



The Bachelor

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908

OCTOBER 25, 2024

FEATURES

New director breathes life into Glee Club

PAGE 6



News around the world

EVAN BAKER '27

STAFF WRITER

North Korea, Russia, Ukraine, South Korea

US Secretary of Defense Lloyd

J. Austin III has confirmed as of

October 23 that North Korean

forces have sent an estimated 3,000

troops to Russia. South Korean

intelligence has stated that the

soldiers have been shipped into

Vladivostok, an Eastern Russian

Pacific port city, and are currently

training with Russian soldiers across

eastern Russia. Pyongyang and

Moscow have denied these claims,

but Ukrainian, NATO, US and South

Korean intelligence have found evi-

dence showing the Russian military

training North Korean troops with

drones and other high-tech Russian

equipment. Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy fears these

troops will soon deploy into the bat-

tlefields in Ukraine, and Austin has

asserted that Pyongyang could face

serious consequences if the North

Koreans were to fight as co-bellige-

rents in the Russia-Ukrainian War.

Along with several soldiers, South

Korean intelligence has shown that

North Korea has sent an estimated

13,000 weapons in the past year

to aid Russia: including artillery,

missiles and many conventional

arms. In June, Russia and North

Korea signed a major defense deal

that requires each country to aid

in the other's war efforts if one

were to be attacked. With the

recent developments in cooperation

between Russia and North Korea,

South Korea has become increas-

ingly worried about the safety of

their people, especially if Russia

were to reciprocate the favor to

North Korea by providing them

with modernized weapons to boost

their nuclear and missile programs.

In response to North Korea's troops

in Russia, as of October 22, South

Korean officials have expressed

they would consider supplying

Ukraine with weapons.

COURTESY OF CNN

A recently surfaced video appears to show North Korean soldiers at a Russian military base.

Israel and Gaza

Coinciding with the ground

invasion and bombing of southern

Lebanon, the Israeli Defense Force

(IDF) has remained focused on the

Gaza Strip. Yahya Sinwar, the lead-

er of Hamas, has become the latest

target of the heightened number

of Palestinian and Lebanese politi-

cal assassinations. On October

16, 2024 – just a week and a half

after the anniversary of Hamas'

surprise attack across Israel that

killed an estimated 1,200 civilians

and took around 250 hostages –

Israeli soldiers located in the town

of Rafah spotted and subsequently

killed Sinwar via drone. Sinwar –

having just been named the leader

of Hamas on August 6 after his

predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh, was

assassinated in Tehran, Iran – was

one of the main orchestrators of the

October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

President Biden has claimed that

Sinwar's assassination is an oppor-

tunity for a better future for Israel,

Palestine and the Middle East as a

whole, yet, many Palestinians suf-

fering from the devastating impacts

of the war worry about the lasting

impact of Sinwar's death in the

ongoing peace talks for Gaza.

COURTESY OF CNN

Yahya Sinwar talks during a

rally in 2011 in Khan Younis,

Gaza Strip.

COURTESY OF NPR

Yahya Sinwar talks during a

rally in 2011 in Khan Younis,

Gaza Strip.

NCAC shake up continues

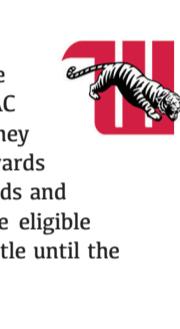
ETHAN WALLACE '25

SPORTS EDITOR

After a decade-long status quo, the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) is experiencing a volatile period with massive changes to the composition of the conference.

The departure of Allegheny College, one of the conference's founding members, in the spring of 2022 propelled the NCAC into a period ripe with movement. Shortly after the loss of Allegheny, the NCAC announced that John Carroll University would join to fill the empty spot, beginning in the fall of 2025. Now, Hiram, after years of athletic decline, will also leave the conference at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 academic calendar.

On October 18, the NCAC announced that Washington University in St. Louis (WashU) will join as an affiliate member for football. They formally began play as a part of the conference in 2026. Although they may schedule games against NCAC teams before then, they will not count towards the conference records and the team will not be eligible for the conference title until the 2026 season.



"An affiliate member is designed to bring conference associations in just a particular sport," said Director of Athletics and Recreation Matt Tanney '05. "In the case of football, the reason why it's so valuable is stability and scheduling. Unlike a lot of other sports, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, you've got lots of opportunities to compete. In football, that's a very small number. And trying to find nonconference opponents can be very difficult."

Together with the addition of John Carroll, WashU not only gives

NCAC teams consistency in scheduling but also brings high level competition to the conference. Strength of schedule for NCAC teams has been an ongoing issue within the conference. That makes receiving an at-large bid to the NCAA Division III football tournament difficult for conference teams.

There are two ways for a team to punch their tickets to the Division III playoffs. The first is an automatic bid, which is awarded to the winners of 28 Division III conferences. The second way to reach the playoffs is to receive an at-large bid. At-large bids are given out by a selection committee who review several factors, including overall record and

depth of schedule, to determine which teams deserve to make the playoffs.

Of the 40 teams who make the playoffs, only 12 get there through automatic bids, making the selection process extremely competitive. Teams in the NCAC like Wabash, Denison and DePauw who do not receive automatic bids, are disadvantaged in the race for an at-large bid due to the presence of weaker programs like Hiram and Oberlin in the conference.

