Jump and near the top in Hurdles and Javelin! See the stats:
[https://www.tfrrs.org/lists/3352/North Coast AC Outdoor Performance List/2021/o#event29](https://www.tfrrs.org/lists/3352/North_Coast_AC_Outdoor_Performance_List/2021/o#event29)]
4. Speaking of Little Giant Stadium- Wow! what an awesome complex. Thanks to any of you who gave to help rejuvenate that facility! While at W, we enjoyed catching up with Steve Hoffman '85, who continues to be fun, looks great and does a tremendous job spreading her fame.
5. Speaking of '85s, Bob Okeefe '85 is still in Austin TX and has been keeping in contact with great regularity.

b) Ron's idea that 3 decades are plenty for one employer sounds logical to me. I just submitted my paperwork to retire effective September 30 (end of the fiscal year) after over 30 years with the IRS.

c) So what have you been doing lately, and what do you plan to do when we get past the COVID-era? 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).

d) More Class news is available on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/206066189687/>

2. Wabash news:

- a) The college held a joint **in-person** Commencement for the classes of 2020 and 2021 on May 15 at the newly redesigned Little Giant Stadium. One hundred seventy-eight men of the Class of 2021 received diplomas from President Scott E. Feller and 98 members of the Class of 2020 returned for their chance to cross the stage as well. Additionally, honorary doctorates were awarded to Emeritus Professor of Political Science **Melissa Ann Butler H'85** and Dr. Gregory D. Hess H'19, who served as the 16th President of Wabash. The Class of 2021 included **Greg Zorich's** son Adam. "Little **Z**" graduated Magna Cum Laude in Religion and had been a defensive back on the football team.

Additional information is available at:

https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11721

A video of the ceremony is available at:

<https://vcloud.blueframetech.com/broadcast/embed/263697>

- b) One more note about the Classes of 2020 and 2021:

Wabash College graduates have claimed their first destinations following graduation at rates well above the national average. By their graduation, 82.6% of the members of the Class of 2021 have settled into a first destination—employment, graduate school, or service. Six months after graduation, 97.6% of the members of the Class of 2020 were settled into a first destination. The current national average at six-months after graduation is 59%.

- c) The Princeton Review continues to spread the fame of Wabash's honored name. Wabash is included in the Princeton Review's 2021 list of the *Best Value Colleges*. The list comprises only seven percent of the nation's four-year colleges. Wabash has also retained its #1 Alumni Ranking: https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11707

- d) As a reminder, instead of the usual Big Bash reunion, we'll be gathering with the guys from '86 (and the other '0, '1, '5 and '6 classes) for a tailgate party on Saturday October 16. Besides being a chance to reunite with the old gang, it will also give us an opportunity to watch the football team beat Wooster in the new stadium. Mark your calendar!

W.A.F. (*fully vaccinated*, at a healthy distance, with clean hands, while *properly* wearing a mask!)

Mike Gilvary, 1985

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p.s. A note/**challenge** from the Alumni Office:

Wabash has chalked up some remarkable achievements in the past few years—except one: ***We have never reached 45% alumni giving. Never. Not in our history.*** At current count, we're just 470 donors from that goal. We can do this! But we need your help. If just 9 new classmates in each class made **a gift by June 30**, we'd sail over this goal (like Max **Bigler** clearing the high jump bar). We'd land in the Top 10 liberal arts colleges and universities in the country. Let's harness the power of the #1 alumni network so that we can provide our students a bright and secure return to a more normal Wabash experience this fall. They've shown us what Wabash Always Fights means. **Let's show them that we have their back.**