

Class of 2016

Class Agents

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June 15, 2020

Members of the Class of 2016:

I hope this letter finds you and your families doing well. I think it's safe to say that even a few months ago we would never have imagined 2020 would contain the headlines that it has. From the coronavirus pandemic to the horrible events in Minneapolis and elsewhere, I know many members of our Wabash family have been impacted in some way. As I have had time to pause and reflect, I am thankful for my family and friends and all the good fortune I have had so far in my life. If for any reason you need someone to talk to, I know I speak for me and Jake when I say we are only a phone call or email away.

I want to take this moment to share some Wabash news with you and I'll close by asking a favor, but before I do that I wanted to take the liberty to share some exciting personal news with all of you. This past February, my long-time girlfriend Emily Burrow and I got engaged. Emily and I were introduced by a mutual friend who I had met while interning at Lilly back in 2015. We will be married next June in Indianapolis and are excited for the future. If you have news that you would like to share in this Class Agent letter, please let me or Jake know. We'd love to hear it and share it with the rest of the class.

On now to some Wabash news:

1. By now, I'm sure most of you have heard that President Hess has resigned and will conclude his tenure as Wabash's 16th president later this month. He and his wife, Lora, will be moving to Chicago where he will lead a company that manages travel abroad programming. President Hess, as I'm sure most of you recall, started his presidency at the start of our sophomore year. The Board of Trustees has elected Scott Feller (Dean of the College) as the 17th President of Wabash College. I know many of you know Dean Feller from activities on campus or perhaps as your Chemistry professor.
2. The spring semester was unlike any at Wabash since 1832. Classes were held virtually after Spring Break and culminated with a virtual Awards Chapel and virtual Commencement. We salute the Class of 2020 for their resilience during what I'm sure was a difficult conclusion to their Wabash careers.
3. The Day of Giving earlier this month was a rousing success. All-virtual for the first time ever, the effort raised over \$1.2 million from over 6,000 gifts. It's a truly outstanding performance and something for which we should all be very proud. Something special for us is how we performed as a "2010s decade", according to Hugh Vandivier in Advancement we raised \$46,964.74 from 1,282 gifts by 907 unique donors. We had "the most unique donors of any affinity challenge" and we were the first "decade" to reach our affinity challenge goal.
4. If you can believe it, next May marks five years since our graduation. Please plan to attend Big Bash – the College's annual reunion weekend in early June. Jake and I will reach out with more details but please make a point to try and come to this special celebration. It will be great to see all of you.

I will close by asking a favor. The fiscal year for Wabash closes June 30th. If you haven't given yet this fiscal year (since July 1st of last year), I ask you to please make a gift of any size at wabash.edu/give. A simple gesture of support can go a long way. I know everyone's circumstances are different, but being able to show the level of alumni participation in the Annual Fund is crucial for what the College is trying to do for current and future generations of students.

I wish all the best to you and your families and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Patrick