Continued page 10

Leaving 2024

GRAPHIC BY ETHAN WALLACE '25

Joining 2025 All Sports

Joining 2026 Football

Canada and India

In June 2023, the Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar – an Indian-born Canadian citizen – was shot and killed outside a Sikh place of worship in British Columbia. Nijjar – a leading advocate of Khalistan, an independent Sikh state in the Punjab Region of northern India – was labeled a terrorist by the Indian government in 2020. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau claims that the Indian government had orchestrated the attack through multiple members of the Indian Embassy in Ottawa (most noticeably India's High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma) and a group of Indian-extremist Canadian citizens.

COURTESY OF CBS

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau walks past Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 summit on September 10, 2023 in New Delhi, India.

However, New Delhi has labeled Trudeau's claims as absurd and lacking evidence, asserting that Trudeau's Liberal Party has consistently received support from the Sikh population living in Canada. The deteriorating relations between the two countries have led to the expulsion of the nations' top diplomats and heightened the distrust and political tensions. Many worry about the economic impact the political turbulence could have on the two nations. India has had a predominant influence on the Canadian economy for many years, exporting an estimated \$5.37 billion worth of goods to Canada as of 2022. The fragility of relations between New Delhi and Trudeau could lead to broader consequences for Canada and India alike.

COURTESY OF CNN

Yahya Sinwar talks during a

rally in 2011 in Khan Younis,

Gaza Strip.

Senate continues campaign to buy back brotherhood

JAMES WALLACE '26

NEWS EDITOR

It's been just over nine weeks since Student Body President Anthony Donahue '25 and his cabinet met for the first time this semester at the weekly convergence of Student Senate. On day one, the priority was clear: bring back brotherhood. Nine weeks later, that goal hasn't wavered.

"I think we've done a good job of [building brotherhood]," said Donahue. "The goal now is to continue doing a good job."

But what does a good job of building brotherhood look like? While there are metrics that can indicate that campus may be growing closer, there's no way to prove explicitly that community on campus is actually better – something that Student Body Vice President Jonah Billups '25 acknowledged back in the August 30, 2024 issue of *The Bachelor*, in which he said, "I feel like it's subjective, but sometimes you just feel it." This rings true to the executive team today as well.

"A lot of times people, me included, compare our events to other schools like IU [Indiana University] or Purdue [University]," said Billups. "I think once you have that understanding that we're not going to be at that level, you realize that a lot of events that we've done have been pretty good."

One of the measurable sub-goals the senate executive board has set is having one big event every month, something that would contribute to the overarching goal of reclaiming Wabash's brotherhood. After opening the year with "Wabash Always Laughs" in mid-August, followed by "Back 2 Bash" on the last day of August, the team hosted a golf outing in mid-October.

"I think we've done a good job of [building brotherhood]. The goal now is to continue doing a good job."

- Student Body President Anthony Donahue '25

However, these three events have had varying levels of accessibility for students. "Back 2 Bash," the most popular event held thus far, had over 50% of campus attend. The comedy show, "Wabash Always Laughs," sold out of tickets – hosting over 25% of campus. The golf outing also ran out of space, but only had space for 80 participants, less than 10% of campus. This brings into question what classifies a big event, a term that the executive team has yet to define.

Continued page 3



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash students share food and conversation during "Back 2 Bash" on August 31, 2024 on The Mall.

COURTESY OF NPR

Yahya Sinwar talks during a

rally in 2011 in Khan Younis,

Gaza Strip.

COURTESY OF CNN

Yahya Sinwar talks during a

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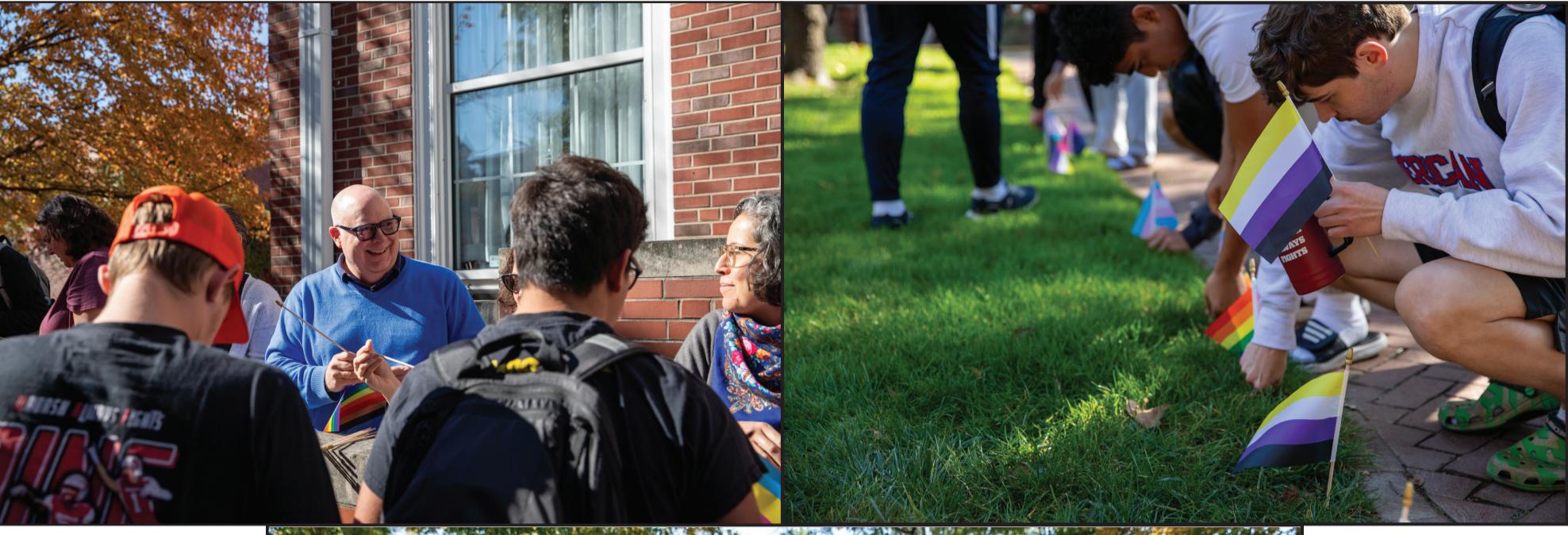
Gaza Strip.

