

Class of 1977

Class Agents

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Season's Greetings to all from your class agents!

Hope you're healthy and well as we turn the page on 2024 and head into 2025. This isn't a long letter, but it's one that brings a lot of personal pride to me (John) as I look at Wabash College in calendar year 2024.

By the numbers, it was another banner year at Wabash. There were 184 bachelor's degree recipients at the college's 186th commencement ceremony on May 11, and three months later, 267 students came to Crawfordsville to enroll in the college's class of 2028. If recent trends hold, about 90 percent of those students will persist for four years and earn their degree come May 2028.

What's truly remarkable about today's students is that many of them are not as well off, financially, as we were when we were roaming the halls of Wabash and the streets in/around Crawfordsville 50 years ago. Almost all – 99 percent – of today's Little Giant students are receiving some form of financial aid, compared to (if my memory serves) about 65 percent of those in our class. The "well off" middle and upper class guys attending college today have so many more choices than we had 50 years ago. There is more admissions competition for fewer and fewer numbers of males going to college today.

That's what makes Wabash's academic success rate and some of its graduation statistics truly amazing. Earlier this month, the college announced that more than 97% of the members of the Class of 2024 settled into a first "choice" post college: Employment, graduate school, or service. This is the eighth consecutive year in which Wabash graduates have claimed their "first destination" at rates that rank the college among the highest in the nations. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports that, nationally, the "first destination" rate for college graduates is about 84 percent. (See the link below.)

So, why am I sharing this at year's end? It's just a reminder that your financial support for Wabash College makes a big and measurable difference in the lives of the young men attending and graduating from our alma mater today. While the "Giant Steps" campaign has concluded, the college's need to support from its alumni remains great. Think about these facts and consider an end-of-calendar-year gift to Wabash.

<https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13407>



REELIN' IN THE YEARS

Back at this time in 1974, most of us were safely at home for the holidays after the first semester of our sophomore year. We had survived being the first guinea pigs for a new mandated college course called Cultures and Traditions. (Don't know if I was blessed or cursed, but one of my C&T instructors was Dean Norman Moore.)

On our radios, tops hits included the Three Degrees' "When Will I See You Again?," "Cat's in the Cradle," by Harry Chapin, "Kung Fu Fighting" by Carl Douglas, and the Doobie Brothers "Black Water" *Young Frankenstein* and the *Godfather Part II* were the movies we were most likely to see over our break between semesters.

In the news that month, former Georgia governor Jimmy Carter, who just passed away Sunday at age 100, announced he was running for the office of president in 1976. Cyclone Tracy destroyed 80 percent of the town of Darwin, Australia, and 5,200 died from an earthquake in Pakistan.

Herm and Kitty, Greg and Carroll, and Kathy and I wish you a happy and prosperous 2025. We hope to see you on campus or elsewhere in the new year.

Best for Wabash Always,

John



Kathy and John



Carroll and Greg