

Class of 1988

Class Agents

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November 2021

Dear 1988 Little Giants,

Monon Bell Week 2021 is upon us. The Little Giants will meet the Dannies this Saturday, November 13th at the best Division III college stadium in the country. This past weekend, Jennifer and I attended the Wabash football game with Wittenberg, and we will be on campus again for the Bell Game. In our desperate clamoring to get out of our house after we received our Covid vaccinations, we have attended four games at Wabash this fall. (Yes, we received the real vaccine plus the boosters—not the Aaron Rogers hippy dippy immunization of nuts and berries as recommended by Joe Rogan).

The new stadium really is a fantastic addition to the College. President Feller let us know that due to the generosity of our Alumni, we have NO DEBT on this first-rate facility. Candidly, Jennifer misses the intimacy and odors of the women's bathrooms under the old stadium, but she will adjust over time. The W. Club with access to the common suite area, food and cocktails is something all of you should take advantage of at some point. It beats the hell out of the watery hot chocolate at the old stadium.

The campus looked gorgeous as the trees were finally starting to change colors. This seems to be a later color change than when we were there in the mid-80s—I am told by our fellow Division I majors that this is a result of climate change. As many of you know, I was a history major, so I will defer to the expertise of those who spent more time at Goodrich and Waugh Halls. I attended the Class Agents' Forum on Saturday morning where we had the pleasure of hearing from President Feller. During the Forum, Cal Black and Jay Fisher of the Class of 1966 both received awards for the remarkable work they have done for the College. It seems like yesterday that Cal was recruiting our class, and that Jay was helping us with a little bit of everything at the Sigma Chi house. They are truly 'Some Little Giants'. I've included a photo from the game, and of Cal and Jay (they are both aging well). It was also reported at our meetings that the next major capital project is slated to be a new student center. As most of you will surely agree, Sparks Center is now fully depreciated. The planning process is underway, and it is expected that the new building will be built on the space currently occupied by Sparks.





Our class continues to do well with our annual giving. Last year we had 79 members who donated to the College. Let's see if we can get to 100 donors this year. There continues to be tremendous support of the Giant Steps Campaign, which currently stands just over of \$215 million. (More here: <http://giantsteps.wabash.edu/>) You can add your name and check to see other classmates who have generously given to Wabash this year on the Online Honor Roll (<https://www.wabash.edu/giving/recongnition>) with a gift online at wabash.edu/give. In this regard, President Feller also reported that the College's endowment now exceeds \$400 million for the first time in its history. The Dean of Advancement also reported to us that our annual alumni financial support, per student, ranks Wabash College #1 in the country.

I suppose I speak for many of us when I say that Wabash College had a life changing impact on me. I vividly remember visiting with my grandfather, Wabash College Class of 1937, during 1983. I was spending a week with him in Longboat Key, Florida. Our classmate, Dr. Tim Smith, was staying with his parents down on Siesta Key. Tim and I knew each other through high school sports. Reflecting on his time at Wabash, my Grandpa Shepard said to Tim and me that, "Wabash didn't give me all the answers, it taught me how to find the answers. For that, I have always been grateful." When my grandpa spoke those lines, he was 68 years old. Now, at almost 56, I know what he meant and I feel the same way. For most of us, those were impactful and, perhaps, even sacred years. In these challenging times, we need places like Wabash College to continue to thrive in its role of educating "men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely" in a difficult world. (The last four words were appropriately added by President Feller in his inauguration speech). This takes our committed and continuing support in all its forms: financial, referring students, and spreading "the fame of her honored, name, Wherever the breezes blow." In terms of spreading her honored name, if you wish to refer a student, please send the information to Nikki Carpenter, Coordinator of Enrollment Office Operations, at carpentn@wabash.edu or 765-361-6374.

As we all enter the middle of our sixth decade, our personal stories undoubtedly have taken many twists and turns. We'd like to know how you're doing and what's new with you. More importantly, your classmates would love an update. Just drop me a note at the email address listed below.

Wishing you Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

James R. Williams

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