COURTESY OF CNN

Yahya Sinwar talks during a

rally in 2011 in Khan Younis

Wabash rallys behind LGBTQ+ community, reconstructs 'Rainbow Road'



"This means everything to me. To walk out onto the campus and see that so many people want to be here for us, want to rally around us, despite what happened. To be able to have cumulative action where we can really put thought into action means everything."

— Former 'shOUT President Javion Montgomery '27

"When we have things happen that really go against our principles, it's a good reminder that the vast majority of our students in our community take the Gentleman's Rule seriously. [They] take our culture seriously, of being a place that everybody can find a home and everybody can find a sense of belonging in."

— Dean of Students Gregory Redding '88



"From my perspective, having the flags taken down before the Chapel Talk, then them not being there for the Chapel Talk was kind of daunting. It felt like a daunting task to give a Chapel Talk knowing that I wasn't necessarily being supported fully by the campus, but seeing people out now, it's like, okay, I think we got the point across."

— Former 'shOUT Vice President Josh Massaquoi '26

"I think it's great to see so many people coming out in support. Dean Redding made a good suggestion, maybe this is how the flags should go in every year — to do it as a community."

— President Scott Feller



Following an incident in which pride flags were removed from the mall in the cover of night, students from across campus gathered on October 21, 2024, to replace the missing pride flags by threefold.

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BY FREDERICK KNOTT

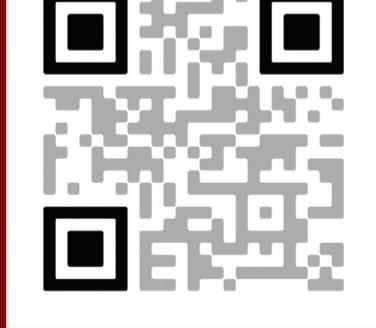
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Senate continues campaign to buy back brotherhood

Continued from page 1

"When it's happening you know what it [a big event] is," said Donahue. "It's a certain combination of the amount of money we are spending, if we are outsourcing for talent. There's a certain level of finance, of attendance."

However, the particular ratio between these variables – cost, time to plan and attendance – are not something that Senate has figured out yet, as shown by the varying cost levels and turnout to these three big events hosted thus far.

Though the duo started the year out with no Senate experience, they've quickly gained confidence in their abilities.

"After the first meeting last spring, I think I had a pretty good grasp on [Senate]," said Donahue. "It's definitely not very complicated or complex."

The quick adjustment to a "status-quo" has left both Donahue and Billups confident in their roles – noting that "people haven't complained too much." But they also acknowledged that this could be due to a lack of information on their own end.

"There's probably something that we think is going well that others might not," said Billups. "Maybe we can send out a form and ask for feedback."

One main negative that many students – particularly club leaders

– have been bringing up since the beginning of the semester has been the strictness in which the budget is being run. Multiple budget requests were initially denied at the beginning of the school year, as described in the August 30, 2024 issue of *The Bachelor*. Last year, Student Senate was left with a pool of allocated money that went unspent by clubs.

To combat and prevent this from happening this year, clubs have had a tougher time being allocated the funds they ask for – a new level of detail and guarantee is required for the Audit and Finance Committee to make a full recommendation for a budget. However, being too tight on the budget could also leave Senate with a pool of unallocated money at the end of the semester. While this is a possibility, Donahue and Billups are confident it won't be a problem.

"I don't think that we will be left with a pool of money because we've been proactive," said Donahue. "I think we have a pretty good plan of how we're going to spend the money. I think it's good that we are being tight with the budget."

While the new cabinet is still in its infancy, Donahue and Billups are feeling confident in the remaining three-quarters of their term. With plans for events during Monon Bell Week and more on the way in the spring, they are looking to achieve their goal of bringing back brotherhood one month at a time.

Photo by Will Duncan '27

Student Body Vice President Jonah Billups '25, Senator Sarvik Chaudhary '25, and Treasurer Brody Frey '26 (left-to-right) attend a senate meeting on October 21, 2024, in Lilly Library.

The Bardella Experience

Editor's Note: Andrew Dever '25 is a student at Wabash College and a staff writer for *The Bachelor*. He traveled to Greece for the 2024 Athens Democracy Forum. Below is his personal account and analysis of the experience.

