

Connecting to Crawfordsville

How Dr. Hernández-Ríos and Wabash students bridge the gap

SAM BENEDICT '25
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For years, talks of bridging the gap between the Crawfordsville and Wabash community have been held through many different groups at the College. Wabash students taking the course "Hispanic Community Engagement" are one of the few groups putting those words into action.

Recently, Wabash was approved for a grant from the Lilly Endowment to build a new Latino Community Center. In order to apply for this grant, the College conducted research on the perception of Wabash from Crawfordsville natives.

"One of the things they found in the research for the grant is that the community thinks that Wabash is insular and off limits," said Scholar-in-Residence Ruth Hernández-Ríos. "I can't go to the art gallery. That's for Wabash students.' If it's like that in the general population, it's magnified in the Latino population. One of my biggest goals is to say, 'You're welcomed here on our campus.'"

In order to make these goals a reality, Professor Hernández-Ríos worked with the Crawfordsville Adult Research Center (CARA). CARA offers programs to help Crawfordsville residents receive a high school diploma equivalency, get career training, learn English and receive general academic help.

"I worked with them for a year as a volunteer as part of my Scholar-in-Residence to try to understand what the Latino community needs," said Hernández-Ríos. "All we're doing in my classroom is providing a space for their [CARA] students to practice more conversations in English. That's something that the students said they needed."

Hernández-Ríos took the initiative and immediately engaged Wabash students through her class, "Hispanic Community Engagement." The impact has been equally impactful on both her Wabash students and CARA students taking part.

"One of my biggest goals is to say, 'You're welcomed here on our campus.'"

- Dr. Hernández-Ríos

"It's been very interesting and it's been very educational," said Seth Kirkpatrick '24, a student in the class. "The class is divided into three parts: The first is understanding Latino identities, so we did a lot of readings on how it pertains to race, gender, sex, the origins of it, the way that there are some interventions by the American government to create some of these identities and other things like that. The second part is the language lab. We'll ask the folks 'what would you like to learn this week?' This week, they said they wanted to learn about the Post Office, so we spent all Wednesday writing up a lesson plan for the Post Office."

The final part of the course takes place during the later half of the semester and focuses on community engagement and learning about other initiatives.

Jumping into a new environment and acting as an educator is no easy task for the Wabash students, all of which are not education majors and don't have any formal education training. Furthermore, students in the course were put into an environment outside of the classroom with the opportunity to make a tangible impact on the community.

The class is divided into three groups of CARA stu-

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'shOUT stages silent protest

Student-leaders gather to demand more action from administration



(Left to right) Cristian Cantu '26, Alejandro Cruz '27, Connor Craig '25 stand with fellow students in the entrance of Lilly Library during the silent protest organized by 'shOUT on March 19, 2024. The protest was organized to address the administration's response after homophobic words were spray painted on Delta Tau Delta on February 29, 2024.

JAMES WALLACE '26
NEWS EDITOR

Every few weeks during the academic year, Wabash faculty members gather in the Goodrich Room at the Lilly Library to discuss any important matters at hand. While the meeting usually goes unnoticed by much of the student body, a silent protest organized by 'shOUT during the beginning of the March 19 meeting brought many students out to the event.

The demonstration was organized to express dissatisfaction with campus administration's response to the recent hate crime that occurred at Delta Tau Delta on February 29, in which homophobic slurs and phrases were spray painted on the exterior of the fraternity house.

"The protest was arranged to demand more institutional support for queer students and to develop better communication between the administrators and the rest of Wabash," said 'shOUT President Javion Montgomery '27. "[It was also] to ask for people that are not a part of marginalized communities to start advocating for them in spaces where it may seem like marginalized voices aren't being heard or taken seriously."

The demonstration saw student leaders from across campus flanking the staircase leading from the entrance of Lilly Library into the Goodrich Room, silently holding signs of support for their fellow students.

During the protest, while most students remained silent, Montgomery and 'shOUT Vice President Josh Massaquoi '26 conferred with

Dean of Students Gregory Redding '88 to discuss the purpose and goals of the protest.

"I was really appreciative of Javion and Josh, who took some time to talk things through," said Redding. "[We] at least started a conversation. I thought that was really positive."

"It is the administration's job to represent all students on campus equally and fairly."

- Josh Massaquoi '26

The conversation between the three revolved around the demands that 'shOUT had brought to the protest, which notably included, among others, a standard procedure for handling bias incidents, an administrative effort to bolster diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), completion of DEI training by administrators and more institutional support overall.

"A lot of the things [on the list] are actually things that we do," said Redding. "But I don't know that that's always been clearly communicated to students."

Dean Redding went on to state that the administration participates in "required trainings that fall in the DEI category" and that he personally has an attitude that groups such as 'shOUT and La Alianza "have a different status" due to the groups being tied to students' identities. 'shOUT, however, still

questions whether the issues are due to a lack of communication or a lack of institutional support.

"[During] the conversation that we had with Dean Redding, it just seemed like most of the things we were asking for were things that they [the College] said they are already doing on campus," said Montgomery. "To which Josh and I both responded, 'Where?'"

This is largely due to the response by the administration after the incident initially occurred, particularly with the official statement to students and faculty, which lacked details of the event as well as what disciplinary and investigative actions the administration were taking.

"Students shouldn't have to be the ones telling faculty members about what's going on on everybody's campus," said Montgomery. "That's ridiculous."

After Dean Redding sent a follow-up email exactly two weeks after the incident occurred on March 14



(Left to right) Javion Montgomery '27, Josh Massaquoi '26 and Dean Gregory Redding '88 discuss the protest before the faculty meeting started.

and The Bachelor published an article in the March 15, 2024 issue entitled "Delta Tau Delta defaced", students and faculty members began to understand the full scope of what had happened at Delt on February 29.

"The faculty is having a delayed outrage," said Massaquoi. "They've just now learned about [the incident]."

This played into the dynamic of the faculty meeting itself, in which former 'shOUT president Luis Rivera '25 attended as a guest.

"There was definitely acknowledgement of the mishandling of the situation by some members of the administration," said Rivera. "They realized that faculty needs to be aware of the situation and given resources to support those students."

The communication error by administration is currently an object of discussion within the administration team to better prepare for any incidents like this one that may happen again in the future.

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NCAA tackles sports betting

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Fans of March Madness have always enjoyed participating in annual low-budget bracket pools, but for the last few years much more has been on the line. On March 14, the American Gaming Association announced that an estimated \$2.72 billion could be wagered on the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments. For many, gambling has become the lens through which they have come to experience sports. In response, the NCAA is taking steps to protect student-athletes from the effects of gambling and to promote healthy relationships with sports wagers.

In the nearly six years since the 2018 Supreme Court decision, Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association, revoked a national ban on online sports betting, the industry has become one of the fastest growing markets in the United States. Now, sports betting is legal in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

"I think for Wabash, the much bigger issue is student wellness and mental health."

-Professor V. Daniel Rogers

In response to concerns about the impact of sports gambling on collegiate athletics, the NCAA announced on Tuesday, March 19 a new initiative called "Draw the Line" to provide education related to the risks of sports betting for student-athletes and fans alike.

"Sports betting is everywhere — especially on college campuses — so it's critical student-athletes get the real story about how it can impact them and their ability to play," said NCAA President Charlie Baker. "We know some bettors are harassing student-athletes and officials, so that's why we are advocating for policy changes at the state level and launching monitoring tools around championships to refer serious threats to law enforcement. The NCAA is doing more than ever to protect the integrity of the game and arm student-athletes with the truth about sports betting."

The purpose of Draw the Line is to change public opinion and expose what the NCAA would describe as a threat to the "integrity of NCAA competition." The press release by the NCAA specifically mentions the importance of protecting student-athletes from gambling related harassment and negative impacts of "problem gambling."

"I think for Wabash, the much bigger issue is student wellness and mental health," said Faculty Athletic Representative Professor V. Daniel Rogers. "It's really unfortunate how gambling addiction can become a difficult issue for some guys. We have campaigns about vaping and other things to keep guys physically healthy. I think that this is part of what good mental health practice is — to avoid some of these addictive behaviors."

The first release of the campaign was a YouTube video presenting a series of stats relating to sports betting and the impact it has on the collegiate sports landscape. Below the video, on the official NCAA site, are five statistics.

- 1 in 10 college students suffer from gambling addiction.
- 1 in 3 student-athletes have experienced betting-related harassment.
- 67% of students living on campus are bettors.
- 41% of college student bettors wager on their school's sports teams.
- Over 35 states have legal sports betting markets.

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Wabash prepares for total solar eclipse

The once-in-a-lifetime event will occur on April 8

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

When the Aztecs looked up in the sky and saw the moon overtake the sun, they were surrounded by darkness in the middle of the day, believing the end of the world was coming. Luckily for us when that happens on April 8 at 3:06 p.m. astronomy has told us that we will be experiencing a total solar eclipse. But what exactly is this phenomenon and how can we understand it? Well, Associate Teaching Professor Gaylon Ross has an explanation.

