

Class of 1969

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Gentlemen of the Class of 69,

The fall semester that started 20 August has passed all too quickly by. Finals were over last Friday and students are returning home for a well-deserved break from their studies and a Happy Holiday season. And once again a year is coming to an end and I failed to get this letter out to you earlier... my apologies.

Since my last letter of 8 May (a long time ago), here are a few of the College highlights:

- The 424 Day of Giving broke all previous records
- On 12 May, 184 seniors graduated. In 6 months 98.3% had first destinations
- Big Bash 24 saw 300+ alumni returning to campus.
- On 30 June the College closed out fiscal year 24 with a record year of giving
- On 17 August President Feller rang in the Class of '28 with 267 young men.
- The September student census showed 882 students attending - best since 2018
- Wabash set a new record for freshman-to-sophomore retention at 93%.
- In Sept the College had 12 top-10 ranking in the Princeton Review, to include No.2 nationally for internship opportunities, No. 4 for its alumni network, No.5 for financial aid, career services, and great professors with easy access.

Fiscal Year 24 closed out 30 June with \$52.7 m received in gifts and \$3.808 m for the annual fund. There were 4,909 alumni donors with a 40.25% participation, exceeding 40% for the 11th year in a row. A very special thank you to all who made a gift(s) to Wabash.

Class of 2028 with 257 is the largest freshmen class since 2018 (pre-Covid). The students came from 18 states and 14 countries. This the largest group of foreign students Wabash has had. We wish them well in their four-year journey through a rigorous liberal arts education.

The fall census in Sept indicated 184 seniors, 220 juniors, 221 sophomores, and 257 freshmen for a total enrollment of 882, the highest enrollment since 2018.

Dean Moore Scholarship:

Our 424 Day of Giving Dean Moore Challenge received 73 donors – a record. The gifts received on 424 and through fiscal year 24 ending on 30 June, brought our Dean Moore book value up to \$873, 711. The gifts of \$16.3k to our DM fund from 1 July to 1 Dec bring our book value to \$890k. We are close to breaking \$900k. The market value for our fund is higher: > \$950k. The market value generates our annual DM disposable income. This year it is > \$46k, awarded to five students: (years received)

Andrew J Sinkovics '25 (3)	Independent	Martindale	Bremen, IN
Jacob E. Irick '25 (2)	Independent	Rogge Hall	Tempe, AZ
Austin S. Dalton '26 (3)	Independent	College Hall	Pimento, IN
Evan C. Stonis '26 (2)	Fraternity	Phi Kappa Psi	Naperville, IL
Sawyer B. Lewis '28	Independent	Rogge Hall	Corydon, IN

Wabash sports- The Wabash football team finished 8-3 on the season, 7-1 in the conference. They lost to DePauw 21-42 in the Monon Bell Game, with Wabash scoring 14 in the second half to DePauw's 28. Wabash did play in the Forever Green Bowl 23 Nov, losing to Hanover 10-13. The basketball team is now 4-4, 3-0 in the conference. Wrestling is 1-1, swimming/ diving 3-1. Wrestling is 1-1 and won the Adrian Invitational. In the same week, basketball team routed DePauw in Greencastle 74-48 and the swim/dive team sank the Tigers at home 194-100.

New Community Center – has not yet started construction. Ground breaking is set for 25 January. Food operations were moved from the Sparks Center and opened in temporary facilities on the tennis courts on 11 December. The new facility is affectionately called “Grub Hollow”, after mud hollow. There's a new website where you can find news, floor plans, a video tour, and information on supporting the project: wabash.edu/communitycenter.



The new dining facility



A last picture of the Sparks Center



with memories of the Scarlet Inn.

Big Bash 24 - Our 55th Reunion May 31- June 1, was a success with over 400 alumni and guests returning for a very enjoyable couple days on the beautiful Wabash campus with perfect late spring weather. The singing of 'Ol Wabash in the chapel was especially rousing. With the good leadership of Dave Sadler we practiced in Baxter a couple times and then sang a great rendition of 'Ol Wabash on the Chapel stage, placing second behind the Class of 74. Tradition, it seems, always gives first place to the class with their 50th reunion.



Class of 69 – 1 June 2024



The world famous Class of 69 'Ol Wabash Choir

With sadness I need to inform you of the passing of two of our classmates:

Dr. Ray Knight, Independent, passed away 12 September after a long fought with Parkinsons and brain tumors. Starting his practice in 1979, he served Southern IN and Metro Louisville. He was on the clinical faculty at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, and received many clinical teaching awards. Ray was a long-time supporter of Wabash College.

David Parkhill, Sigma Chi, passed away December 1, 2024, in Fort Myers, Florida passed away, after several challenging years with Alzheimer's Disease. Dave was a "Life Loyal Sig" who kept in touch with his fraternity brothers throughout his life. He retired in Illinois after a long career in marketing of housewares and office supplies.

Year-End Giving: As we approach the end of the calendar year and you have not yet given to Wabash this 2024-25 fiscal year, please consider giving a dollar (or two) to 'ol Wabash to take advantage of 2024 tax deductions. For those who make an end-of-the-year gift, here are five ways you can support Wabash students. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13217>. As always you can give online at wabash.edu/give , or phone a gift in at 877-743-45445, or mail a check to Wabash College, Annual Fund, 301 W. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Give any amount (large of small) to the annual fund or to any fund. A dollar (or two) will go a long way to support the College and the students.

As you notice most of my letter focuses on what the College is doing and key events. I receive very little class news. If you wish to send me any news you would like to share with our class please email me. I will try to get at least three letters a year out to you. For those who give to the College your gifts are greatly appreciated. Always try to keep Wabash on your mind. Wabash is and will always be your home.

If your contact information should change, please let me know. Or email Pam Rager in the Alumni Office ragerp@wabash.edu or alumni@wabash.edu. We enjoy keeping in touch with you!

I wish all a **Happy Holiday Season**, with a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year with best wishes for good health and happiness in 2025.

Once again I thank all for your support to Wabash College.

Your philanthropy goes a long way to help the young men of Wabash.

WABASH ALWAYS FIGHTS!!

Best Holiday Wishes!!

Ken

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