ANDREW DEVER '25

STAFF WRITER

It is not every day that you have the opportunity to hear an up-and-coming global leader speak in front of a hostile audience at an international conference. Yet, the final major session of the 2024 Athens Democracy Forum, an international conference focused on discussing and addressing pertinent problems for democracies around the world, provided exactly that opportunity. Jordan Bardella, a smooth talking, polished and charismatic 29-year-old French politician, confidently strode into the Gran Bretagne Hotel to speak on a plethora of national and global issues.

Representing the National Rally Party, Bardella agreed to an on-stage, live interview with the New York Times' Paris Correspondent, Roger Cohen, to discuss the 2024 French Elections, in which his party received 37% of the vote (leading plurality), his unprecedented rise to power, the intra-party dynamic between him and Marine Le Pen, France's immigration problem and what defines French culture.

Through responding to Cohen's questions, Bardella participated in a deliberative exchange, essential to democracy and human interaction: enlightening those you disagree with about how your background, upbringing and lived experiences combine to formulate your fundamental values. And for a politician, how those values translate to public policy.

There is nothing more fundamental to democracy than civil discourse about issues that matter. Sitting in a conference room located at the birthplace of democracy, it amazed me that this significance seemed to be lost on many at the conference.

The event attendees – consisting of New York Times staff, European politicians, international academics, global non-profit board mem-



COURTESY OF JORDAN BARDELLA

National Rally Party politician Jordan Bardella speaks with The New York Times Paris Bureau Chief Roger Cohen at the Athens Democracy Forum on October 3, 2024, in Athens, Greece.

bers, lawyers, activists and a youth contingent of Great Lakes Colleges Association and Global Liberal Arts Alliance students – were overwhelmingly against Bardella and his policies before the interview. While that is their right, for many, this was transmuted into the assertion that his "dangerous ideas," propagating misinformation in their perspective, should not be presented at a conference centered on "A Moment of Truth." In the build-up to Cohen's sit-down with Bardella, the mere mention of the politician's name was met with scowls, eyerolls and accusations of racism, xenophobia and disgust at his expressions.

Interestingly, the interview had also garnered serious interest and excitement at the prospect of the possibility of refuting the young Frenchman. What I did not hear frequently, except from my friends in the young adult student contingent, was happiness at the ability to hear from Bardella and to learn about his perspective, his community's problems and why his party stormed to an unexpected plurality over Macron in 2024. Thus, motivated by a disdain for Bardella and his beliefs, the interview quickly crammed considerably more spectators into the boardroom than any other event. Then the conversation began.

Cohen first asked Bardella to talk a little bit about his background. Bardella, whose grandparents emigrated from Italy to France in the 20th century, got involved in his local National Rally party at 16, motivated by the observation of suffering in his community.

Positioning himself as a leader who understands the people of France and the problems that they are concerned with, Bardella entered politics because he perceived that France was on the decline, withering away due to dangerous politics and unmitigated immigration. Responding to a follow up from Cohen, Bardella proclaimed that France needs to be proud of itself and has allowed its voice to lose importance on the world stage.

However, the central topic of the discussion between Cohen and Bardella was immigration. Bardella attributes France's deterioration to massive immigration of mainly Muslims that, instead of respecting and adhering to France's values and customs, seek to supplant traditional French culture with Muslim customs and law.

To supplement this claim, Bardella cited studies and polls which found that a majority of French citizens agree with this sentiment. Evidently, nearly 70% of polled voters in France believe that there is too much immigration, which has made France dangerous and polarized. In his explanation, Bardella was meticulous and consistently wanted to differentiate a couple of categories: Muslim and Islamic migration in the 60s and 70s opposed to the 21st century and legal versus illegal immigration.

Responding to a follow up from Cohen, in what would become the marquee moment of the interview,

Bardella explained that although massive Islamic migration in the 60s and 70s had altered France's demographics, these immigrants had overwhelmingly respected France's laws, customs and culture. For him, this constituted acceptable immigration. In contrast, consistent undocumented immigration in the 21st century, in Bardella's eyes, has led the French citizens, ethnically French and ethnically Muslim, to fear the most recent immigration wave.

Consequently, looking directly at the audience, Bardella boldly asserted that foreigners living illegally – around 600,000 individuals – in France, especially those who had committed crimes, should be permanently expelled from the country.

The crowd, for its part, was angered at this suggestion. Several observers went as far as to shout epithets in several languages at Bardella. Ever the statesman, Bardella followed up that statement by challenging the audience about why many thought he was racist and xenophobic for exercising his right to criticize his own country's immigration policy and pointing to the realities of the communities he represents.

Once again, he reiterated a central point of his argument: If a country's citizens cannot define who enters their country, especially when those who enter the country are actively changing its cultural identity, "Is that country really a democracy?" Furthermore, if France offers opportunities so promising that hundreds of thousands of people are willing to risk their lives to enter, why change that culture to resemble that from which the immigrants fled?

Although these are complex and highly controversial issues, Bardella approached his argument with eloquence, thoughtfulness and genuine care for the citizens which he represented. Many in the crowd did not care. As the moderator opened the floor for questions, dozens of hands rapidly flew into the air.