"Total solar eclipses occur when the Moon passes directly between Earth and the Sun," said Ross. "This can only happen at a new moon phase, but not at every new moon phase because the Moon's orbit is tilted five degrees with respect to Earth's path around the Sun, so the Moon is usually either above or below the Sun as seen from Earth."

Wabash Students will have a unique experience that will not happen in the United States again until 2153.

"Even if the shadow can reach Earth as it does in this case, you have to be directly in the path of the shadow," said Ross. "In April it will only be about 100 miles wide and moving at 2000 mph."

"[The eclipse] connects us to our ancestors through a rare phenomenon that has inspired awe, wonder, fear and even humility for tens of thousands of years."

- Professor Gaylon Ross

Luckily for Wabash men, the College is right on the edge of this line, so while we won't get the full four minutes of totality like our friends in Bloomington will, we will get an incredible 53 seconds of viewing. We are so close to the line that if you were to travel just North to the Crawfordsville Country Club you would not get the chance to experience the totality.

"In terms of significance today, there was a solar eclipse that occurred in Africa in the 1930s, and this was used by a famous physicist known as Eddington, in collaboration with Albert Einstein, where they communicated in secret through Nazi Germany to Britain," said Society of Physics Students President James Szalkie '25. "They communicated via letters about this eclipse because they were able to use it to verify Einstein's theory of general relativity."

Even today during the eclipse, astronomers can see the outer atmosphere of the Sun, its corona or crown, and can investigate such things as its temperature, composition and even the extent from the surface. Szalkie and Ross will be working hard to get the best viewing experience for students of the college with events planned for a week heading into the eclipse.

Starting a week away on April 1 at Goodrich Hall 104, Professor Ross will hold a physics Colloquium lunch talk which is titled A Guide to the Great American Eclipse of 2024. Then on April 3 from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. there will be a Zoom Broadcast titled "Bashin' the Eclipse": The Great American Eclipse of April 8, 2024, held by Professor Ross and Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science Colin McKinney.

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'shOUT stages silent protest

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"We've been thinking through our communication strategies and how we can be better at that," said Redding. "We've talked as a team about how we can get better at our postvention protocols. We are trying to get better at understanding how to provide that sustained support, which I don't think we've solved yet, but it's something we're working on."

institutional support based on their personal experiences due to their identity.

"It is the administration's job to represent all students on campus equally and fairly," said Massaquoi. "And the best way to do that sometimes is to represent some groups more heavily by giving them more support because they might go through different struggles that other groups don't go through."

Representation and support have also been big topics in the past three weeks, demonstrated by the seemingly combined yet separate efforts of the students, faculty and administrators to show support for the individuals affected by the incident. The disconnect stems once again from the issue of communication, and yet all three groups are putting

effort towards attempting to support each other.

"The way the campus really rallies and makes it clear that these malicious points of view are marginalized points of view is encouraging," said Redding. "I just don't want to have the need for it."

While everyone agrees that communication is a long term issue that needs to be addressed, 'shOUT is still focused on the current issue of getting the proper level of support from the administration.

"The ball's now in your court, administration," said Rivera. "You have our list of demands, it's time to address them and work with us to ensure that queer students are supported on campus better than they have been in the past."



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Students line the staircase leading to the Goodrich Room in Lilly Library on March 19, 2024.

"Students shouldn't have to be the ones telling faculty members about what's going on on everybody's campus."

- Javion Montgomery '27

Postvention reaction refers to the way in which the administration does their best to not only give support in the short-term aftermath of an incident, but also the sustained support that may linger for affected groups of people. This is an important consideration, especially for groups of individuals that could benefit from extra,

NCAA tackles sports betting

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While it presents student-centered information, this program isn't just targeted towards students. In a 2023 survey sent out to college and university administrators by the NCAA, 40% of participating Division III officials reported that they would be "very likely" to utilize education resources if the NCAA provided them.

Self-reported reasons for this statistic varied, but at least one responding administrator said that education about sports betting among student-athletes is a low-priority.

While the campaign signals a shift towards a more educational stance with less focus on harsh punishments as a deterrent, student-athletes and staff are still subject to strict restrictions on sports gambling.

"The College is a DIII institution, thus a NCAA member and under its governance," said Assistant Athletic Director Allison Manwell. "Over recent years the NCAA has become more liberal in its consequences for sports wagering violations. Sports wagering is not permissible for NCAA student-athletes, coaches and staff."

For those student-athletes, who wish to take part in the March Madness bracket tradition, there is a way to play without violating guidelines.



COURTESY OF NCAA

The NCAA's "Draw the Line" campaign aims to provide education related to the risks of sports betting for student-athletes and fans alike.

"Student-athletes, coaches, and staff can participate in bracket challenges where wagers aren't involved," said Manwell. "If one enters a bracket challenge where there is a prize but no entry fee, that's okay! It's the wagering component that makes for a violation- putting something at risk based on an outcome."

So, students wishing to participate should find free-to-play bracket challenges, of which the Official NCAA March Madness Bracket Challenge is the largest and most popular.

Non-athletes are not subject to any of the NCAA's betting regulations, but may begin to feel pressure from states that are beginning to restrict certain forms of sports gambling. The NCAA has been advocating for states to update their sports betting

regulations. The most common response is the regulation of proposition bets (bets tied to a certain occurrence or event in a contest rather than the outcome of the contest).

Eighteen states have introduced some form of regulation on prop bets. In Indiana, regulations released by the Indiana Gaming Commission on January 5, 2024, explicitly ban proposition wagers on collegiate players.

While it still remains to be seen how effective the Draw the Line campaign will be, the NCAA has clearly revealed its opinion that gambling is compromising the integrity of collegiate sports. And with many states beginning to respond to advocacy related to sports wagering, the future promises more shifting in an already fluid betting landscape.

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dents with a beginner, intermediate, and advanced group, which is based on the CARA students' understanding of English. Once those groups are created, the Wabash students join a group and lead the lesson for that day.

"There's about five or six CARA students and they all have different interests and different backgrounds, and you really have to sort of figure out, 'How can I create a lesson plan that will accommodate folks who might be a little behind and then also keep folks engaged who might be a little ahead,'" said Kirkpatrick. "It's actually far more challenging than I would have expected."

CARA participants expressed the benefit of being able to practice in an environment outside of the classroom and have enjoyed traveling to Wabash for events at the Fine Arts Center or Lilly Library.

The work that the four students, Kirkpatrick, David Leal '26, Esdel Reyna '26 and Julian Alvizo '25, and Professor Hernández-Ríos are completing has a legitimate impact on the Crawfordsville community and sets the stage for future opportunities to bridge the gap between Wabash and Crawfordsville. However, an intentional effort is necessary to continue pushing the initiative forward.

"I think something important for this to work is that we all need to put our work in," said Leal. "I think that a lot of individuals say that they want to do more stuff for the community, but we need to actually do it and not just say that. I think we should put our work where our mouths are."

"It's not just up to Latino students," said Hernández-Ríos. "Latino students obviously have something bigger in it for them, but for one event we had 'shOUT members come. What if we had different fraternities that would take turns volunteering? The event when 'shOUT was there was the first time that we had multiple people where we would be able to accommodate one-on-one conversation partners. That's my dream."

News around the world

ELIJAH WETZEL '27

STAFF WRITER

Senegal

For the first time in over a decade a woman is standing for election to the office of the presidency in Senegal. Anta Babacar Ngom, a business owner and entrepreneur, is extremely unlikely to pull enough support from the population to come close to being elected but is nonetheless filling an important void for many young women in Senegal, activists say. Ngom is running on a campaign that centers around revitalizing Senegal's faltering economy- economic circumstances in the country have caused thousands to migrate to Europe in recent years in search of improved prospects. "Our country has enormous potential," Ngom said. "The natural resources are there, and they can be developed." Unsurprisingly, Ngom polls best among young voters, particularly young women who hope to be equipped to succeed economically within their own nation. Since the late 20th century women have been mobilizing within Senegal in efforts to achieve more widespread gender parity across the country. While their progress has been impactful- women make up more than 40% of parliament in Senegal, one of the highest rates in Africa- it has also been frustratingly slow and success at the highest political level is still far off. "We don't stand a chance in these elections," said Selly Ba, a female activist and sociologist in Senegal. "But it's important that we have women candidates, women who are in the race."

