



December 14, 2020

Classmates,

This has been a strange year which (thankfully) will soon be coming to an end. Our thoughts are with those who have been struggling with COVID-19 from a health and/or financial standpoint and our condolences go out to those who may have lost loved ones.

We wanted to share a few updates from the college, which has seen some changes in light of adapting to the pandemic. A great effort was made to retain the residential experience for students; and Wabash managed to complete the fall semester and send students home for an extended winter break without major incident.

Remember to send a note to wabash07@gmail.com to update your contact information or to share an update with the class.

A couple of Wabash traditions definitely looked different this year and we will share some photos from the Ringing In ceremony as well as a very-socially-distant version of Chapel Sing. The complete absence of athletics alone easily made this the most unusual fall semester in Wabash history back to at least before the invention of football.

We hope some of these highlights will cheer you up. Thanks so much to those who have already made a gift to the college this fiscal year. Times are hard but the strength and intensity of our alumni support is really what sets us apart from other colleges.

Best Wishes for Happy Holidays!

Ross and John
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Remember being packed into the second floor of the chapel for **Freshman Saturday** when the president rang the bell to make us “official” students? Tradition has continued to demand that the chapel be packed full on a hot day in August every year since. So what to do about 2020? Bring it out onto the mall, of course. The new freshman sat with masks on and socially distant while the president and deans spoke from the same setup they use at commencement. Parents had to share in the experience via online streaming as 255 members of the Class of 2024 were rung in. By the way, are we really 17 years older than these incoming freshmen?



Super social distance. Face shields. Masked sphinx clubbers. During a time when many colleges were teaching online, Wabash decided to push the envelope by not only having its students on campus but by having them participate in what is effectively a contest to see who can expel the largest amounts of virus droplets in the course of an hour. Fraternity pledge classes sang Old Wabash without the taunting (ie someone screaming virus droplets in your face to make you trip over the words) and the finalists were judged outside in front of the Allen Center instead of inside the chapel. Lambda Chi took home the Pandemic **Chapel Sing** win.

Scarlet Honors Days

Engage. Enrich. Earn.

Things were changing in **Admissions** well before the pandemic. Remember Honors Scholar Weekend? It was a weekend in the spring where you took tests for scholarships and had the opportunity to rush a fraternity. As colleges became more competitive with offering financial aid earlier in the school year, Wabash moved Honors Scholar back into December and started calling it “Scarlet Honors”. The pandemic year took the in-person component out and the college had to pivot to a virtual experience. Good news for this year’s event – held December 10 – 12 – virtual attendance was just under 500 and as of this writing applications to Wabash are up year-over-year. Since apparently we are now 17 – 20 years older than prospective students, it’s starting to become appropriate to say if you know a young man in high school who should be on Wabash’s radar, fill out the online referral form at <https://apply.wabash.edu/register/refer>.



What a year to build a **New Stadium**. Thanks to the generous support of alumni, football fans have a new place to cheer on the Little Giants. The 2020 season was supposed to be the debut year; however, plans are in place to hold the postponed 127th Monon Bell Classic at Wabash on November 13, 2021. If the health situation allows, this could be a great time to experience a game in the new stadium. Wabash Always Fights!



Annual Fund Update

Annual Giving is off to a great start given the challenges we've all faced this year. Thanks to these 22 classmates who have already made a gift:

Sam Borrelli
Don Juan Brown
Allen Chatt
Ben Cunningham
Ross Dillard
Don Feeney
Brett Gann
Chris Greisl
James Jared
Adam Kirsch
Frank Knez
JP Manalo
Andrew McKone
Seth Nunan
Kevin Pazour
Daniel Petrie
Justin Raisor
Steven Rhodes
Joe Rutski
Greg Strodman
Jared Tarney
Adam Van Zee

Here's a quick link to online giving for those interested: www.wabash.edu/giving/give.

Happy Holidays!