

Class of 1968

Class Agent
Jim Roper

February 2025

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office
301 W. Wabash Ave.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
765-361-6360
alumni@wabash.edu
wabash.edu

Dear Friends in the Class of '68,

Hope this finds you in satisfactory shape. I walk to the gym every other day (2 miles) and do 3 reps of 10 machine/dumbbell exercises. Then walk home. Slowly. My doc got me in pretty good shape. I got skinny enough to be taken off blood pressure medicine. It worked for me. Let me know what works for you. I wish Wabash had a course in Aging, because you get there before you know it. Nobody warned me about the little aches and pains. At least they're little.

I got a note from Ken Crawford (Class Agent for '69) titled "Flight of the Old Hog: The US Air Force has a New Task for its Cold War Tank Smashers," by Ken Axe. Fly-off is scheduled with the F-45.



Roper: The article talked about the Air Force retiring the A-10 without replacement. A fly-off is scheduled. This picture is one of the A-10 without weapons (except the gun). Generally, we'd fly with tanks strapped on from England around the Swiss border in Germany. That way, you had to do some fine map-reading in order to stay in Germany. If you strayed into neutral Sweden, it could cause an international incident. We'll miss the Hog.

More About the Late Phil "Dizzy" Dzurilla from Phil Green

Diz was one of my 16 Fiji pledge brothers. We were roommates for several years and great friends while at school.

Phil was a Region guy, hailing from Whiting. We spent a semester break there and had a great time. His father died when he was quite young and he and his two younger sisters were raised by their mother, a nurse. They lived in a 1950's brick bungalow across the street from Wolf Lake. We visited Dave Avery (Ogden Dunes) and thought it would be fun to toboggan on the dunes. An unmanned trial resulted in the sled flipping over so we moved to a presumably safer path. Once we took off from the towering height of the dune we were in for a rocked ride. The sled took flight about half way down and I was thrown off the back. Once was enough for us all!

Phil was drafted into the Marines. Since they prided themselves on being an all (mostly) volunteer force, he was treated with kid gloves and not subjected to the usual rigors of Marine training. He was made to take afternoon naps and spent a lot of time teaching reading and writing to those volunteers who needed it and then got a non combat MOS.

Diz was a naturally gifted athlete and, most importantly, the best dancer in the house, by far!

Roper adds: I recall those Marine recruiters who would hang around and get their quota by offering a few good deals. I think Diz got one and so did (the late)

Jim Long who played basketball at Wabash. (Jim Long got his nickname, because of the way he pronounced his German text, Sprechen Sie Deutsch.) I visited Jim Long after I was inducted into the Air Force, and he had been assured that he was not getting drafted. The infantry was not the place to be in 1968. The next letter I got from Jim came on Marine stationery. He spent his tour in Hawaii, as an editor of some publication. (Remember letters?)

Tom Bambrey Obituary

Dr. Thomas E. Bambrey '68, who served Wabash as Dean of Students and Director of Athletics from 1997 through 2011, passed away in the early morning of January 26 after an extended illness. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 8 in the Pioneer Chapel.

Over the last decade in his retirement, Bambrey and his wife, Roselie, were mainstays at campus events and they delighted in traveling to wherever the Little Giants were competing. He was honored at Homecoming last September with his induction in the Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame. He also gave many Chapel Talks, including his reflections on his half-century love affair with Wabash in 2022.

“When I arrived on campus, Tom’s care for students and his approach to student life shaped my understanding of the special role that the Dean of Students plays at Wabash,” said President Scott Feller. “I will miss the kind, gentle way that he shared his philosophy of student development with me – from my earliest days as a faculty member right up to a long conversation the two of us shared this past fall on building a campus culture of personal responsibility.”

A native of Western Pennsylvania, he was a three-year letterman for Coach J. Owen Huntsman’s track and field team when he was an undergraduate at Wabash. He was an English major and member of Sigma Chi.

After teaching and coaching at Southmoreland High School in Western Pennsylvania, Bambrey earned his master’s degree and Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Denver. He taught English lit and was an administrator at UD from 1976 through 1992, and from 1989 through 1992 he was Dean of Student Life and Director of the Honors Program. He left UD in 1993 to become

Dean of Student Life and Co-Curricular Education at St. Lawrence University in New York, where he worked until Wabash President Andy Ford convinced him to return home as Dean of Students in 1997.

