

WABASH COLLEGE

CLASS OF 2013

Spring 2020 Update

May 2020

Dear Classmates,

Hopefully you and your families are safe and healthy after a nice Memorial Day Weekend. We are in the midst of an unprecedented crisis with the COVID-19 pandemic. Many have compared it to the post-First World War influenza pandemic of 1918; Wabash archivist Beth Swift noted in a 2014 blog post that, “The influenza of 1918 is often referred to as the ‘Spanish flu’ and estimates are that this illness killed 50 million people worldwide. World War One claimed 16 million lives. That is to say that the influenza pandemic of 1918 claimed more than three times as many as the Great War and yet we know so little about this time.” What is known is that the Phi Delta Theta house (pictured below) served as the campus infirmary. In *Wabash College: The First Hundred Years*, it is noted that, “In all one hundred and twenty cases were received by the hospital during the run of the epidemic, and not a single boy lost his life.” For more information, click the link below or check out the website for this *Dear Old Wabash* blog post, dated October 7, 2014.

<https://blog.wabash.edu/dearoldwabash/2014/10/07/today-in-history-october-7-1918/>



Thanks to technology like video conferencing and online ordering, businesses are doing what they can to remain open despite the immense financial strain. Some food for thought: as you may already know, a popular medium for conducting business as well as staying in touch has been Zoom. The Class of 2012 had a fun, successful meetup with about a dozen classmates; those who didn't make it expressed their regret and input. We might think about doing something like this. Or maybe you might have an idea to get your friends, room-or-floor-or-housemates, pledge brothers, fellow majors, etc. together. That should be theme during this whole strange chapter: whether physically or symbolically, **TOGETHER**. That was theme of this year's annual Day of Giving. More on that later.

Big Bash, the annual reunion weekend, will not be happening this year, a bummer what with it being the 50th reunion of David Blix and co. Early June 2021 will see a double-reunion year for class years ending in 0, 1, 5, and 6. However, in recent years, Alumni Relations has been conveying that **Big Bash each year is open to ANY and ALL alumni and/or friends of the College**. 2018 was our five-year reunion, not a landmark anniversary, but even if it is before 2023, know that you are welcome.

Progress continues on the football stadium. This includes a few rearrangements that provide a major development for track & field. The start/finish line for running events had been on the visitors' side of the stadium and all sprints were run there as well. The new track will be reconfigured to have the start/finish line on the home side and for sprints on the home side. The scoreboard will be removed from its spot on the inside of the track allowing for full view of the track making the venue available for official meets. Visitors stands have been removed and will not be rebuilt allowing for a nice open view of the center of campus. There will be temporary stands in place for the football season for visitors rather than intermingling opposing factions.

We regret to not write enough to laud the many accomplishments of you all, whether in the marriages and growing families or postgraduate education or career milestones. As time goes by, we remember among other things the friendships we made on campus, the lessons learned in and out of the classroom, the late night “breeze shooting”, the “what-ifs?”, and, yes, the shenanigans and the laughs.



John ‘J.D.’ Dykstra was a writer for *The Bachelor* and then its co-editor our senior year. A skilled photographer, he captures moments for a living. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, J.D. and his firm Image Group Photography are offering their services for alternative event plans like virtual graduations. This is a great example of the entrepreneurial spirit of Wabash, combining one’s passions and talents with fulfilling a need in the present-day environment. J.D. lives in his hometown of Crown Point, Indiana and was a Theta Delta Chi at Wabash.



Dr. Nathan Walters recently completed his doctorate in counseling psychology at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana and passed the EPPP Psychologist licensure exam. He has accepted a psychologist/behavioral health faculty position at Ascension St Vincent Family Medicine Residency in Indianapolis beginning in June. In April of last year, Nathan and his bride Lindsey welcomed their son Oliver Thomas Walters (Wabash College ’40, ’41, ’42?) into the world. They currently live in Nathan’s hometown of Anderson, Indiana.



Devan James ‘D.J.’ Young continues to pursue his dreams as a filmmaker with a recent project, *Standoff* (2019), getting over 10,000 views on YouTube. (<https://bit.ly/2ynYSBr>) His other short motion pictures include *Corn* (2017), *Frames* (2017), *Frayed* (2015), and *The Imperative Prize* (2015). A proud Californian originally from Chino Hills outside Los Angeles, D.J. was a Kappa Sigma at Wabash. He completed his master’s degree in motion pictures and television at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

Corbin Richards and Mike Brown are making a name for themselves selling new and used cars at Hare Chevrolet in Noblesville, Indiana. Several of our classmates and fellow Wabash alumni and community members have taken advantage of their expertise in providing customers with quality deals on quality vehicles. Mike, a music lover and former campus radio man on 91.3 WNDY originally from Crawfordsville (a graduate of South Montgomery High School), married his wife Mallory in the fall of 2016; they live together in Cicero, Indiana. Corbin, originally from Avon, Indiana and living in Noblesville, has like most of his family been around and part of the car industry for practically his whole life.





We are DELIGHTED that Dr. Rick Warner became a member of our class this past Homecoming. Rick is an Associate Professor in History who has taught in the Wabash History Department since 1999 and is the Jane and Frederic Hadley Chair in History and the History and Hispanic Studies Chair. Indeed, his focus areas are Latin American, African, and World History. Living with his wife Kerri right across the street from the campus, Rick is active in Unidos Por Sangre, International Programs, Alpha Phi Omega, and, as a renowned chef, is the soup maker for the monthly Social Science Colloquium. He long served as Secretary to the Faculty and was President of the World History Association from 2016 to 2017. Rick is also an avid organic gardener and yogi.

177* Wabash Men were virtually rung out on May 17. They are making their way now into the uncertain world. The current men enrolled at Wabash College are “there” at a transitional time, not just in beginning their “summer break”, if it can be called that, or in the midst of a “sea change” in campus history. They have had to participate this past semester in virtual classes, a virtual awards chapel, virtual chapel talks, and a virtual commencement ceremony rather than the real thing. An in-person, on-campus commencement ceremony is hoped for in the fall, conditions permitting.

The incoming freshman class (2024!) is over 250 men. Steve Hoffman '85, our alumni director, made a great point: with the accepted student visit day having been scheduled for March of this year, the pandemic outbreak prevented many of these incoming men from ever having set foot on campus. For many current students and alumni, that first visit to is the real draw that sealed the deal.



President Gregory Hess will end his nearly seven-year tenure at Wabash College. Dean Scott Feller will become the 17th President of the College on July 1. He will be the first president since Byron K. Trippet (who graduated from Wabash in 1930 and served from 1956 to 1965) to rise from the ranks of the faculty and administration. The Lloyd B. Howell Professor of Chemistry, Feller has taught at Wabash since 1998; he has been Dean of the College since 2014.

The WAFia raised \$1.2 million on the annual Day of Giving on May 12. 6,000 gifts were made. This in the midst of an ongoing pandemic. As mentioned above, the theme was **#WabashTogether**. The fiscal year ends on June 30. If you have not yet made a gift to Wabash, there is still time. **You can always give directly to a specific department, scholarship, or fund, etc.** Please do not fret if you are only willing and/or able to give a small amount; ANY amount adds to the continuation of what Rick Warner H'13 would call the Wabash way.

In Wabash,

Rudy Altergott & Trevor Poe

* Some information may list 178 graduates; one student deferred graduation as part of the “4-2” engineering program and will officially graduate after two years of study at Washington of St. Louis, one of the partnering institutions.