

Class of 1968

Class Agent  
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Dear Friends in the Class of '68,

Good news and bad news this time.

Please send me news. Don't need anything in particular. Pictures are great. We want to see what you look like now. Any news about grandkids going to Wabash, talking dogs, ANYTHING! Send it to me.

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**(Borrowed from Mike Warren)** November 8 is a national day of celebration of First Generation college students. Prof. Horton has begun sending reminders to



the Wabash College faculty and staff – offering t-shirts and stickers to those who may want to wear them proudly that day, and encouraging all of us to celebrate our Wabash

students who are First Generation college students. Approximately 30% of our students, and nearly 20% of the College's staff, are First Generation.

## OBITUARY

**Harry Lee Staley, M.D.**

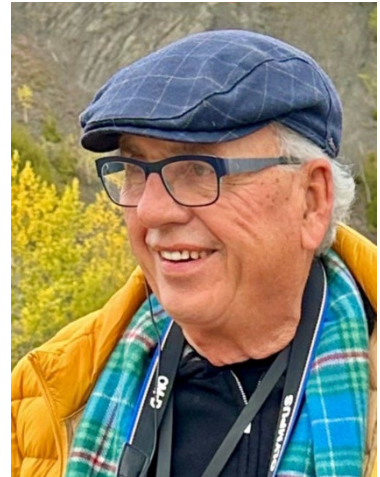
FEBRUARY 25, 1946 – MAY 9, 2024

Leppert Mortuaries - Nora

Harry Lee Staley, M.D., 78, of Holland, MI passed away unexpectedly on May 9, 2024 while hiking in Domme, France, a place he and his wife Lisa loved and recently had purchased their dream home. Harry was born on February 25, 1946 in Columbia City, Indiana to Harry and Velma (Hively) Staley. With an early talent and love for basketball, Harry accepted a basketball scholarship to play for Wabash College in 1964. His time at Wabash was a cherished part of his life, and after graduating in 1968, he attended Indiana University School of Medicine, graduating in 1972. Harry completed his Internship and Internal Medicine

Residency at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA and his Rheumatology Fellowship in Worcester, MA. Harry began his practice in Rheumatology at Caylor Nickel Clinic, Bluffton, IN and continued his 44 medical career at Carle Clinic in Urbana, IL, Rheumatology Associates in Indianapolis, IN, and retired from Holland Hospital in Holland, MI in 2021 where he was instrumental in building their first Rheumatology practice.

No services are scheduled at this time. His dedication to the field of medicine and healing touched the lives of so many. Throughout his career, his passion for medicine was reflected through his ongoing care and commitment to his patients along with his dedication to mentoring physicians in their medical residency. Harry was a loving husband, proud father, grandfather, brother, and loyal friend. He will always be remembered for his unconditional love, gentle spirit, thoughtfulness and incredible vibrance for life. Harry represented the true definition of a gentleman and scholar.



Harry is survived by his wife of 41 years, Lisa (Dann) Staley; daughters, Erica (Staley) Parker and Jennifer (Staley) Straw; grandson, Landen Parker; sister, Ruth Ann (Staley) Woodham; sister-in-law, Kellie Dann, and sons-in-law Tony Straw and Brian Parker. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Velma (Hively) Staley; and sister, Janice (Staley) Busz.

To post online reflections, please visit: [www.leppertmortuary.com](http://www.leppertmortuary.com) Harry's life gathering of family, friends and colleagues to remember, reflect and to celebrate a life well lived, will be held at a future date. In memoriam donations may be made to: Wabash College Advancement Office, PO Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Please note on your check: In Memoriam: Harry L Staley, MD, class of 1968. Or online at: [www.wabash.edu/give](http://www.wabash.edu/give).

It is the family's hope that through these contributions Harry's dedication and kindness to others will continue to live on and always provide an inspiration to others. May his memory be a blessing.

**Note about Harry from Buzz Madsen:** Last summer, Harry and Lisa stayed at our home in Domme. They loved it so much there that last fall they purchased a house in the same village. This spring we were looking forward to enjoying the Dordogne area together. Harry and Lisa were planning on staying at their new home until December, I believe. We got the news of Harry's death from Lisa shortly before we travelled to France in late May. Lisa returned to Domme a few weeks ago, a couple weeks after we returned to the U.S.

I looked for an obituary online of Phil "Dizzy" Dzurilla, but only came upon the same source you may have used for the class letter.

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**From the Board of Trustees-** from the letter everybody got

Trustees gathered on the Wabash campus on a beautiful early October weekend. The mood on campus was noticeably upbeat with a tangible sense of engagement and momentum (despite the football team playing on the road).

