

Wabash.

Class Agents Letter

Class of 1996

Class Agents

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Class of '96 Letter

Good afternoon, gentlemen. I hope this letter finds you well and ready for the impending switch to fall (for those in the northern hemisphere, anyway). We've had a little branding change with the college – nothing profound, but a nice updated look for the typeface and the W. imagery. I know we have been a bit spotty with letter writing for our class. There is a core assumption that you can curate your info from the college much better than we can on your behalf – the college has a lot of great news outlets and content ready to be browsed on [whatever medium you choose](#).



I'm writing because there is some cool stuff to share. I just got a request this morning for 5 biologists for our genomics and automation lab this morning. The ask was specifically for me to share this with Wabash to get either an undergrad with 2 years of lab experience or a recent graduate. The ask was a little out of the blue, but I found out that the requestor "likes the type of thinkers that come from Wabash." 23 years removed from graduation, that still thrills me. It's my hope to receive students from either WabashX (formerly Liberal Arts Plus), Professional Development Services, or recent graduates to join us for this engagement.

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For some of you, when I said [WabashX \(formerly Liberal Arts Plus\)](#), you didn't know what that was. It is an excellent experience for the students. We are giving students an opportunity to do focused work in the following areas:

- Democracy and Public Discourse
- Global Health
- Center for Innovation, Business & Entrepreneurship
- Digital Arts and Human Values

This is a specific opportunity for direct experience in a very contemporary and relevant space. These guys are digging into the application spaces for liberal arts and making a very tangible impact in the world as they gain valuable experience.



Homecoming is not far off. We will be playing Denison University Saturday the 28th at 2pm. If you have not been back to campus in, say, 2 decades or so...a LOT has changed! Even the entrance to the school on Grant Ave. is getting a makeover. The physical structure of the campus is amazing. There is a full tailgate row down in Mud Hollow now that has tents and it is really just a cool space. Please plan on making it back if you are able. Of course, football isn't the only draw for Homecoming – there are lots of opportunities to connect and enjoy the weekend. Please look on the website for all that is going on.

Here is an interesting opportunity for you all to serve and connect with other Wabash Alumni. Wabash Day is happening in October. If you don't know what Wabash Day is – [check it out here](#). We spend a few days (Oct 26-27) doing service projects for our community. It's not just in Indianapolis and Crawfordsville, so find your local group of alumni and do something cool for your community.



Here is some of the official business that I can't leave out:

A LOT of you are giving to the school and we can't be more proud or grateful. The participation on the Wabash Day of Giving is amazing every year and I can't believe that we still find ways to out-do our previous year's generosity, but it keeps happening. Thank you all for that. However you have chosen to give – thank you! Every gift matters. If it's been a few years, [we'd love to have you back on the honor roll](#). Whether it's the Annual Fund, a recurring gift, the day of giving, etc...we are grateful for your gifts of time and treasure.

Admissions: Chip Timmons oversees that ship! Can you believe that?! After spending some time with him this summer over a weekend, I can. I had no idea how to really quantify what best of best looks like in admissions and how competitive we were for students who were a good fit for the school. Our financial aid strategy and admissions strategy is both compelling and competitive. Here's the ask: if you have a relationship with a family of a young man who is a good fit, let admissions know. If he's doing great things locally, we likely already know *about him*. We need to lock in that relational piece. [Check out the website](#) to refer a young man to Chip's team.



[Update your info on the Wabash Alumni e-Services site](#). I'd love to know what you're up to and share that with the class in upcoming letters. We'll be ramping up for our 25th reunion before you know it. Leading up to that, I want to give you all plenty of runway to get excited about returning and seeing one another.

If you have pledge brothers who live far away, now's a great time to start a money pool on PayPal or something to buy their plane ticket to get back - \$5/month among friends adds up over a few years and adds a cool narrative to a pledge class or group of independent friends to reconnect. A little advanced planning can remove some significant barriers on down the road and I promise it's worth it. We did it this summer to fly a pledge brother up from New Orleans.



It's a great time to be a Wabash man. The school is doing well. The students are a great representation of the credentials we carry. The administration is in a really good place (President Hess is a good guy – you should get to know him and his staff), and the college continues to evolve with the times to meet the challenge of educating groups of men to thrive wherever they find themselves.

From your class agents and the NAWM, please accept our gratitude for your role in making Wabash what it is.

Cheers,

Carpe

Chris Carpenter (and D. Andrew Reynolds)
-hope to see you at Homecoming

