

**Class of 1991**

**Class Agents**

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Dear Classmates,

Wow. I'm not sure what to say. I don't think any of us expected to be shut in during a global pandemic with our lives a mere shadow of what they were before, with leaders and experts weighing the balance of the value of human lives and the prospect of economic ruin. To say these are unprecedented and uncertain times is an understatement of epic proportions. But there is one thing I know for certain – we will get through this. We are Americans and global citizens. We are Wabash men. To quote our old marketing material, "It won't be easy, but it will be worth it." Like any task that seems too daunting to conquer (oral comps, anyone?), we will worry, prepare, work our tails off, see where the chips fall, and probably come out alright. Then, celebrate with a TWR...

I'm not into the social media thing, seemingly one of the few without Facebook, Twitter, and all the rest, so I've been insulated from many of your personal stories. If you'd like to share, please feel free to text or call me on my cell (847-846-8452) or e-mail me at [aitken@wmccinc.com](mailto:aitken@wmccinc.com). I'd love to hear how you're coping. Among our class, I'm sure experiences range from an inconvenience to devastating depending upon where you live and how you work. Since it feels appropriate to share during these times, we are well and extremely grateful for our blessings. We are lucky to live in an area with minimal health impact, and there doesn't seem to be a huge threat to either of our occupations at this juncture. Covid-19 has not affected the health of our immediate or extended families and not even to our immediate network of friends. With a high school senior in the house, I do feel sorry that a special time in her life has been taken away from her, but the silver lining is that we get to see her so much more before she heads off to college. I'm also happy to report that after a brief flirtation with the all-girls school in Greencastle, she has decided to attend the College of Wooster instead.

It's been important for our family to find the positives when we are in a tough situation, and this is no different. One of the greatest positives I've seen is how Wabash reacted to the pandemic. In case you haven't heard, below is a synopsis:

- Wabash has gone virtual through an immense undertaking by the IT staff and everyone on campus. Professors and students have embraced the challenge much as you would expect them to. The quality of the experience hasn't decreased. Everyone has taken a Wabash Always Fights mentality to make sure students are not seeing a decreased value in their education.

- A few students who can't go home are still on campus with all of the support they need, including room and board.
- The business side of the College is operating as seamlessly as possible, including calculating appropriate room and board refunds to applicable students.
- Commencement will be live-streamed on Sunday, May 17 at 2:30 PM with, hopefully, an on-campus Commencement at a later time.
- The Big Bash weekend has been postponed.
- There will be no residential summer programs until at least mid-June.

Other campus notes include:

- Gregory Hess will step down as Wabash President on June 30, and Current Dean of the College, Scott Feller will become acting President. President Hess has done a remarkable job leading through these recent turbulent times.
- Wabash has rolled out a new website.
- The stadium reconstruction is still scheduled to be completed on time for the game against Rose-Hulman on September 5, assuming of course athletics and large gatherings are allowed by then.

In closing, I wish you good health and prosperity. Let's take care of one another. I know you all will tackle the challenges you are facing head on, and I look forward to beginning the slow return to normalcy. Stay positive and remember our Wabash education has prepared us to face whatever comes our way, including Covid-19. Wabash Always Fights.

Yours in Wabash,

Kip

PS – SPOILER ALERT – Keep an eye out for the Wabash Day of Giving coming sometime in May!