Bambrey served as an even-handed Dean and educator for 11 years and helped oversee the construction and renovation of most fraternity chapter houses and a massive investment in the College's athletic facilities. As Dean, his responsibilities included residence life, athletics, and career services. He hired Mike Raters '85 as Associate Dean, and together they ushered in an era of "fun" in working with students.

Prior to his arrival, most head coaches in athletics had secondary responsibilities in another sport. Recognizing the recruiting advantages, he professionalized and expanded the athletics program. He was integral in the hiring of some of the most successful coaches in Wabash history, including Chris Creighton and Erik Raeburn in football, Brian Anderson in wrestling, Roger Busch in cross country, and Clyde Morgan in track and field. Those coaches helped Wabash become a regular in the NCAA football playoffs, a top-10 national wrestling program, a perennial conference track and field champ, and never-before achieved levels of individual national championship success. He also oversaw construction of state-of-the-art baseball and soccer stadiums with Goodrich Ballpark and Fischer Field.

He stepped down as Dean of Students in 2008 and President Patrick White appointed him Director of Athletics. Under his leadership, the department experienced unprecedented levels of success in all sports, though as a former runner, he was particularly proud of national champion distance runners Kevin McCarthy and Jake Waterman. "Much of the credit for the current success of our athletics program, both on the field and in the classroom, can be traced to the staff Tom hired as dean of students and his subsequent leadership of that staff as athletics director," Mike Raters said at Bambrey's retirement in 2011.

President White added, "At his heart Tom is a teacher, and he has taught all of us what it means to be Wabash... Tom has been to me a most valuable coach and teacher of Wabash, and I will always be grateful for his guidance and friendship.

"Friends can send notes of sympathy to Roselie Bambrey at 3 Bridge Hampton Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

Jim Amidon, Chief of Staff

Director of Strategic Communications, Wabash College

Robert Hendren Obituary

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel on Jan. 7, 2025.

Robert "Bob" Hendren died peacefully on January 4, 2025. He was 79 years old. Bob grew up in Carmel, Indiana. He was the youngest child of Gilbert and Shirley Hendren. He is predeceased by his beloved older siblings, Gilbert, Michael, and Nancy.

Bob went to Wabash College. Always a free spirit, Bob took time away from college to travel and work in Germany and Turkey before returning to finish his bachelors degree. He then served in the US Army during the Vietnam war. Upon completion of his military service Bob worked in the family business in Indianapolis, the Hendren Printing Company. He then attended law school at Florida State University, after which he was a practicing attorney for 45 years. During his law career, he worked as a public defender, an administrator with the state of Indiana, and in private practice.

Bob was passionate about music and art, and was an accomplished musician; playing guitar, banjo and dobro and singing traditional songs as well as his own many compositions. He found his greatest joy in gathering and playing with other musicians, and he was instrumental in creating the traditional music club "Traditions" in Indianapolis, presenting national and regional acts including the great Ralph Stanley. He also created hundreds of abstract artworks with pencils, paints and pastels.

He is survived by his daughter, Samantha Hendren of Indianapolis, IN, and son, Christopher Hendren.

