



Pactoracles
Class Agent's Letter
For The Wabash College Class of 1971



June 17, 2024

Happy 75th To Us

2024 is the year most of the men in the class of 1971 turn 75, thus becoming almost old enough to run for President of the United States but still wise enough not to.

Some classmates are older than 75 because they started Wabash College before 1967 or because they were older than 18 when they started in 1967. Happy 75th to all of us.

The Delts of the Class of 1971 celebrated in a spectacular fashion with a well-attended reunion which they called "A Celebration of Life" in Sarasota, FL, April 12 -14, 2024.

Four Floridians -- Marty Schaap, Bill Hausman, Bill Lee and Alex Miller—sponsored and planned the reunion. They worked on it for about 14 months. Brenda Miller, Alex's wife, was the coordinator in its entirety.



Alex and Brenda prepare for the Delts. Below, the Millers display a welcome banner for the pledge brothers.

Jeff and Jan Eaton, Medinah, IL
Beck and Christy Hannaford, Muncie, IN
Bill Hausmann and DeeDee Toner, Cocoa Beach, FL
Steve Hays, Columbus, IN
Bill and Ginny Lee, Naples, FL
Alex and Brenda Miller, Sarasota, FL
Mark and Chris Randak, Billings, MT
Marty Schaap, Indiatlantic, FL
Burt Schell and Barbara Deal, Chicago, IL
Vern and Mary Ann Tompkins, Southington, CT
Steve and Susan Wildman, Boulder, CO
Kerry Wilson ('68 pledge), South Bend, IN



The activities for the pledge brothers were as follows:

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Our Next Reunion Will Be In 2026

The Class of 1971 will celebrate its 55th anniversary of graduation at Big Bash, which will likely be early June 2026 . Please keep this milestone in mind.

I attended Big Bash a few weeks ago. Our elders, the Class of 1959 , had about 12 members back. They are nearing 90 years old. They inspired me.

Representing Wabash

I had the honor to represent Wabash College at the inauguration of Kenyon's 20th president, Julie Kornfeld, on April 13. Wearing academic regalia, I marched with representatives of scores of other schools. We were lined up by age of the schools, and Wabash was 28th. Kenyon is celebrating its 200th anniversary.

She gave a strong speech for Kenyon specifically and the liberal arts in particular. "We need to show up for the liberal arts now more than ever," she said, "because if we don't, this vital model of education will f1 Tw -19.of1vu30Tm [(t)0.5 (h)]Tw -12g/(i)

Governing Wabash

Dr. Shamira Gelbman, a professor of political science, teaches a course titled “Governing Wabash.” The course combines political science, history, and research. Her syllabus states: “We often refer to Wabash College as a community and, like in any community, the College’s politics and governance play an important role in shaping the experiences of its members.”

The students this spring examined various components of Wabash governance and explored the varying former or present processes to make decisions for the community. They engaged in discussions, heard guest speakers, performed research, and made written and audio reports.

The class covered some topics from our student days such as (1) mandatory chapel and its demise and (2) the creation of the Malcolm X Institute. They heard from Wabash president Scott Feller, professors, a trustee, Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton ‘00, and others, including me.

Upon Dr. Gelbman’s invitation, I spoke to the class in February on my research on the history of the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men (IAWM), which is now called the Wabash Club of Indianapolis. I have seen her students energetically doing research in the college’s archives. Her students are interested in this unusual course and Wabash College.

Nate Plake ’25 is working as a summer intern under the supervision of Nolan Eller ’11, the college’s archivist. Nate’s work includes assisting with the book and providing research related to other alumni matters. The Wabash Club of Indianapolis is funding his internship.

I have been working earnestly on a history and scrapbook of the Indianapolis Association Of Wabash Men for more than a year though I started this project in the last century. I plan to finish it before this September.

The book will be disjointed in purpose and in content. The history of the

The Class of 1971 & Wabash Basketball

Classmates Tom Runge, Tom Martella, and Jon Pactor rooted for the Wabash basketball team when the team played Catholic University in Washington, D.C. last December 19.

They were unsuccessful rooters, as the Little Giants fell, 86 -72. Wabash played without its 7'2" center who was ill, and Martella, a hoops star during his college days, had run out of eligibility. The team finished the season with a 20 -9 record and its third consecutive trip to the NCAA tourney. It lost to Coe College in the first round at Trine University in Angola, IN.

I am betting that most classmates do not realize that Tom is one of the greatest Wabash basketball players of all -time . A look at his playing career is also a nostalgic flashback on college basketball during our era as students.

Tom was a 6'6 " center, slender but strong and gritty. Wabash has played basketball for about 125 years, and Tom ranks 3rd all-time in rebounds per game at 8.5 rpg behind the incomparable Pete Metzelaars '82 and Jim Cumming '61. He is one of only four Little Giants who averaged a double double for a single season, his senior year, with 17.9 ppg and 10 rpg. He was a second -team academic All -American, one of 13 Wabash basketball players since 196 1 to receive recognition as an All -American , academic or otherwise . He was a two -time MVP.

Basketball, of course, is a team game. Tom had some strong teammates including classmates Lee Fouts and Craig Martin. Jack Roudebush '74 played on the 1970 -1971. He still holds the Wabash record for highest scoring average for a player in a season— 28.1 ppg in the 1973 -1974 season.

Wabash had a tough schedule. Before Division III arrived in 1973, there were only two NCAA divisions —university and college. Wabash was in the college division and played schools that would be unthinkable opponents today —Butler, Indiana Central, and

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Here are a few examples. Wabash faced Butler's Oscar Evans, an NBA draftee. He averaged 17.7 points and 9.2 rebounds as a junior and 20.0 poin

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Class Agent Letter of Class of 1971—June 15, 2024

Thanks For Donating This Fiscal Year, Which Will End June 30

Thanks to classmates, spouses, and widows who have donated so far in the fiscal year through June 15, 2024. The fiscal year ends on June 30. Note that the list below names those who have donated since July 1, 2023.

When we donate, we say “thanks” for our own good fortune,