Vietnam

The president of Vietnam resigned Wednesday after falling on the wrong side of Vietnam's communist government due to accusations of corruption being levied at him. Vo Van Thuong, the second Vietnamese president to resign since 2022 as a direct result of corruption accusations, was a rising star in Vietnam's ruling Communist Party but lacked the power to resist the party's anti-corruption campaign. The position of president is only the third-highest ranking position within the Vietnamese government; the general secretary of the Communist Party wields the real clout. According to political analyst Nguyen Khac Giang, the "most important legacy" of the current general secretary Nguyen Phu Trong will be one of anti-corruption. While it is unclear exactly what infractions Thuong committed, the Communist

Party's press release stated that "violations by Vo Van Thuong have left a bad mark on the reputation of the Communist Party." While the anti-corruption campaign has been effective at curbing corruption, analysts like Giang say that government officials have also used it to eliminate rivals and solidify personal power. Vietnam, the only nation to receive the presidents from China and The United States last year, will want to walk a fine line internally going forward to avoid any risk of upsetting their unusual position of having friendly terms with both the US and China.

United Nations

The United Nations released reports Wednesday detailing the risks of "e-waste" and offered a dismal outlook of the trends that affect electronic recycling. The UN's report, issued by its research arm UNITAR, detailed that in 2022 alone humans generated 62 million tons of "e-waste"-- which is defined as a trashed device that is either plugged in or has a battery. That number is expected to rise to 82 million tons by 2030. Only 22% of that waste was properly collected according to the report, and the UN expects that number to fall below 20% by 2030 due to factors like shorter product life and higher electronic consumption. Enforcement policies and laws that encourage recycling are crucial to the limiting of e-waste. Asia, where laws on e-waste are rare, accounts for 50% of electronic waste while Europe-which generates the most e-waste per capita- has recycling rates of 40%, the highest in any global region. The accumulation of waste, and e-waste more particularly, is a daunting problem that is serving up more and more complications around the globe. On top of negative environmental effects, e-waste presents a significant public health risk, especially to people who live in close proximity to waste dumps. E-waste often contains harmful chemicals that can cause a variety of health complications, but in many of the poorer communities that governments choose to put their waste dumps in, people rely on scavenging for salvageable electronic parts to survive. People are forced to choose between exposing themselves to harmful chemicals and not having the money to feed themselves and their families. The authors of the UN support called for people to receive training and equipment that would eliminate the need to scavenge dumps to survive.

Solar eclipse

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The day of the eclipse, April 8, will be full of events starting at 12:10 p.m. at Hays Hall 104 with a humanities Colloquium titled Influence of Eclipses Around the World by Professor of Spanish and Asian Studies V. Daniel Rodgers. From 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. there will be a playing of NASA's Total Eclipse Broadcast in Salter Hall. Finally, from 1:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. there will be an Eclipse Observation at Little Giant Stadium. The partial eclipse will begin at 1:50 p.m, totality will occur from 3:06:41 p.m. until 3:07:34 p.m. and the partial eclipse will end at 4:22 p.m.

Viewing glasses will be provided freely for the first 900 visitors of the event which are important to view the eclipse without damaging eyesight.

"The glasses essentially filter out a very large percentage of light," said Szalkie. "Wearing them should filter out a large degree of the visible light from the sun that is more damaging to your retinas."

All students are encouraged to attend as it is a once in a lifetime experience that can be shared and told throughout people's lives.

"It connects us to our ancestors through a rare phenomenon that has inspired awe, wonder, fear and even humility for tens of thousands of years," said Ross.

Ross and Szalkie will work hard to put on a successful viewing event for the college and only ask for students to follow their instructions as best as they can to ensure everyone is safe. The Total Eclipse is a once in a lifetime experience that hadn't been viewable here since 1806 and will not be again until 2153.

"I am excited and hope that we have clear skies on April 8," said Ross, who has worked hard with Szalkie to put on these events.

So, when you are walking around campus on April 8 and notice it gets a little darke, don't worry about the end of the world, but rather experience a once in a lifetime chance to see a total solar eclipse.

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The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas.

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Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 800 words.

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Rethinking the 'grindset'



Jacob Weber '25

Reply to this opinion at
jtweber25@wabash.edu

Wabash prides itself on being a place where young men from across the country are prepared to enter the world with great success; it does so with an almost two-century legacy of prominent impact on the world to back this claim. Over 99% of men who come to Wabash are placed into employment, fellowships or further studies within six months, and we aren't shy about our 88% overall law school and 94% med school acceptance rates featured on the Career Services website.

We arrive at Wabash with our minds already attuned to a future following in these footsteps. We can't even escape this "grindset" in the restrooms where flyers prominently situate themselves.

By this point in the semester, many Wabash students have likely applied to a multitude of jobs or summer internships, been the subject of interview after interview and are perpetually anticipating a call that could decide their next few months or the course of their career. Others have yet to make progress, and now find themselves unsure how they will be able to explain the dreaded "resume gap" in the future.

Wabash as it stands today has become a place driven by a need to situate ourselves in this professional "grindset." Many of us strive to fill our resumes with impressive titles and numerous student organizations, spend hours and hours each night preparing for classes and obsess over the results of papers, tests and final exams. We drudge by day to day surviving on the caffeine we get when Byron hands us a lotus in the morning in this never-ending cycle that we intrinsically pursue.

As we stand now, we are losing what it means to be at Wabash. The essence of this unique institution implores us to buy into the brotherhood that it provides, and yet some of us have missed it because we are looking too far down the road. We focus too much on being ready for the next semester of classes, the next summer internship, the next step of our career. Always searching

for the next step, we forget that sometimes it is best to live in the moment.

I challenge everyone to live in the moment as we continue to the end of this semester and for the rest of our lives. Take the time to check in on the brothers around you at Wabash or the people you left behind to get here. Have that 2 a.m. conversation with your fraternity brothers or roommates that doesn't matter in the slightest for class. Take the time to support our teams in athletic events.

Go to lunch talks from professors, students and visiting lecturers. Get involved in the things you enjoy and try to enjoy the things you normally don't. Get out of your room to take part in the culture Wabash ought to have. Put down TikTok and pick up a hobby. Go to local businesses and take part in community events. Make the most of your time here.

Alumni always have a story to tell. Whether it's a bell heist, a 65-keg weekend of Panhel (shoutout to the men of Wabash in 1980) or countless other shenanigans, don't miss out on the chance to write your own Wabash story because you are already focused on the next chapter. Very few things in life require proper MLA citations, so don't be afraid to live your life as a person and a student. A crucial part of a Wabash education happens outside the confines of a classroom or internship where we learn to live as independent men in the real world.

The future is important and should be thoughtfully pursued, but don't be afraid to slow things down every once in a while. By no means do I advocate that anyone should stop having dreams or goals to reach; I instead believe we need to be more aware of the second and minute hands on our watches. Small details add up to big impacts, so take a step back to look at things from the present rather than how they match up with a vision of your future.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

THINGS THAT BORE UNDERGROUND

Hi-Five to Jim Amidon for telling us about the construction on campus. Didn't know 'Dune: Part 3' was being shot on site.

BIT FISHY, INNIT?

Lo-Five to the British crown for trying to cover up Kate Middleton's mysterious disappearance. If you don't know what we're talking about, ask your girlfriend. She can give you an M16-caliber breakdown on every detail.

WHAT THE GAME IS ALL ABOUT

Hi-Five to NBA players Anthony Black and Gradey Dick for orchestrating a jersey swap after the Magic-Raptors game. It's great to see two athletes so excited about sportmanship.

MONEYBALL

Lo-Five to Shohei Ohtani's interpreter for embezzling \$4.5 million from the superstar pitcher to pay off his own immense gambling debts. The only way he could've gotten in that deep is if he took gambling advice from RT.

MARCH SADNESS

Lo-Five to everyone whose brackets are already busted. There's always next year...

Wally's wall: March Madness

The Prompt:

Who will win the Men's DI basketball tournament this year?

Patrick Countryman '26

The Purdue Boilermakers will be taking home the crown. They've got the best player in the nation in Zach Edey, one of the best point guards in the country in Braden Smith, and more heart and hustle than any other team in the country. Boiler up, Hammer DAHN.

Silvio Radice '26

I believe that North Carolina will win this year, because they have a high-powered offense led by RJ Davis. They also have a solid defense with some solid bigs, and that makes a big difference in college.

William Boas '26

Although all of the IU fans will laugh at me for this one (where's your tournament spot?), I believe that Purdue will win this year. Purdue will get the ball in All-American Zach Edey's hands as much as possible, and if he's covered then they'll dish it to the perimeter consisting of the second-ranked 3-pt shooting team in the nation. It's quite simple.

Tanner Quackenbush '26

Choosing a top seed is no fun and quite frankly, soft. Oregon Ducks all the way. Quack. Quack. Quack.

A National Act for everyone



Quinn Sholar '26

Reply to this opinion at
qasholar26@wabash.edu

wants more people to not only show up/pop out but also to enjoy themselves at National Act, then they have to include the minorities. The majority is going to be there no matter what, but minority students are willing to not attend.