In addition to our regular committee and Board work, we focused considerable time on the College's relationship with Crawfordsville and Montgomery County and efforts underway to enhance the town's attractiveness to current and prospective residents. Mayor Todd Barton '00 is building partnerships to invest in the future of the city and county, and the results of improved collaboration. The Board welcomed Houston Mills '85, Robert Rudicel '92, Jim Snyder '82, and Jonathan Walsh '98 as new Trustees.

Overall enrollment this fall is 882 students. Applications are up 44% year-to-date over last year, and campus visits are also up 40% year-over-year.

The Annual Fund finished FY 2024 at just over \$3.8 million, exceeding its \$3.7 million goal; the alumni participation rate was 40% (fifth highest in the U.S.!) for the 11th consecutive year. Overall fundraising for the past year exceeded \$52.8 million from more than 6,400 individuals and foundations.

Wabash continues its efforts to secure funding for the construction of a new community center, which will replace Sparks Center. A critical piece is a USDA Rural Development loan to bridge a fundraising gap, as well as refinancing existing long-term debt with favorable terms in the short- and long-term. The College is on budget for the current fiscal year thanks to record retention rates.

If you know of people the committee should review for either honorary doctorates or bachelor's degrees, please send their names and supporting materials to [trustee@wabash.edu](mailto:trustee@wabash.edu). It is clear that Wabash is on an upward trajectory despite continuing challenges faced by small rural liberal arts institutions.

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## Tom Bambrey was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame



President Andy Ford entrusted you with oversight of the Athletics Department, which had previously been a part of Academic Affairs. You developed the current structure in Athletics, which greatly increased the recruitment role of coaches and furthered the professionalization of the staff.

Prior to your arrival, most head coaches had secondary responsibilities in another sport, and there were far fewer assistant coaches. Recruiting was a part-time thing, done largely at nights and on weekends. You changed all that and we continue to reap the benefits of your wisdom.

You were also 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. That collection of five coaches helped Wabash become a regular in the NCAA football playoffs, a top-five national wrestling program, a perennial conference track and field champ, and never-before achieved levels of individual national championship success. (Borrowed from write-up.)

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**Mike Gallagher-** Sends a photo from Yosemite.



Jim, Hiking at Yosemite National Park last week, remember that great trip you had there senior year at Wabash.

I am wearing my Wabash baseball T-shirt that I purchased in the bookstore when I was there in July

An interesting Iron Mike update: I have just joined a new BC Slow Pitch team that will compete in next September's 80 and over world championships in Las Vegas, Nevada in September National Park.

**Note from Roper:** The French bureaucrats were particular about flight plans. Had to be perfect or they'd refuse it. Hey Buzz, do you live in the middle of France? And did you ever see F-111s traveling about 600 mph at 500 feet? We traveled to and from Spain that way if the flight plan was right. All the ranges in the United Kingdom were over water, so we traveled to Spain once a year. New story: Once upon a time, as a squadron commander, I gave a briefing about Integrity--not when it's easy. When it's hard. A major then came into my office and said he had been tasked to make a 4-ship low pass over the French beach (once named Omaha) for the 40th anniversary of D-Day. The French refused his flight plan when he was halfway across the channel. So he turned back. BUT during the turn, he ordered IFF's (radar identification) off, descended, and did a 360 degree turn and made the beach run on time using afterburner. I didn't hear from the French.

**From Ron Dostal: We know you and your classmates have questions about the state of Sparks Center and the new Community Center that's set to replace it. So, on behalf of the College at large, I'm pleased to introduce a new web hub, [wabash.edu/communitycenter](http://wabash.edu/communitycenter) .**

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**Once upon a time**, I was the Project Officer for Red Flag in an overseas A-10 squadron. After tons of paperwork, we arrived in Nellis AFB for the realistic exercise wartime scenario. I was looking forward to relaxing and enjoying the A-10. So as part of one of the first sorties, I was taxiing out, leader of a two-ship formation. I called, "Ready for take-off." I recognized my squadron commander's voice when he added, "MARSA with 8." (MARSA means Military Assumes Responsibility for Separation of Aircraft.) So, NOW I was leading an 8-ship. Okay. The A-10 paperwork was built for this. We took off, joined up, went tactical formation, and contacted a FAC (Forward Air Controller). After he briefed, I set up the fighter-to-fighter briefing. Each 4 ship would start strafing at each end of the convoy-opposite turn offs. I asked for constant pressure on the target. 1170 rounds of 30mm apiece later we were soon done. Convoy destroyed. It went from a relaxing time to WORK, but I survived. **Did anyone have a sneaky way to make subordinates better? Let me know.**

This is a wrap. We are upon Holiday Season. However you celebrate it, please have a great time and take good care. Wabash always fights!

**Jim Roper '68**