After answering a couple of questions, Bardella was ushered off the stage. He seemed disappointed. Within the student contingent, despite disagreement regarding his views, a consensus emerged that the French politician was genuinely interested in facing the frustrated crowd and engaging in conversation about their thoughts and concerns.

For me, by showing up, Bardella exuded bravery and dedication to furthering democracy and like any good speaker, he left the audience, myself included, with thoughts and questions about immigration and democracy that are applicable to our 2024 elections in the United States.

Furthermore, despite offering views that some might consider to be controversial, I believe that Bardella's open-mindedness to hearing opposing questions, an essential aspect of democracy, was greater than the audience's, which is interesting since the latter consider the Frenchman to be a great threat to democracy.



COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

Jordan Bardella holds Marine Le Pen's hand after the results during the National Rally party's Congress in Paris in November 2022

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Photo by Will Duncan '27

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FEATURES

LaFollette Lecture covers poetry, disability



COURTESY OF JACK MILLER '28

Professor of English Crystal Benedicks directs the audience's attention to a slide during her LaFollette Lecture titled "Neurosis Spasmodica" on October 17, 2024 in Salter Hall.

ALEX SCHMIDT '27
STAFF WRITER

This year's LaFollette Lecture series talk, "Neurosis Spasmodica and the Myth of the Well-Composed Man," delivered by Professor of English Crystal Benedicks, was one to remember. Benedicks's title describes the chaotic nature of human psychology while also deconstructing the ideology of someone who, from societal viewpoints, is deemed perfect.

Benedicks's lecture focused on the "spasmodic" poetics, a group of Victorian-era poets who challenged traditional views of poetry by focusing on the struggle of trying to pursue a perfect poem. She also shared personal experiences as the daughter of a polio victim and her perspective of witnessing people look down upon her mother because of her disability. Benedicks described how her mom overcame societal struggles and became the best version of herself, even though she may not be perfect in the eyes of society.

"It is common for writers to distance themselves from their problems to seem professional. I felt like this speech needed to go against that."

- Professor of English
Crystal Benedicks

The LaFollette Lecture series is an annual event funded by the Board of Trustees in memory of former trustee Charles D. LaFollette. This talk offers an opportunity for a distinguished member of the humanities faculty to share a topic of their choosing — one that doesn't require a conclusion and provides more questions than it does answers.

"It is a big stage for a Wabash faculty member to share their research and be able to share and spread their message throughout campus," said Professor of Classics Jeremy Hartnett '96, who is a principal organizer for the event.

"It is a day where the academic community can come together and that faculty members and seniors can talk about their research and share it with other people," Benedicks said.

This lecture is not specifically dedicated to one field of study, but rather a picture of society through the lens of different disciplines. The LaFollette series celebrates the liberal arts while also providing a central theme that the campus can come together and learn about.

"This is an event which should be a pleasurable experience, and it should be one where everyone should come together," said Hartnett.

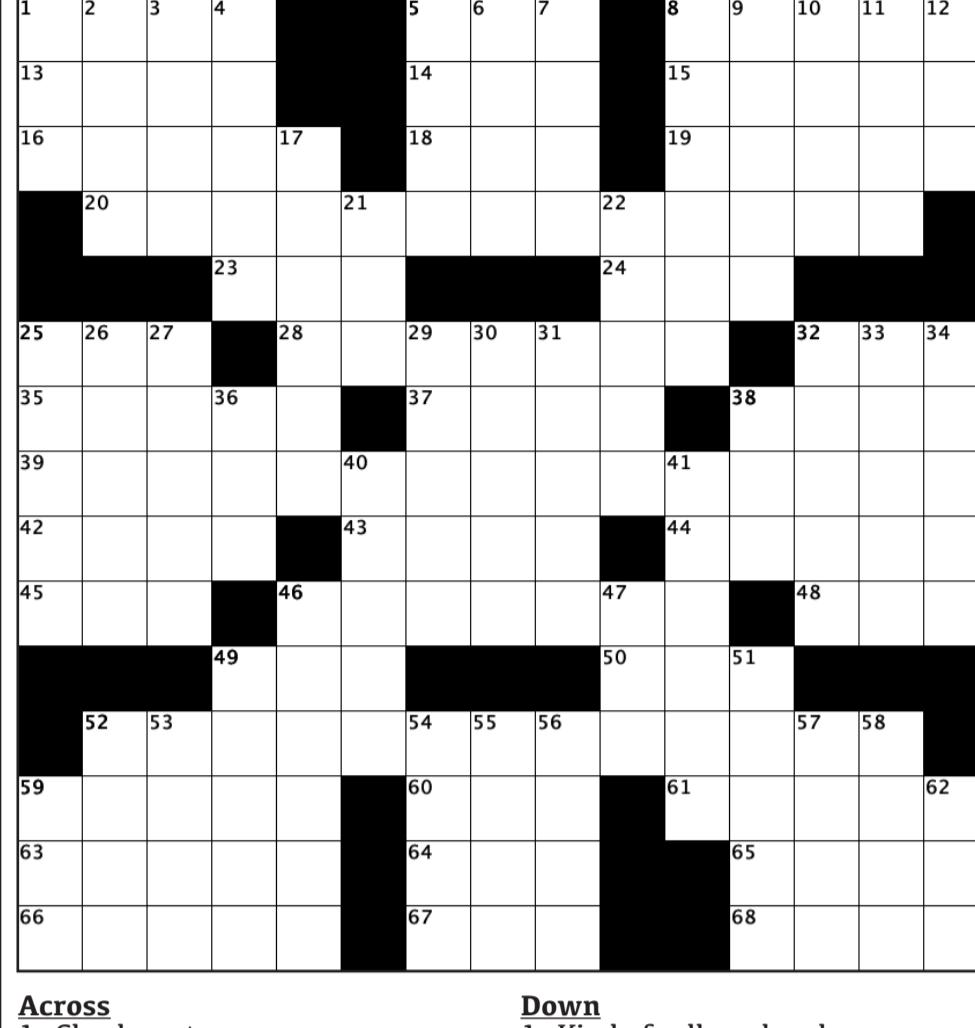
The lecture also highlighted the critical research that Benedicks has conducted throughout her academic career. It is based on the spasmodic poets and how they are judged and brushed aside due to their unique writing styles. These writers expressed the negatives of life using an existential tone with their writing, which was looked down upon heavily in the Victorian era. Benedicks's talk highlights poets such as Lord Byron and Sydney Dobell, as well as personal accounts of physical disabilities. She also described the significance of incorporating these differences one might have and using them to one's ability.