When a poll is sent out every year for what the College wants for National Act, I remember rap winning these past two years, but yet a country artist was booked this year. I'm happy for my white counterparts and anyone else who can go and enjoy a good time. But as for me, and many other Black students, we will not be in attendance because we simply can't enjoy the music.

I believe that you can't have fun at a concert if you don't know the music. Additionally, when NLE was here, not only did the minorities know the music, but the majority also knew the music. Therefore, maybe we can find another Black (or at least hip-hop/rap) artist to accommodate both sides.

If the National Act Committee really wanted to accommodate everyone, including the majority and minority, they would push for more than just the genre that the majority likes. There are plenty of artists out there that the majority of both populations can relate too. You can't say something is for everyone and continue to marginalize minority students.

National Act is supposed to bring everyone on campus together to share an experience similar to a concert. Knowing this, the artist is typically the greatest influence in drawing people in. This year, the National Act committee decided to bring in a country artist instead of the EDM or rap artists that previously performed.

When the artist is a country singer, a lot of minorities are prone to not show up. Given our background and upbringing, country music does not resonate with us in the same way it might for other students. Even if we were willing to, it's difficult to assimilate to a new culture of music, especially considering that hip-hop/rap and country are on two different ends of the music (and arguably political) spectrum.

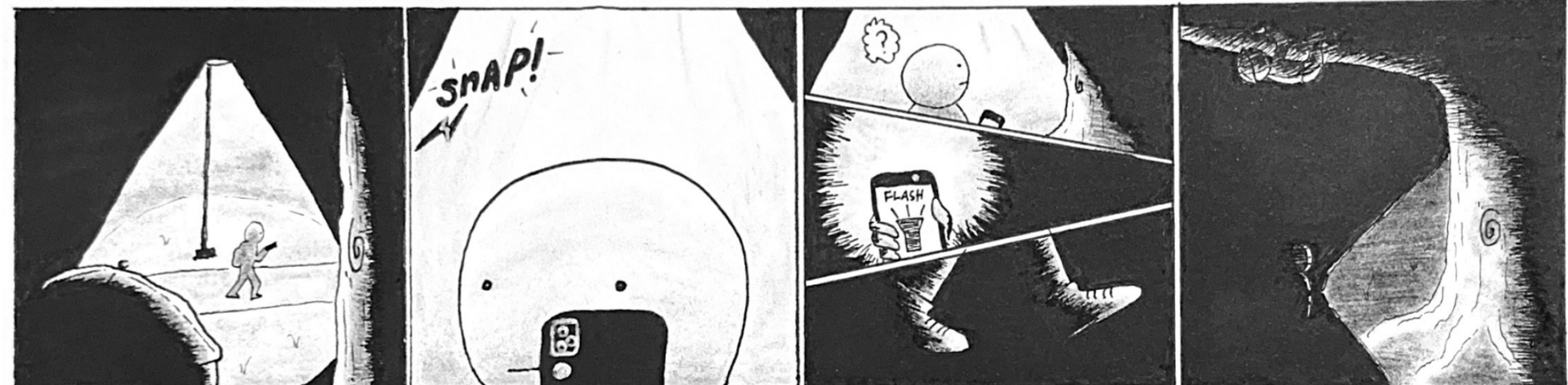
So, if we are included in 'everyone' when picking the national act artist, we don't feel it. If the College or committee

Rodney Rhyne

Weeks #5: 'Don't be seen, don't be heard'



Comic by Preston Parker '26



Preston Parker

Senior Spotlight: Kirkpatrick strikes a balance



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Seth Kirkpatrick '24 delivers oral arguments during the Moot Court finals on October 26, 2023 in Salter Hall. Kirkpatrick is a two-time, back-to-back Moot Court champion, winning in 2022 and 2023.

ZACH GELEOTT '27
STAFF WRITER

Enrolling in Wabash is one thing; being successful is quite another. Seth Kirkpatrick '24's collegiate journey has allowed him to make important friendships, meet mentors and overcome great challenges.

Ironically, the political science and rhetoric double major was not initially committed to attending Wabash.

"I didn't think I would get in and didn't want to spend the amount of money they were asking for," said Kirkpatrick.

Kirkpatrick was influenced to look into Wabash because of the lack of financial stress.

"I was trying to choose between three; Wabash, IU Bloomington and Wooster," said Kirkpatrick. "My biggest motivating factors were affordability and convenient location. I came to Wabash for those two reasons."

Throughout his stay at Wabash, Kirkpatrick formed a number of friendships and mentoring relationships. In particular, his fellow students served as an important source of motivation.

"Liam Grennon '24 is a guy that I look up to in the sense that he is very successful and driven and I would like to replicate that," said Kirkpatrick. "Cole Bergman '24, my roommate is the one who helped keep me engaged academically. We took a lot of the same classes, and we're both double majors. We would compete academically and that kept me motivated."

Professor of Political Science Scott Himsel '85 is a mentor that Kirkpatrick views as having been important to him during his four years at Wabash.

"In terms of my education and career, Professor Himsel has been helpful. Through his encouragement, I have improved as a writer, thinker and speaker, which has made it possible for me to go to law school," said Kirkpatrick. "If Wabash hadn't had a professor like Himsel, I don't think I would be where I am right now."

Kirkpatrick's greatest obstacle to overcome has been attempting to find a balance between social life and academics. Striking a balance may be challenging, and either side can easily take over, as all Wabash students are aware.

"My perspective on education was quite transactional when I first started," said Kirkpatrick. "In addition to wanting to offer them money, I also wanted opportunities and talents from them. Since each lesson had a set price and I had to earn it, I approached my classes with all seriousness."

Seth's tenure at Wabash began with long nights of studying and giving his all

during tests. However, because of this dedication, he had felt he was missing out.

"When you put in a lot of effort and are driven to accomplish a goal, you may find that it is not as satisfying as you had once thought," said Kirkpatrick. "It really got to me junior year, and it made it clear to me that college was about more than just academics and grades."

This revelation spurred Seth to become more involved and even go all out for his "W" at Chapel Sing as he reached his senior year.

As he looks to the future, Seth is planning to enroll in George Washington University Law School in the fall. Seth wants to practice law, specializing in environmental law.

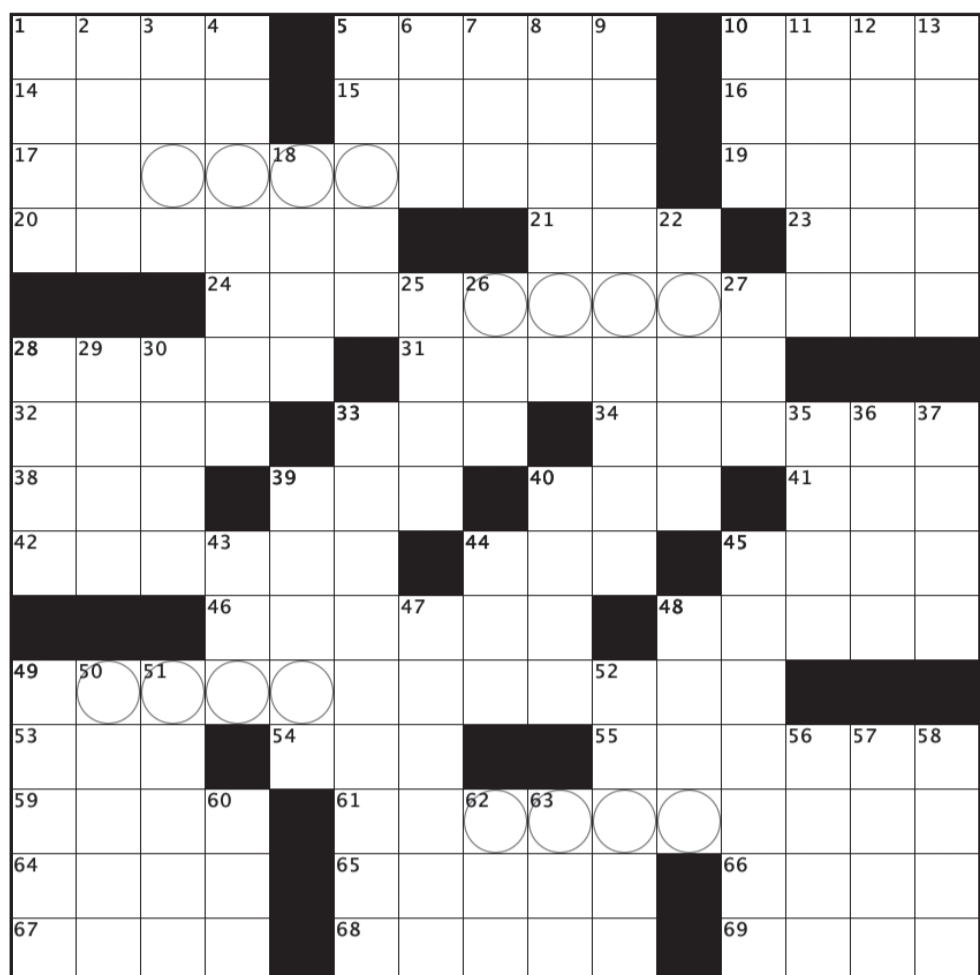
"My primary focus should be on environmental law, particularly the enforcement of environmental policies on corporations and their product handling practices," said Kirkpatrick. "Environmental law is important because we can't solve any problems if we're all dead. I want to help in resolving that and to take on corporate oligarchs."

