

Class of 1961

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Dear Many Miler:

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday Season, good health and Joyful gatherings! Greetings from Wabash College. As you read this, preparations to dismantle Sparks Center are underway.



Awaiting a special low rate loan from the U S Government, there have been delays. The temporary kitchen is in place west of the Allen Center. The College just set up a website where you can see updated and floor plans: wabash.edu/communitycenter.

Wabash has 882 students living on campus, which is larger than Earlham. In the past Earlham has been about 40% larger than our college. These are signs of the times as fewer men and women are matriculating. Wittenberg has released 24 faculty members and dropped 5 majors. Tuition has increased less than inflation 26 of the last 27 years. Currently, Purdue is about \$10,000 less than Wabash thanks to Government funding and DePauw is about \$5,000 more. About 20% of the freshman class are Legacies (47). Lilly has funded a special program for “at risk” students who come to campus during the summer before they start school. The program has been quite successful.

Wabash is a philanthropy driven college: yours, mine and many others. The theme is that “students “Belong Here!” The Dean’s office is working closely with national fraternities to avoid problems and increase student accomplishment. Fraternity membership grew by about 10% this fall. President Feller, now in his 5th year in office, has worked toward better relations with Crawfordsville/Montgomery County and with Dr. Lori S. White, President of DePauw. They are seeking a spirit of cooperation rather than being at War! The College again achieved 40% of alumni support for the 11th straight year. This puts us in very rare company among colleges. We need your continued support!

DePauw to Hell! They kept the Bell!!! (for the third time in a row>)



Sam Hildebrand & Pete Phippen

Wabash coach Don Morrell in his final year of coaching, had an 8 win 3 loss season. Wabash Alum, Jake Gilbert’98 will assume head coaching duties. Jake has had a successful run at Westfield High School including several IN State Final games. A new post season game was held in Canton OH for runners up in 4 conferences. Wabash lost to Hanover in a last second field goal... I wish to publicly thank John & JoAnn Birdzell for providing passes to the “Suite” area at Little Giant Stadium. This makes football games an incredible experience! Cash bar, fantastic buffet plus lots of Wabash friends to engage with while watching our football team. The number of parents who come to support their guys is really heartwarming... Wabash junior Quinn Sholar (6’1” 270# Warren Central) earned 2024 D3Football.com First Team all-Region 4

honors. The Little Giants led the NCAC in red zone scoring with an 88.9% success rate and averaged 366.7 yards of offense per game.

Good seasons for Soccer, Cross Country and Track. The swim team won the Gail Pebworth Invitational – the first time they have won this event since it started in 2018. Wabash also trounced the Danny swim team 194-100. The dive team also won a 3 day meet which was held at the Crawfordsville High School Aquatics Center. Gail Pebworth (Broad Ripple HS ’57) will be inducted into the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Assoc of America Div III Hall of Fame. She was the first female inducted into the Wabash College Athletic Hall of Fame. Her swimmers were known to run around the campus holding railroad ties high above their heads! Wrestling opened with a great team effort. There are over 60 men involved in this program! Brayden Curnutt’25 won the Div III Great Lakes Regional Men’s Cross Country meet. Basketball is well underway with several exciting wins including a 74-48 rout of DePauw down in Greencastle!

The Spring 2024 issue was pretty tough on our Many Miler Class! Listed as deceased were: Charlie Bowerman, Jim Davidson, Dick Lesniak, Jay Gordon Gibbs and Mike Hughes. I am proud to have known each of the Little Giants and miss having communication with them. Our thoughts go to the remaining widows.

More sad news:

Robert R. Panzer III passed away peacefully surrounded by his wife and family of October 6. He was a devoted and dedicated husband, father, uncle and grandfather. He loved to tell a good joke, spend time with his family, including his seventeen grandchildren, and engage in backgammon, banter and intellectual discourse.

He was raised in Hanover, Indiana and graduated from Wabash College, where he played football and majored in speech. He met his wife, Bethann Kirkpatrick in 1960 at a school dance. The rest is history. Post college, he continued his journey in the Marines, which he had begun his senior year at Wabash. His attempt to join at the ripe old age of 14 had been unsuccessful. He served in Vietnam and continued to proudly serve as an active member of the Marine Corps Reserves until he retired at a Major.

After becoming paralyzed at the age of 50, he became an avid wheelchair athlete, competing in tennis, skiing and road racing with the support Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Assoc. One of his proudest accomplishments was completing the Marine Corps Marathon in 1995 in is racing chair.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA), the Sparta VFW Post 7248, or your favorite charity.

Dr. William Faller, 84, Kewaunee, passed away on March 31, 2024, at the age of 84. Born in Chicago, IL on July 25, 1939, to the late Adolph and Irma (Hugg) Faller. On June 19, 1965, in Germany, William married the love of his life, Heidi Schatek, embarking on a journey of partnership and companionship that lasted for nearly six decades. Dr. Faller dedicated his life as a pathologist.

William found solace and joy in the great outdoors, where he spent countless hours cutting trees and planting thousands and thousands more, leaving a powerful legacy of sustainability and environmental stewardship. He was an active member of the Heritage Farm community, dedicating his time to preserving the past by working on the schoolhouse at Ag Heritage. His contributions were instrumental in moving and restoring the building, ensuring that future generations would appreciate its historical significance.

A devoted member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church, William found spiritual fulfillment in his faith and community. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him, leaving behind a lasting impact on those whose lives he touched.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established.

And so, we approach a new year. Wishing you Good Health, Joy and continued friendships.

Many Miles Before the Night,

J B



Austin Brooks & Dave Bohlin



Drawn by Hobbie Elliott (Sig Chi)



Hugh Vandivier & Joe Kiley



Don & Betty Weddle w/ daughters



JB & Birdy



Pioneer Chapel