"It is common for writers to distance themselves from their problems to seem professional. I felt like this speech needed to go against that," said Benedicks.

Through creative visualization and personal anecdotes, Benedicks shared both her research and deeply personal experiences while describing the negative ideology of the "well-composed man." Benedicks' LaFollette Lecture was a talk that will leave a lasting impression on all who attended.

'Quit your wine-ing!'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



Across

1. Checks out
5. Successors of LPs
8. Heavy, as a fog
13. Bigwig
14. "Mighty" fine home for a squirrel?
15. High society
16. Seasoned rice dish
18. "Thrilla in Manila" victor
19. Kidney-y?
20. *Enjoying an end-of- date wine?
23. Penned partner
24. "Battleship" declaration
25. Divs. on one side of a ruler
28. Iran-Contra, e.g.
32. Wide mouth
35. Light shade of purple
37. Nickel or dime
38. "It's a ___" ("Mission aborted")
39. *Sailor's wine preference?
42. It's always underfoot
43. Abate
44. Number of Scrabble points for a B, C, M or P
45. Snoop
46. "Watch this"
48. Rep.'s counterpart
49. Bear false witness, say
50. PC's "brain"
52. *Begin a wine tasting, perhaps?
59. Use a razor
60. Beam of light
61. Annapolis Academy
63. Drawing game
64. Hit the buffet
65. Hackman of Hollywood
66. Is touching
67. Thumbs up
68. "That being the case..."

Down

1. Kind of rally or band
2. Earth's is tilted 23.5°
3. Outcry, or a site where you might post one?
4. Overcharge for tickets
5. Winter-weather wear
6. Spanish surrealist
7. Birthday suit material?
8. Go off track
9. Participate in a republic
10. Jazzy Simone
11. Sudden, sharp pain
12. Aquarium wriggler
17. Complete bomb
21. Dr. Mom's remedy, for short
22. Accra's country
25. Necklace part
26. 17-year-old, legally
27. On the down low
29. Play the part of
30. Fuzziness, in a photo
31. Frequent "Seinfeld" set
32. Ties to the dock
33. Go along with
34. 156 congresspeople, currently
36. Companion for Tarzan
38. Utmost degree
40. "___ Yell" (Billy Idol hit)
41. Hit, as the gas
46. Titans' predecessors
47. DVD forerunner
49. Even
51. Application, as of language
52. Loafer or pump
53. Whip up
54. Airline seat attachment
55. Loathe
56. Ophthalmologist's concern
57. At any point
58. Spilled the beans
59. Tanning lotion stat
62. Novelist Tolstoy



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Stacy '27 and Sommers '27 push themselves to the limit in Ironman races

TY MURPHY '27

STAFF WRITER

There are a few titles out there that make you pause in awe when you hear them — just the sound of the name makes you immediately impressed with the person who holds it. Those include Olympians, Hall of Famers and Champions to name a few. Then you have those who hold the title of pure grit and determination: Ironmen.

A very select group of impressive individuals holds this title and are few and far between. If you were to walk around the Wabash campus on any given day, however, you can find not one but two students that can claim the Ironman name.

What leads someone to train for hours and hours a day to put their body through a grueling 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run, that all must be completed under 17 hours? For golfer Dakota Stacy '27 and swimmer Nick Sommers '27, it was fueled by not being able to compete in their respective sports.

"I couldn't golf, and then I had a bunch of time to do other stuff," said Stacy. "I thought, 'Why not?' Ironman just seemed really cool."

Sommers had a very similar issue arising from his high school swim season.

"Junior year of high school, I had a really rough season," said Sommers. "I needed to take a step back from swimming, and I thought, 'What's something that's really hard that I haven't done before?' I landed on Ironman, and I wanted the tattoo. My parents always said I need to get the Olympic rings or the Ironman. I wasn't getting the Olympic rings, so it was down to one tattoo."

Of course, few, if any, people can go out there and just do an Ironman. It takes training, and



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

The final leg of the race has participants running a full marathon, testing their will to continue on. Dakota Stacy '27 (left) and Nick Sommers '27 (right) put the miles of training necessary in the offseason.

lots of it. After the initial decision, Stacy and Sommers spent months preparing in the pool and on land for their first competitions.