The opportunities that George Washington Law School offers will support Kirkpatrick in achieving those objectives. He will have the opportunity to achieve such aims by being close to national federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency.

In regards to the future of Wabash, he encourages new students to not focus on one particular thing but be open to new opportunities that may appear. "Try not to get caught up in working all the time," said Kirkpatrick. "Yes, it's important to succeed academically, but also doing things for the sake of your enjoyment is just as, if not more, important."

'Reading music'

Crossword by
Logan Weilbaker '25



Across

1. Bodega, e.g.
5. Hospital sections
10. *What could, theoretically, be made with the words hidden in this puzzle's four longest answers
14. Modeled
15. "American ____" (Green Day album)
16. Redditor, say
17. *Nikki Haley, formerly
19. Prima donna
20. Tea
21. 2/12
23. 12/12
24. *Cooler than cool
28. Checks out, in a way
31. Brute's force
32. Sunrise direction
33. Bit of voodoo
34. Practicing
38. Beast with a rack
39. When doubled, a fast-paced dance
40. Up-to-date
41. The "d" of "d20"
42. Demilitarize, in a way
44. Headlight type
45. Contraction that replaces "ill"
46. Cartoon sneeze inducer
48. Odometer count
49. *Skeeter?
53. Interval for knocking down
54. Yet, poetically
55. Familiar with
59. Like Action Comics #1
61. *Endotracheal procedure
64. Tied up
65. Employ again
66. A little bit on the nose?
67. Gave a once-over
68. Mystery writer's award
69. Whizzes

Down

1. Job fair giveaway
2. "Ecce ____!"
3. The moon and Saturn
4. Feudal laborer
5. Bits of clouds or hair
6. Toothpaste tube letters
7. Eliminate
8. Peabrain
9. Like some truths
10. PBR alternative
11. Comment to the audience
12. How many times a player from Alabama has scored in the Super Bowl
13. Harry Potter adversary
18. Bro and sis
22. Under
25. Eclipse, once
26. Light, in Latin
27. Totally chill
28. March Madness ranking
29. Where Biggie was "Going Back to"
30. Poses
33. County that lent its name to a state
35. Celebrity, perhaps
36. Number of Supreme Court justices
37. Understands
39. Inched
40. First-century fiddler
43. 4/12
44. Zodiac beast
45. Bug
47. Got on the horn
48. Tableland
49. Word after shopping or spending
50. Emotionally intense
51. Sign off on
52. Potato or yam
56. Mince
57. It's all in the delivery
58. Change for a five
60. Period
62. Yank
63. Neighbor of Mex.



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'Masters of the Air': Reviving historical reverence



COURTESY OF APPLE

**FINAL VERDICT:
4/5 WALLYS**



BUCK WADDELL
GUEST WRITER

"Masters of the Air" is the 2024 Apple TV miniseries based on the 2006 book written by Donald Miller of the same name. While the book follows and covers many different stories and topics related to the U.S. Army Air Forces bombing campaign over Europe in World War II, the TV series follows one group, the 100th Bomb wing from the time they left the United States for England in June 1943 until leaving in August 1945.

The nine-part series and bonus documentary on the 100th Bomb Group provides an excellent, but sometimes stereotypical, look at how undertrained, under-equipped and untested American bomber crews faced Hitler's Luftwaffe and air defenses while flying over occupied Europe in 1943 and early 1944. Using the 100th as a template for the plethora of bomb groups in the U.S. 8th Air Force based in England during WW2, "Masters" introduces us to many of the officers and personnel who became legendary leaders in the historic struggle.

While the 100th Bomb Group may not have had the highest casualties, they did have many missions where they lost almost every

plane, which earned them the nickname, "The Bloody Hundredth." The series shows the inner workings of how missions were planned, followed through and completed by ten men flying in a four-engine, fuel and bomb-laden aircraft with skin no thicker than a couple of coke cans — all the while being shot at from cannons on the ground and bullets in the air, sometimes even from friendly fire. It also depicts the flying, dying and capture of these brave men, who were then subjected to interrogations, life in a prisoner of war camp and the misery and suffering under a collapsing enemy determined to hang on until the bitter end.

While this comes 25 years after "Saving Private Ryan," 23 years after "Band of Brothers" and 14 years after "The Pacific," Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg still have the ability to make history magical and honor our great-grandfathers and grandfathers with this truly heroic tale of the airmen of World War II.

My recommendation is to watch it, and as a matter of fact watch them all. You can watch "Masters of the Air" via a free trial on Apple TV, and both "Band of Brothers" and "The Pacific" are currently available on Netflix.

Businger: The best weekend in sports

Part three of a three-part series

GAGE BUSINGER '25
STAFF WRITER

The NCAA Tournament bracket was provided to us on Sunday and the first round tips off on March 21. In this writing, I will be providing my thoughts on the bracket reveal and offer my opinion on some upsets I think could happen, as well as my Final Four picks.

I correctly projected 67/68 teams that made the NCAA Tournament, only flipping Indiana State and Virginia. Of the teams I correctly picked, I had 61 of them on the exact seed line or +/- one seed. My bracket matrix score was 342, placing me in the top third of the nation.

Unfortunately, every team that made the tournament from the Mountain West conference was disrespected and seeded too low, while teams like Gonzaga and Florida Atlantic were seeded too high. These two things caught a lot of people, including me, off-guard.

Upset picks are extremely hard to predict because it is usually the least expected team to spoil a favorite's March Madness run. However, here are some teams I think could pull off an upset this weekend:

(14) Morehead State > (3) Illinois

Why? Morehead State's slow style of play could give fast-paced Illinois trouble.

(13) Samford > (4) Kansas

Why? Kansas is missing one of their star players in Kevin McCullar.

(12) Grand Canyon > (5) Saint Mary's

Why? Grand Canyon's third March Madness appearance in 4 years also happens to be their highest-seeded year. Watch out for the Lopes.

(12) McNeese St > (5) Gonzaga

Why? Gonzaga, as I previously mentioned, is over-seeded and McNeese State has an excellent coach in Will Wade.

(11) New Mexico > (6) Clemson

Why? New Mexico won their conference tournament in a difficult Mountain West league and is playing extremely well right now.





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Cousin Rick's picks March Madness begins

RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST

Lines and odds provided by DraftKings, accurate as of Wednesday, 3/20. Please gamble responsibly.

8. Florida Atlantic v. 9. Northwestern at -2.5 (FAU ATS) -115



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Florida Atlantic is a team that could easily repeat their run to the Final Four this year, if it wasn't for an eventual matchup with UConn in the Round of 32. Nevertheless, the Owls must first play Northwestern, a team that they likely have much better chances against. Despite a quiet year, FAU finds themselves with the 16th most prolific offense according to Kenpom. While the Owls' downfall has certainly been their defense this season, a three-point-heavy Northwestern team saw their best player hyperextend his knee in the Big Ten tournament and the Wildcats as a whole find themselves banged up coming into the tournament. As a result, I expect FAU to cover at -2.5 pretty easily.

13. Vermont v. 4. Duke at +12.5 (Vermont ATS) -115



COURTESY OF 1000 LOGOS

This matchup has all the feeling of an overrated top seed and underrated top seed, and potentially even an upset. Duke has looked dismal in recent games, finishing off an already particularly poor ACC schedule. While some experts chalk this up to fatigue given the Blue Devil's reliance on a six-man rotation, it still doesn't look good for Duke. Vermont, on the other hand has seven players who average over 20 MPG, and have much more experience than most are aware, being the near-perennial automatic bid out of the America East. Whether the Catamounts have enough firepower to take down Duke is questionable, but keeping the game within 13 points seems very likely, if not an eventuality. Expect an entertaining game with the Catamounts covering.

8. Utah St. v. 9. TCU at +4.5 (Utah St. ML) +146



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

While this might not be the most interesting "upset" we'll see, 8/9 seeds often provide great opportunities to make money. Despite being an underdog, Utah St. leads TCU in almost every major category. Utah St. most importantly finds themselves four points higher in the NET, ranking 38 as opposed to TCU's 42, but also edges TCU in PPG and Opponent PPG. The reason for TCU's slight advantage in betting likely comes from their perceived greater strength of schedule, but even if this doesn't stand true with the Mountain West being a particularly strong conference this year. To cite exact statistics, the Aggies' strength of schedule is 62nd while TCU's is 85th. Overall, I like the Aggies' to win regardless of the odds, but Vegas' treatment of the game only makes the selection all the more enticing.

