



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1974

Class Agents
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Wabash Men of 1974:

Welcome to Fall! Hope everyone is doing well. I (Paul) had cataract surgery on my left eye two weeks ago and go in tomorrow to have the cataract removed from my right eye. I'm hoping this surgery goes as well as the first.

Both Mark and I attended the J. B. Bachman '61 Class Agent Forum earlier this month in Crawfordsville and thanks to everyone who attended Big Bash 2024, contacted classmates, or donated funds to the college, we took home the Dorman Hughes '43 Award for Big Bash.

With this letter, I want to fill you in on three of the data points from President Feller's Forum update talk; enrollment, philanthropy, and community.

Enrollment:

Classes have been in session for a month for 882 men. Over 260 are freshmen and 47 of these are legacies. Enrollment is at a ten year high. Retention of 93% of freshmen to their sophomore year was the highest in school history. Retention is ten points higher among fraternity members versus independent men. With students now required to live on campus, housing is fuller today than at any time in history. 99% of men now live on campus.

Philanthropy:

Alumni giving exceeded 40% for the eleventh year in a row. President Feller stated, "This college runs on philanthropy." Actual cash received in fiscal 2024 exceeded \$52 million and included the largest cash gift ever



received; \$25 million from the Lilly Endowment. Please consider making your fiscal 2025 early at wabash.edu/give.

Ten million new dollars were placed in the college's endowment which is now over \$400 million. Feller and his staff reduced annual spending by \$4 million compared to historical levels of spending. He also said the college has an opportunity to refinance all of its debt at a fixed rate of 3.5% for forty years through a USDA Rural Development loan program.

Community:

Although difficult to measure, President Feller wants everyone (student, faculty, and staff) to feel they belong on the Wabash campus. The new student community center will be a place for everyone to “hang out.”

Demolition of the Sparks Center had not yet begun as of September 7 because of delays in constructing the temporary kitchen facility. However, installation of a new electrical distribution system is underway with the removal of the electricity lines from the college tunnels. This project is part of a long term plan to address an estimated \$25 million in deferred maintenance. President Feller said the college will also invest \$18 million in heating and cooling systems over the next two years with the new community center representing the bulk of these investment dollars.

Please let of hear from you even if it is just news about your latest surgical procedure.

Yours in Wabash,

Paul Tipps and Mark Dewart
Co-Class Agents 1974