"It's pretty gnarly," said Sommers. "I like to spend my Saturdays going for about six or seven hours."

Stacy was in quick agreement thinking about his long hours spent on those hard weekends of training, all while also handling other sports and school.

"Weekends are huge, because you just have so much time to do stuff," said Stacy. "You might as well take advantage of that and go on longer bike rides, runs and swims. I usually spend ten hours a week. I try to hit each discipline two to three times."

Their months of training would soon be put to the test in Arizona in 2022 when Sommers finally raced his first ever Ironman.

"It was beautiful out there — it was in November so not super hot," said Sommers. "I ended up coming in 16th in the swim. I then had an okay bike split before the run. The marathon was good up until mile 17 until I blew up. Then after that I had to really tough it out those last nine miles and then run down the carpet as always. It's so fun."

53 minutes of swimming, six hours and 11 minutes on a bike, and four hours and 49 minutes of running solidified Sommers as an Ironman when nightfall came at

the finish line. And even better, he crossed the line in a time of 12 hours and 13 minutes, well below the seventeen-hour mark needed.

"I absolutely loved it," said Sommers. "I'm working on my leg sleeve right now. I'm getting a tattoo for every race that I do. Once you get done, the pain is over and it's very satisfying."

For Stacy, this moment came in September of this year when he prepared for the grueling task of the Wisconsin Ironman.

"The most important thing is that it's so close that what I do doesn't really matter as long as I don't do something stupid and I just eat food," said Stacy. "I'm just happy to be there, I know I'm

going to be chill."

One hour and 40 minutes of swimming, seven hours and 47 minutes of biking, and a five-hour and 26-minute run gave Stacy the Ironman title when he crossed the line at 15 hours and 12 minutes. But as it is for anyone crazy enough to be an Ironman, there is always more ahead.

"Once you get there and you can see the finish line, you think, 'This is so cool,'" said Stacy. "But once you finish, you're sad because you've been training and looking forward to this for 10 months and now it's gone."

Despite achieving their dream of becoming an Ironman, both Stacy and Sommers looked for more. There are plenty more races out there, but it's more than just doing these races, because they have time to. Nobody just decides to do an Ironman after all.

"To get out and prove myself is what I wanted to do," said Sommers. "That's why a lot of us do it. For our Enduring Questions class, we wrote Chapel Talks, and mine was titled 'Do Something Hard'. Just go out and do something hard. It doesn't have to be a full Ironman. Hell, it can be a 5K. Wherever your heart is, just go out and do something hard. Prove yourself, set that goal and make it happen."

Even though Stacy and Sommers are part of a select group who can call themselves Ironmen, their journeys did not end when they crossed the finish line. Instead, they just continued it. This time, however, they will already be called Ironmen when the next finish line comes up.