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Track & field begins outdoor season

NICK WANGLER '27
STAFF WRITER

The laces were tied outside for the first time this season as the track & field team kicked off the outdoor competitions. Starting the season at the Rose-Hulman Early Bird Meet, the Little Giants competed against five other schools, where they placed third as a team overall, highlighted by four individual event winners.

The field athletes were exceptional at this meet with many career bests for the guys. Evan Furuness '26 threw the hammer 45.42 meters to stand atop the podium. Will Boas '26 also set a personal record in the hammer throw (42.65 meters) to place third in the event. Quinn Sholar '26 found himself in first place in the discus throw with a launch of 44.64 meters and Ryan Papan-dria '25 won the javelin throw with a 46.77-meter toss.

For track & field athletes, the difference between the winter and spring portions of the season is like night and day. In the winter, all events occur indoors while in the spring they occur on the outside track. Preparing for the season switch is crucial to roll into the spring on a good foot.

The weather plays a huge factor in each outdoor event. In colder weather the athletes' bodies are not as warm as they would be indoors, and warm weather can't be mitigated by air conditioning outdoors. It ultimately comes down to mental preparation during outdoor meets in order to set yourself apart from the competition.

"The main difference between indoor and outdoor is dealing with different weather conditions every weekend," said Sawyer Stuckey '26. "In March, we face 40-degree, windy weather. Come April and May, we could either be competing in 50 degrees and raining or 90 degrees and humid. It's all about being able to adapt and not letting it affect your mentality."

When it comes to the runners, the outdoor season is a drastic change. The indoor track is only 200m around and seems to be hard on runners' legs. Although the outdoor track seems to relieve some of the tension on the athlete's lower halves, the track is doubled in length. This can create problems if runners are not adequately prepared for the change.

"Going from a 200m track to a 400m track is a huge difference," said Stuckey. "Your race plan can change, and the race feels completely different. The outdoor track is more comfortable to run on, but that doesn't make it an advantage because everyone else feels more comfortable too."

The Little Giants look to charge ahead in the spring season coming off a strong start. All athletes are still becoming accustomed to the change in scenery, so the additional success will come with time. Wabash has another shot to improve their times at the Indiana Wesleyan University Polar Bear Classic on March 22-23.

James Day '26 claims third place at nationals Wrestling continues winning tradition with 20th-place team finish



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

James Day '26 finished third in the nation for the 125-pound weight class at the 2024 NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championship Tournament held from March 15-16 at La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Little Giants scored 16.5 team points to tie for 20th place out of 66 teams.

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

On the big stage of the 2024 NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championship Tournament, six Little Giants had the chance to prove their place as top competitors in DIII wrestling. Nationals were held from March 15-16 at La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Little Giants scored 16.5 team points to tie for 20th place out of 66 teams. One member of the team earned a spot as an All-American.

Leading the way for Wabash, James Day '26 battled his way through the tournament to finish third in the nation at 125 pounds. His performance was enough to earn 12.5 points for the team.

He began the tournament by winning in the first round by a 7-6 decision that came down to his extra riding time point.

"I didn't feel particularly great in that match," said Day. "But from that point on I really felt like I could hit my stride."

His quarterfinal match came against Jacob Decatur of Baldwin Wallace University, who had beaten Day earlier in the season. Day learned from his previous match and managed to win the match in a 5-1 decision.

In the semifinal round, Day lost by technical fall to Joziah Fry Johnson and Wales University Providence, who would go on to win first place in the weight class. Despite the disappointment, Day kept his head in the tournament and moved into the consolation bracket, where he would win out.

"I was definitely upset for a little bit," said Day. "But at that point, I had already achieved All-American status, which was a goal that I had at the beginning of the year. I can also look back and think, I've already accomplished this much. I might as well see how far I can take

it, see how I can climb up on the podium. It's just looking at the glass-half-full."

In the final round of the consolation bracket, Day would rematch Decatur for third place. Day overcame Decatur's adjusted strategy in a tight 1-0 decision to claim his spot on the podium and the title of All-American.

"It was a feeling like no other," said Day. "I'm very thankful that a lot of my teammates were able to go. One thing I distinctly remember was when that match was over, I turned to our fans and the guys were like taking off their shirts, waving around. To see other people get excited by what you accomplished and to share moments like that is really cool and I'm very thankful for the teammates I had and sharing that experience with them."

Two members of the team, Daniel Uribe '24 and Evan Burge '24 finished their senior seasons at nationals.

"To see other people get excited by what you accomplished and to share moments like that is really cool."

-James Day '26

Competing at 149 pounds, Uribe got a first-round victory before being eliminated after two decision losses. For his performance, Uribe earned one of the team's points. Burge competed at 141 pounds, winning his first round before losing back-to-back contests to finish his run. Burge would also earn a point for the team.

"Not placing is never fun," said Burge. "However, I wrestled really

well. At the end of the day, we can't all be winners, and I'm okay walking away knowing I wrestled hard."

While it might not have ended with a national title, Burge can look back on his career as one filled with brotherhood and a strong team culture.

"What stands out most to me is the connection I made with my teammates and coaches," said Burge. "I was not very close with my high school team, and preferred to keep my distance. That all changed at Wabash. Without my team, I wouldn't be the guy I am today. My biggest takeaway is that you should always surround yourself with a good circle of people."

For other members of the team, their experience at nationals signal an opportunity to grow. Finishing 20th in the nation is one in a long line of achievements that Wabash wrestling has earned in recent years, and returning members of the team feel they have more in store next season.

Tim Smith '26 who competed at 157, won his first match of the tournament in the preliminary round in a dominant major decision. But after losing in round one, he had to bounce back for his 6-5 decision win in the consolation bracket. His run finished with a loss in the second consolation round. He earned two points for the team.

"I feel as though I could have done better and I got the wins through not giving up in hard matches," said Smith. "I really wanted to get on that podium and that helped me keep going."

Weighing in at 165, Jesse Herrera '26 lost in the first round to Noah Leisgang of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, who would go on to finish second in the weight class. He was eliminated from the consolation bracket in a 5-2 decision.

"I feel like I had a decent perfor-

mance out there with some of the best guys," said Herrera. "Losing isn't the best but shows you where to improve. Being a younger guy, what I take away from such a big tournament like this is that there will always need to be more work to get better. And if I want to be the best next year I have to start right away."

Chase Baczek '26 at 184 pounds went out after two matches in the tournament. He was beaten in the first round by Ryan DeVivo from Johnson and Wales, who would go on to finish second in the tournament. Then in the second preliminary round he lost in a 4-1 decision.

"My biggest takeaway is that you should always surround yourself with a good circle of people."

-Evan Burge '24

"I don't think it was a matter of my physical training being inadequate," said Baczek. "But more so I need to train myself mentally so that I take every match like a championship match and not let the nerves overwhelm me."

The team will take this national tournament as a step towards another successful season next year.

"We all talked after how excited we are for next year," said Baczek. "We all know we could've done better and it just shows that none of us have peaked as wrestlers yet. We're amped for next season because we're only going to be better than we were this year."

Wabash Club of Indianapolis

Congratulations, Mac McNaught '76



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COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

James Day '26 finished third in the nation for the 125 pound weight class at the 2024 NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championship Tournament held from March 15-16 at La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Left to right: Gavin Bradley of Castlton University, Mason Barrett of Averett University, Day, Joziah Fry of Johnson and Wales University Providence, Christian Guzman of North Central College, Jacob Decatur of Baldwin Wallace University, Zac Blasioli of Milikin University and Mac Carfurello of Roanoke College.

Rugby competes in the Midwest–East Qualifier

Team vows to recover from disappointing performance and return to national tournament



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

Wabash digs in for a scrum at the Midwest-East Qualifier Tournament on March 16 in Obetz, Ohio. The Little Giants competed in the tournament for a chance to secure their berth to the 2024 nationals.

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

Over the weekend, the Wabash rugby squad opened up its spring campaign at the Midwest-East Small College Division Qualifier, and, with a chance to qualify for nationals on the line, emotions were at an all-time high.

"We came into the weekend very confident in ourselves," said assistant player-coach Tanner Quackenbush '26.

The Little Giants rugby squad was promised three matches of pool play and depending on the

outcome of those three games they would have an opportunity to play in the championship match for a bid to nationals.

The team began their first match of the spring against Franciscan University. The game did not start as expected for the Little Giants as Franciscan scored twice before the half leaving the team down 12-0. However, the team fired back by coming out of the half with a score by Nathan Powell '27 and then another by Jerry Little '24 to cut the lead to 12-10. But the late effort was not enough

as Franciscan scored twice more to win the game 26-10.