Lots going on at Wabash—from Hugh Vandiver '91

- Wabash set a record for freshman-to-sophomore retention at 93%, and the freshman class is the largest since 2018.
- The Glee Club took the stage for several concerts under first-year Director Juan Hernandez.
- Wabash College received top-10 rankings in 10 categories in The Princeton Review's 2025 college guide. Wabash ranked third for Best Health Services and Most Active Student Government to go along with top-five rankings for Best Financial Aid (No. 5), Best Career Services (No. 5), Best Campus Newspaper (No. 5), and Most Accessible Professors (No. 6). ([story](#))
- The Art Department celebrated Professor of Art Emeritus Greg Huebner H'77 with a retrospective exhibit titled "Imagining Balance Amid Chaos & Harmony." ([photos](#))
- At Homecoming, Emmanuel Aouad '10, Wes Chamblee '12, Matt Hudson '10, Matt McGuire '00, Evan Rhinesmith '11, Tom Bambrey '68, and the 1972 Soccer Team were inducted into the Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame. ([story](#)) ([photos](#))
- The President's Distinguished Speaker Series brought two alumni to campus: Dr. Richard Gunderman '83 for his talk "[You Contain Multitudes,](#)" and Dr. Robert Einterz '77 for his talk "[Personal Reflections on Civility and Community.](#)" ([story](#))
- Jake Weber '25 earned Top Advocate and the Floyd Artful Advocacy Prize in the 31st Moot Court competition. ([story](#))
- Two US Army Blackhawk helicopters landed in Mud Hollow on October 24 to pick up six Wabash ROTC Cadets. This was a ceremonial gesture by the Army to honor their service. The Wabash cadets train at Purdue. ([photos](#))
- Brayden Curnutt '25 captured the North Coast Athletics Conference Cross Country Championship, earning Men's Runner of the Year and First Team All-NCAC honors. At the 2024 NCAA Division III Great Lakes Region Men's Cross Country Championship he once again crossed the finish line in first place to claim the individual title. And at the NCAA DIII National Championships, he finished 18th, earning All-American honors. ([story](#))
- On the Wednesday before the 130th Monon Bell Classic, Wabash and DePauw jointly hosted a luncheon titled Rivals, not Enemies. Clay Robbins '79, CEO of Lilly Endowment Inc., and Jennett Hill DePauw '85, President of Lilly Endowment Inc., hosted the event and both received the Raymond "Gaume" Neal Award. Wabash Trustee Aman Brar '99 captured the spirit of the occasion best: "We're so incredibly lucky to have this rivalry. 0-10, 10-0, and every record in between. Playoffs or no playoffs. We always have meaning. Something to fight for. Always a reason to be our best. A reason to push ourselves to do more in our

community; for our city; for our country. Because a rivalry like the Monon Bell teaches and pushes us to be our best.” ([photos](#))

- On November 11, the campus transitioned from Sparks Center over to a temporary dining facility, which has already met with a very positive reaction from students, faculty, staff, and visiting diners. With a nod to historic Mud Hollow, this new space dubbed “Grub Hollow,” includes a dozen mobile units that have been connected on one set of the outdoor tennis courts.
- On November 21, Jackson Blevins '20 and Spencer Newmister '19 gave Chapel Talks in Pioneer Chapel in celebration of Founders' Day. Afterwards, the Sphinx Club introduced Alma Mater to the students with the Glee Club leading those assembled through the verses. ([video](#)) ([photos](#)) ([photos](#))
- Over Thanksgiving break, Dr. Peter Mikek took his economics class to Costa Rica for an immersive learning experience.
- After Final Exams, the baseball team traveled to the Dominican Republic, led by Head Coach Jake Martin '03 and Professor of Spanish Dan Rogers H'12.
- More than 97% of the Class of 2024 have secured their first professional opportunity or acceptance into medical, law, or other graduate school programs. The national average, by the way, is 85.7% in six months.
- More than 175 prospective high school students are slated to attend Scarlet Honors Weekend February 16-17.



Delt initiation. James Byrn MD '68, Toby Byrn '24, Robert Byrn MD '99.



Dr. And Mrs. Willis Pelle and Dr. and Mrs. James Byrn 2024 class ring in.

If you know someone who might be a Wabash man, here are a few pointers:

No. 2 in Best Internship Opportunities (All from *The Princeton Review*)

Wabash “does a great job of making opportunities for students.”

No. 3 in Best Health Services

According to *The Princeton Review*, we are among the best when it comes to health services on campus.

No. 3 in Most Active Student Government

The Princeton Review says, “student government has an active presence and tremendous impact on campus life.”

No. 4 in Best Alumni Network

The Princeton Review reports that Wabash “has a great alumni base that will help develop a student’s career while in school and make it easier to get a job after you graduate.”

No. 5 in Great Financial Aid

The Princeton Review gave Wabash a financial aid score of 94 out of 100.

No. 5 in Best Career Services

The Princeton Review cited praise for career services and immersion learning as reasons for a memorable student experience.

All rankings by *The Princeton Review*!

I will call this a wrap. If you have any news of Wabash note, please send them in. Wabash people want to know!

WAF!

Jim Roper '68