



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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 instrumental in its success.

Twelve pledge brothers (PBs) and another Delt came from six states. Ten ladies joined them. They were:

Kai and Charlotte Chin, Louisville, CO  
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



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



The activities for the pledge brothers were as follows:

1. Friday evening: They enjoyed a pool-side dinner at the Millers' home. Brenda prepared the meal.

2. Saturday afternoon: They took a cruise of Sarasota Bay. Admiral Miller missed the boat. Brenda and he were busy preparing the supper.

3. Saturday evening: They enjoyed a catered dinner at the Community Center where the Millers live. Afterwards was pool-side dancing to the 60s band Paisley Craze.

4. Sunday morning: They had a poolside brunch at the Millers' house which Brenda prepared.

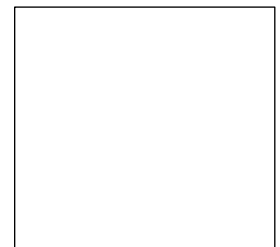
"We had a great time, telling and retelling stories, dancing and just being together in a period of our lives when we are truly able to "Celebrate Life," said Alex.



Left to right Alex Miller in flowered shirt, Steve Wildman in front of Alex; Vern Tomkins with glasses, Jeff Eaton behind Vern; Steve Hays in front; Beck Hannaford looking over Steve's left; Mark Randak in back with hand on Kai Chin's left shoulder; Kai Chin; Bill Hausmann in orange shirt; Kerry Wilson far back; Marty Schaap between Kai and Bill; Burt Schell in back looking over Bill's left shoulder; and Bill Lee at end with his hand in his pocket. The 1971 Wabash yearbook and other artifacts are on the coffee table.



Alex Miller, left, and Jeff Eaton.

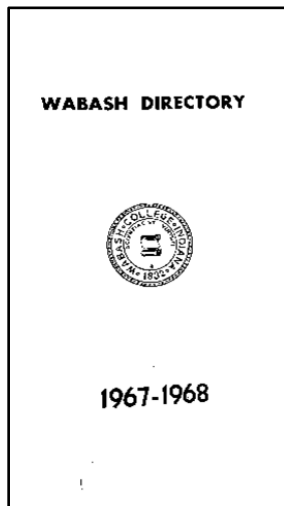


The Class of 1971 will celebrate its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of graduation at Big Bash, which will likely be early June 2026. Please keep this milestone in mind.

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.

I had the honor to represent Wabash College at the inauguration of Kenyon's 20<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>. Kenyon is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> 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 fall by the wayside. We need to show up and prove our significance to society." She repeated the theme of the need to show up. Yes, we all need to show up.



Many of them still exist: Glee Club, radio, IFC, student government, etc. One extinct club caught my attention: the Folk Singing Society. Where have all our hair lines gone, long time passing? There was a folk song like that. Were any classmates in that club?

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.

## IAWM

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 organization started no later than 1886. Contact me if you have an idea, photo, or other archive to contribute for the book.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1961 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 (now University of Indianapolis), Valparaiso, etc. The two divisions meant that talent was not spread out as it is today. Thus, Wabash players faced many players who were all-time great players at their schools. Some were drafted by the National Basketball Association.



Three classmates pose before Wabash played Catholic University on December 19, 2023. From the left are Tom Runge, Jon Pactor, and Tom Martella. I am writing about basketball in June because I did not get to it in March and because Indianapolis is now in the basketball fervor of Caitlin Clark.

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 points and 6.2 rebounds as a senior. Kenyon's John Rinka twice led the nation in scoring in the college division. He averaged a phenomenal 41 points per game in 1969-1970 when there were no three-point shots, no shot clock, and no double bonus. Wabash did not play Kenyon that season but did so in January 1968 when Kenyon won 94-92 at Crawfordsville. Rinka averaged 31 ppg that season. Hanover's rugged 6'9" center and All-American Mark Gabriel was drafted by the NBA. He may be Hanover's best overall player ever. Steve Wilson of Hanover played two years with the Denver Rockets in the American Basketball Association, which later merged with the NBA. Today's Wabash players are not playing against potential NBA players.

Wabash teams also played a mighty Earlham team, which was 24-5 in 1970-1971. Against that team, Tom scored 27 points and pulled down 17 rebounds in a loss in February 1971. Earlham's coach was Del Harris who later coached in the NBA and coached the U.S. Olympics basketball team. Harris is in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA.

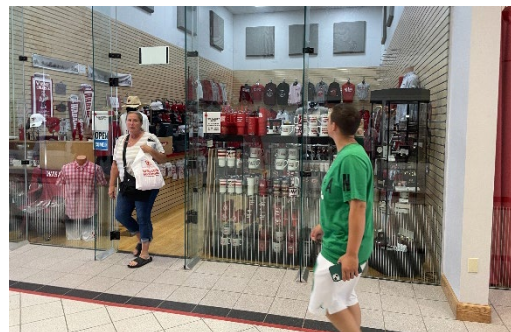
In a few months, the Little Giants will start the 2023-2024 season. They will have some very good players coming back and will play Trine at Angola on November 8 or 9. Trine is the defending Div. III national champion.

Andrea and I will follow and root for the team as we have done for about 30 years. Hopefully other classmates will, too, in courtside seats at their computers or in the arenas.

The building known as the Campus Center in our day and later named the Sparks Center is scheduled to be razed and replaced with a community building. The new construction is expected to last two years.

In the meantime, the independents will be eating at a temporary facility near the gym.

The bookstore has left the Sparks Center and moved to temporary quarters in the Allen Center. It is well stocked. Customers can also buy Wabash swag online.



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, for our great Wabash professors, and for Wabash friendships.

Wabash needs 398 more alumni to make a gift to reach 40% alumni giving for the 11th consecutive year. Please donate to the college by mailing a check to Wabash College Advancement Office, 301 W. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or by contributing online at [wabash.edu/give](http://wabash.edu/give), or by calling the college at 877-743-4545.

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Thanks for reading . It is my honor and responsibility to serve the Class of 1971. Please contact me with news, comments, or questions. My cell phone is 317-695-2555, and my e-mail address is [pactorlaw@iquest.net](mailto:pactorlaw@iquest.net).

Your Brother In Wabash & Class Agent