"Our first game against Franciscan started slow as they got ahead in the first half," said Quackenbush. "We played very well in the second half, but it was too late to come back."

The rugby squad then played Xavier University in a chance to bounce back. After a rough first half, the team saw themselves down 24-0. Coming out of the half, Xavier and Wabash traded scores which ended in a 36-5 win for Xavier.

The final game was a close match-up against Baldwin Wallace. Heading into half, the score was tied 5-5. Issac Gayton-Reilly '26 gave the team a quick 10-5 lead with a score to start the second half, but Baldwin Wallace scored one more time to win 12-10. Because the team fell in all three games, there was not a chance at competing for the championship.

While it was not the ending the squad wanted, there is a lot to take away from the three matches.

"I think we will respond well," said player-coach Mathew Brooks '24.

That statement held as the team immediately studied film the next day to continue to work on their skills, a testament to the work the team puts into the sport and their matches.

"Guys are super receptive to feedback, always good or bad," said Brooks. "They're always excited to see what they're doing well and how they can improve, and going into this week will definitely be a test of that."

There is a lot more rugby to look out for this spring, especially with a young team that had some of their first chances against strong competition over the weekend.

"The biggest thing that we pulled out of that was its easy fixes, which we're really excited about," said Brooks.

Even though the weekend tournament did not go perfectly, they are more than ready and motivated for the rest of the season.

"There is a sour taste in our mouths that will fuel us for the rest of the season," said Quackenbush. "Going 0-3 may have been the best thing for us at this point because we are fully aware of how hard we have to work to compete against national talent. Nationals won't be handed to us; we have to earn it."

"There is a sour taste in our mouths that will fuel us for the rest of the season."

-Tanner Quackenbush '26

The team's next opportunity for a national bid will be with a win at their upcoming conference tournament where they will get another chance against teams like Franciscan and Baldwin Wallace.

"We were excited to put on a show for the Wabash gentleman and the Wabash community so definitely don't keep us out of your hearts and your minds," said Brooks. "We're ready to show you that later this season. Expect some promising results going forward."

The team hopes to participate in a tournament on Saturday, March 23 at Xavier University, however they have yet to finalize plans and may drop out due to logistics.

Volleyball falls in final home games

NATE JOVEN '26
STAFF WRITER

Losing their final home matches of the 2024 season, the Wabash volleyball team has placed itself in a difficult position as they head further into conference play. Now, the Little Giants will need to work especially hard in their upcoming matches if they hope to qualify for the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL) tournament.

On Friday, March 15, the team took on the Knights from Calvin University, in a nail-biter match on senior night. In the first set Julian Alvizo '24, Luke Davis '24, Carson Meadors '24 and Ricky Sessions '24 rallied to the support of a boisterous crowd, to snatch victory away from the visiting Knights. Calvin, who watched their 24-19 led bleed away. But the team couldn't hold off the Knights forever. After five tight sets Wabash fell 2-3.

With little turnaround, the Little Giants played against Trine the next day, losing 1-3.

"The team has shown that it fights for what it wants," said Head Volleyball Coach Ashaun Baker, "I appreciate the heart and battle on the court even if the scores didn't go our way."

Wabash currently holds a 13-8

(1-3 MCVL) record. Already, this squad has been wildly more successful than years prior. But with a record of only 1-3 in the conference, the team sits in eighth place in the conference.

"All competitors are going to be tough. As long as we're outsmarting and out-hustling the opponent we will be in great shape."

-Coach Ashaun Baker

To qualify for the conference tournament, Wabash must finish the season within the top four teams in the MCVL. With a stellar performance, the Little Giants still have a shot at making this tournament.

"We hope to see a 5-0 win streak," said Baker "All competitors are going to be tough. As long as we're outsmarting and out-hustling the opponent we will be in great shape."

The remainder of the season consists of five conference

games, in all of which Wabash will be the visiting team. For the team to find success in what remains of their season, things cannot remain as they are.

"To be successful, we've identified three key areas in which the team must improve," said Baker. "We are working on serving tougher but consistent, attacking more rather than off-speed and passing better."

While a strong string of wins would be the perfect way to stretch their best season yet, Wabash has a lot of work to do before they find themselves in the tournament.

With many of the best teams in the conference coming up on the scheduled volleyball will need to play at their highest level.

"We need to recognize that no game we have is free," said Christopher Board '27. "Every opponent has something going for them. We have to lock in and show that we are better in one final push at the end of the season."

The Little Giant's next opportunity to improve their conference standing will be on Friday, March 22 against Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Missouri.



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Wabash fans celebrate a kill against Calvin University on March 15 at Chadwick Court. The Little Giants celebrated senior night before a thrilling 3-2 loss that was close from start to finish.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

The Little Giants' back line of Christopher Board '27 (left), Ricky Sessions '24 (middle) and Bawibawi Thang '27 (right) stand ready in the Little Giants' game against Trine University on March 16 at Chadwick Court.

Tennis comes up short in 6–3 loss to Wisconsin–Whitewater

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Wabash tennis coronated their post-spring break season with a partially-outdoor match against 25th-ranked University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The March 16 contest pitted the Little Giants against their best-ranked opponent yet. The 6-3 loss for Wabash, far from being a complete failure, was an opportunity for the team to build experience playing against excellent opponents.

The Warhawks played an adjusted lineup, by moving their 2-singles player to the top spot, bringing their 5-singles and 6-singles up to the second and third spot.

"We took a huge step in terms of our mindset," said head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "We really reset our focus after Spring Break on just trying to get better every day in practice or matches. I saw a lot of instances where guys had taken the lessons learned in their matches over Spring Break, and applied them. Our shot selection was strong and we we're excited to see the ball come back."

The Little Giants went one for three in doubles. Both 1-double and 2-doubles were defeated 3-8. However, Tharakesh Ashokar '26 and Blake Discher II '26 at 3-doubles were able to



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Tharakesh Ashokar '26 sets up for a backhand shot in his 3-singles match against the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater on March 16 at Collett Tennis Center.

capture a 5-8 win.

As a team, Wabash found similar results in singles, winning two out of six contests. Vittorio Bona '27 won convincing victory at 6-singles, with a 6-3, 6-2 performance. At 4-singles Rafael Rin '27 adapted well after a 7-5 loss in his first set to capture the second set 6-0 and win the third-set tiebreaker 10-6.

"I felt like I was playing good from the start but I made some

mistakes that cost me the first set," said Rin. "I would say that what made me dominate the second set was that I kept my confidence up knowing that if I stopped making errors here and there I would have a chance to win, and that's what happened."

Despite the final score, the Little Giants were not out for much of the match, with several of the singles players playing tight first sets before the Warhawks pulled

away in wider second sets.

"In some of the other matches we had tight first sets that could've gone either way," said Bickett. "But once Whitewater took those first sets, they did a great job digging in their heels and not letting us get much momentum in the second sets."

One of those players was Ashokar at 3-singles, who started well, when he took the first set 6-4. But his opponent flipped

the second and third sets to take the match.

"The team did a good job overall, showing good fight in all the matches till the end even after losing the overall match," said Ashokar. "At the same time we had an awesome team spirit where every player was being there and supporting other teammates, even after losing their match or while tired."

In a highly competitive North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), the ability to clinch tight matches will be a huge difference maker for the team. In tennis, growth is most often a painful process that requires a lot of losing before a player has the calmness to play through a contest that could go down to a single shot.

"We need to maintain our mindset on growing, not focusing so much on the result and continuing to grow our resiliency in those tough situations," said Bickett.

The team moves to 7-6 on the season. They will not play their next match until Friday, March 29 when they go on the road to face Hanover College.

LAX wins fifth-straight against Hanover

Program-best record in sight for Little Giants



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Luka DiFilippo '25 fights for possession in a faceoff. DiFilippo ranks second in the nation for faceoff win rate. The Little Giants beat Hanover College on March 16 at Fischer Field.

MALACHI MCROBERTS '27

SPORTS WRITER

Wabash lacrosse stayed hot in their fifth-straight win of the season after defeating in-state rival, Hanover College 18-8. This win gives the Little Giants a 6-1 record with only one game remaining before conference play.

Wabash came out swinging in the first half scoring 13 goals, while the defense only allowed two goals.

After the quick start by the Little Giant's offense, Hanover quickly transitioned into a tight zone defense. Part of their defensive coverage was to not guard Wabash's offense behind the cage, but this allowed attackman Christian Dybedock '27 to surgically carve up the Panthers' defense. Dybedock put four goals in the back of the net while dealing out five assists to his teammates.

"We knew their defense was probably going to play zone so going into the game," said Dybedock. "Our plan was to run our offense and be patient. My job was no different than usual against

their zone. I push the ball from behind [the goal] and force them to play me. If they play me then I move the ball for an open shot on the wing and if they don't play me then I go to the goal."

Two other major contributors on offense were Jake Pippen '26 and Quinn Fitzgerald '25. Pippen's cutting and ability to find openings in the defense helped him lead the game in goals with five. Fitzgerald also benefited from getting to his spots as he scored four goals and two assists when attacking from the wing.

Overall, the offense has progressed a lot since the beginning of the season. The Little Giants are more patient and taking smarter shots than earlier in the season, and the extra experience and wins under their belt for this young roster has led to a surge in confidence for this offense.

"The biggest improvement for our offense has been our confidence," said Dybedock "With how young we are, we were pretty nervous early on in the season, which cost us against Musking-

um. Now we've settled in and it's shown in our past few games."

Confidence isn't just high on this much improved offense. Faceoff Luka DiFilippo '25 played an unbelievable game against Hanover, winning 24 out of 29 faceoffs and coming up with 18 of those ground balls himself. This performance raises DiFilippo's faceoff win percentage to 74.6%, the second-best percentage in the country.

The starting defensive unit also did well keeping the Hanover offense at bay. Hanover ran their offense through their most skilled attackmen Colin O'Brien, who scored three of their eight goals. But great defense by Quinn Shefferly '27 played helped limit O'Brien's output.

Wabash's next game will be against Augustana College Tuesday, March 26 for the final game before they face North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) opponents. A win would see the Little Giants tie the program's record with a whole slate of conference games to go.

Wabash soccer tests new international sports trips

HADEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26

SPORTS WRITER

A unique aspect of Wabash is to provide experiences that students won't forget. The opportunities granted at this college aren't seen in other places and the school looks to build on this value in years to come. Over spring break, select members of the Wabash soccer team were granted the opportunity to travel abroad to France. The team participated in unique academic lectures in Nice and Monaco, led by Wabash Professor Eric Freeze and got the chance to meet professional soccer stars.

"The trip was a combination of giving our students exposure to European professional soccer clubs and also arranging local soccer friendlies in the Nice area," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "The academic portion of the trip focused on expatriate American writers. We visited sites of interest to address environmental, social and historical issues impacting the south of France."

Starting Forward Bryce Kinnaman '27 not only got his first chance to play soccer collegiately this past season but also his first chance to travel out of the country with his team on the trip.

"It's a different feel going abroad," said Kinnaman. "On the field, something that was interesting to see was the importance other clubs put on organization and possession, rather than the U.S. being more focused on how much of an athlete you are. It was great to see different perspectives while also having that lens into the athletic view."

"It's a different feel going abroad... It was great to see different perspectives while also having that lens into the athletic view."

-Bryce Kinnaman '27

Given the exclusive experience, the soccer team would be thrilled not just to go abroad again, but for other sports teams to pursue one too.

"If we had the chance again, I'd 100% go," said Kinnaman. "Not only did we play, but we also got to bond together. It's nice to spend some time with guys who wear the same Wabash College shirt as you. For upcoming teams that have a trip abroad, I'd tell them to make the most of it and

know that they're lucky to pay so little to go somewhere so big."

Given this first trip abroad was a success, it's likely this trip to France won't be the last one among sports teams here at Wabash.

"The baseball team is planning to travel to the Dominican Republic over Thanksgiving of 2024," said Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney '05. "This is something we've been working on for quite awhile, both the soccer trip, baseball trip and some others that are in development. Because our athlete's seasons don't lend themselves to traveling out of the country, I think these are incredibly valuable experiences and opportunities."

"This is something we've been working on for quite awhile, both the soccer trip, baseball trip and some others that are in development."

-Director of Athletics Matt Tanney '05

Being a student-athlete isn't easy it takes hours of practice a week many weekends of traveling a semester. But time and time again, Wabash students are rewarded for their dedication with once in a life experiences that few other institutions can match.

"I truly believe that this was a life changer for many guys," said Coach Keller. "Whether they can't study abroad due to majors and academics, or financial reasons, this allowed our guys to experience something they may have never experienced or may not ever experience again. That is something you always remember, and I have a ton of gratitude for Dr. Freeze, Jane Hardy, Matt Tanney and the college for making it happen."

LITTLE GIANTS' LAST FIVE WINS



vs. Anderson University
14-0

vs. Alma College
20-5

vs. Husson University
21-8



vs. Virginia Wesleyan University
11-8



vs. Hanover College
18-8

GRAPHIC BY ETHAN WALLACE '25



GRAPHIC BY ETHAN WALLACE '25

Hot bats propell baseball to series win over Hanover

HUTCH NORRIS '27

SPORTS WRITER

Wabash continued their season, after an even 4-4 start with a three-game series against Hanover College and a Tuesday. Their bats continue to pave the way for the team, while pitching remains as the final piece this team needs to truly excel.

On Saturday, March 16, 2024 Wabash and Hanover played their first game of a weekend series at 12 pm. Hanover opened the midday doubleheader with an RBI single to right center field to wipe their goose egg off the board. Hanover would continue to score, leading 5-0 in the top of the fourth off of two solo home runs in the third and a 2 RBI single in the fourth.

But this is where Wabash took control with a Will McKinzie '26 sacrifice fly (SF) out to center field, bringing in Nick Logan '24 to score the first of eight runs that Wabash would generate in the next four innings. Lining the score sheet for Wabash alongside McKenzie was Will Phillips '25, AJ Reid '24, Logan and Camden Scheidt '25 all recorded an RBI with Scheidt recording two to secure the win in the bottom of the ninth.

The Wabash pitching staff continues to struggle, giving up eight free bases on six errors and two BB, all while only recording six Ks.

Although the Wabash bats continued to produce into the evening contest, it was not enough to ward off a 3 RBI third inning and a Grand Slam in the sixth from Hanover.

Reid and Scheidt continued to produce into the afternoon contest, recording two one-run RBIs. Wabash recorded almost half as few hits this perfor-



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Camden Scheidt '25 steps to the plate in the Little Giants' contest against Hanover College on March 16 at Goodrich Ballpark.

mance, six of which coming from Reid and Henke, the only batters with multiple hits this game.

This pitching struggles continued Saturday with the staff giving up 8 E, 10 BB, and 2 HBP, giving Hanover 20 free bases and four unearned runs across the game. This contributes to the team's .95 strikeouts/walks ra-

tio(KBB) which puts them 362nd in the nation.

To close out the weekend, Wabash staved off a late comeback from Hanover in the Sunday March 17 game to win the series 6-5. Bats started off hot again with Scheidt bringing in two runs with a homer to right in the first. McKinzie and Reid contin-

ued their streaks, both recording RBIs in the third.

However, after pulling Dylan Haslett '26 due to a pitching restriction, the Little Giants struggled to find a pitching rhythm the rest of the game. This led to Hanover stringing together five runs in the top of the eighth to tie the ball game. Despite this, Ellspermann '27 drove in the go ahead run in the bottom of the inning to win the game and the series for the Little Giants.

On Tuesday, March 19, Wabash played the first of a two game series against Greenville University of Greenville, IL. Wabash and Greenville ran the game to the wire, going 7-7 into extra innings.

Wabash's hitting was highlighted with three hits apiece from Reid and Michael Galanos '25. Wabash continued to give away bases with 8 E, 6 BB, and 4 wild pitches (WP). The Panthers walked off with a game-ending home run in the bottom of the tenth, knocking the Little Giants back to .500, the sixth time so far this season the Little Giants have had such a record.

This past weekend was continually highlighted by two notable names, Scheidt and Reid. So far this season, they have put up impressive numbers for Wabash offense, with Scheidt recording .380 / .439 / .640 (Batting Average(BA) / On Base Percentage(OBP) / Slugging (SLG)).

"I would say that I have been able to maintain success at this level because of the extra hours of hitting that I put in with my teammates outside of practice," said Scheidt. "Also, as an experienced player, I have a much better feel for the game and I feel much more comfortable at the plate."

Despite these numbers, Reid had been in an unusual slump early on this season, only batting above .300 in four of the twelve games so far this season. Reid has, hopefully, put those

"I would say that I have been able to maintain success at this level because of the extra hours of hitting that I put in with my teammates outside of practice."

-Camden Scheidt '25

days behind him, putting up a .328 / .650 / 1.625 in Wabash's two most recent contests. To put those numbers into context, the Division III leader in SLG has averaged 1.200 so far this season.

Looking forward, the Little Giants will take on the Illinois Wesleyan University Titans in a doubleheader in Bloomington, IL on Saturday, March 23, before returning to Crawfordsville to close the series out on Sunday, the 24.

The Titans are off to a hot start this season at .358 batting average, .485 on base percentage and .427 slugging percentage. This three-stat format called the triple slash represents the most important hitting statistics. With these numbers, IWU has been reaping run after run on some teams with lower quality pitching. The Little Giants will need to be at their best on the mound and at the plate to overcome the Titans.