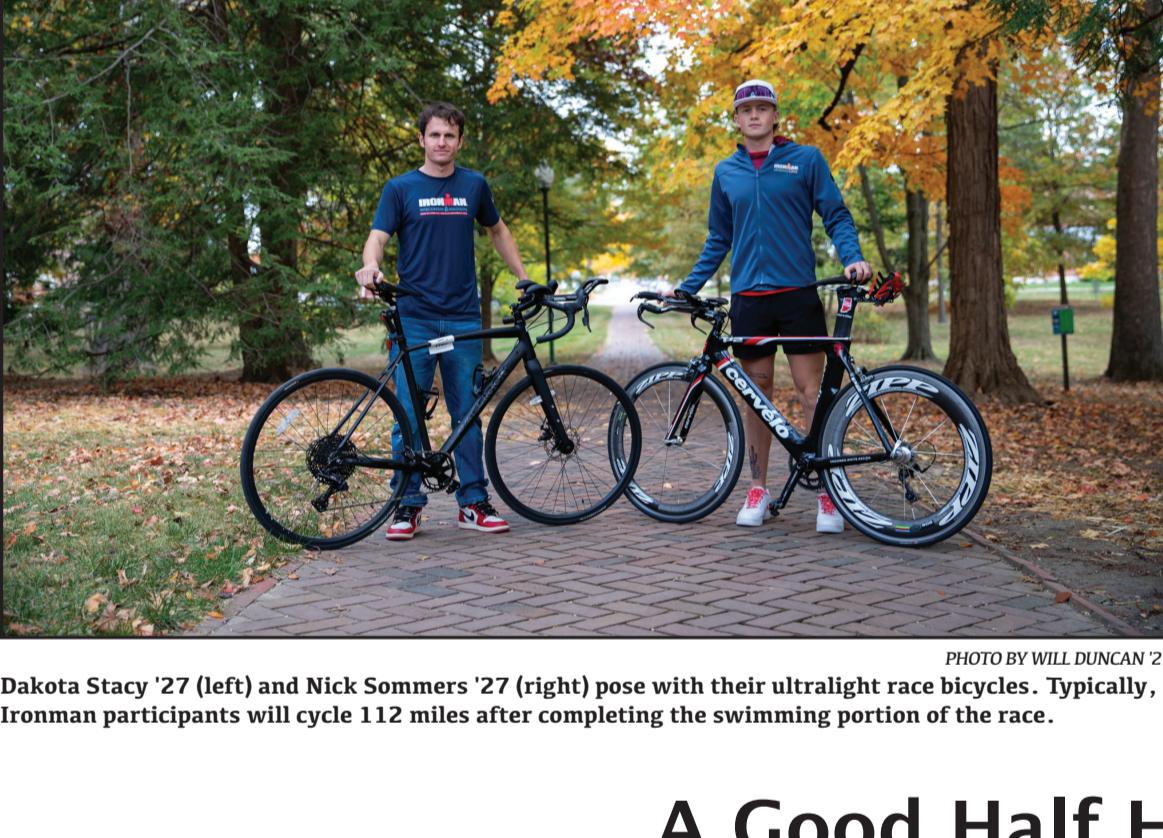


PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Dakota Stacy '27 (left) and Nick Sommers '27 (right) pose with their ultralight race bicycles. Typically, Ironman participants will cycle 112 miles after completing the swimming portion of the race.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Nick Sommers '27 put in a six-hour shift in the cycling portion of his last Ironman, propelling him to a 12 hour, 13 minute finish.

A Good Half Hour: 'An Unusually Merciful Place'

ELIJAH WETZEL '27

STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you combine a Methodist hymnal, Scottish prayer, Episcopalian liturgy and Catholic blessing, all taught by a Lutheran minister in a college chapel? Not an overly complicated joke, although that's enough material to make one.

The real result, though, is an ecumenical service that Professor of Religion Derek Nelson '99 started this semester: "A Good Half Hour." Held at 11:15 a.m. on one Tuesday month in Pioneer Chapel, the service is open to all. The two meetings so far each included prayers, short hymns, a Scripture reading, communion and a brief message delivered by Nelson. The service's purpose is to be a short mental getaway for people, especially students, who want to trade the hustle and bustle of life for a spiritual respite.

"A college is necessarily a results-driven kind of place where we have our hierarchies, our different ways of dividing people up into categories and grades," said Nelson. "In addition to the theological reasons why you might worship, I want people to feel they can just be here for a while and be accepted as they are."

In a culture full of performance reviews and progress checks, "A

Good Half Hour" offers a different take on what makes people valuable. For Nelson, it's not what we produce or how well we "perform" on a certain day; what matters most is that we're people, plain and simple.

"I want people to have a different calculation going on, one where everyone is infinitely worthy; a grace logic instead of law logic," said Nelson.

While Wabash is well-known and well-loved for its demanding workload and competitive atmosphere, this environment can be draining and lead to burnout. Students need breaks, and even one Tuesday a month has made a difference.

"There are pros to a liberal arts college being small: We're always learning new things and being trained in many aspects, but participation in everything is always a looming obligation," said Bryce Kinnaman '27, who attended both services this semester. "I think that 'A Good Half Hour' is a nice place to just be."

Like many other Wabash innovators, Nelson drew his inspiration for "A Good Half Hour" from the past. While he was a student at Wabash, Nelson wrote a term paper for Religion and Philosophy professor Bill Placher '70 about the College's religious history. He



Professor of Religion Derek Nelson '99 offers up a prayer during "A Good Half Hour" service in Pioneer Chapel.

learned that back in the 19th century, there were multiple religious services per day held in the Chapel, all of which required students' attendance. Gradually, as Wabash diversified and more opportunities for worship sprung up in Crawfordsville, required religious services faded away. But worship did not cease. A local Lutheran church met there for a time, and Eric Dean H'61, a longtime religion professor, preached in the Chapel every Sunday when he taught at Wabash.

Eventually, the Religion department began sponsoring a small

weekly prayer service held in the Tuttle Chapel of Center Hall, but that service was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and has not been revived.

A desire to reincarnate one of Wabash's oldest traditions inspired Nelson, but there is also an element of personal fulfillment for the ordained Lutheran minister in "A Good Half Hour." Returning, even for a short time, to an occupation he loves brings Nelson joy.

"I miss being a pastor; I want that to be my last job that I retire from," said Nelson. "There's some-

thing special about the connection, especially with sacraments. Baptism and Holy Communion are unique things. It's nice to do that with people that I care about, and most of whom I know."

Nelson hopes "A Good Half Hour" can mirror the creation story of Genesis and help people experience the rest they are meant to enjoy. The point of our rest should not be to prepare us for more work; rather, rest is a critical part of humanity and worship. Nelson's goal is that attendees feel rested, down to the very core of their being.

"Just come and have a different kind of half hour than you usually have," said Nelson '99. "If you want to sleep, that is just fine. If you want to sing, you can. If you don't want to sing, you don't have to. I want it to be an unusually merciful place for half an hour."

"I'm glad we started this," said Kinnaman '27. "It's definitely something I enjoy and look forward to, no matter if I only know I'm going to the service 15 minutes before I walk in the doors."

Anyone who has an idea for a "Good Half Hour" service or is interested in helping Nelson with the service is encouraged to reach out to him. Two more are planned for this semester — one in November and one in December — and everyone is welcome to attend.

Ralph's Brother is back in town

Second-annual musical showcase features student bands



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Members of the Mariachi Pequenos Gigantes (Oscar Jacome Huesca '25, Brady Largent '26, Alejandro Cruz '27 and Nate Litts '27, left to right) perform traditional Mexican mariachi music.



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Matt Lepper '25 (center), a key organizer of the concert, joins Wabash Association of Musicians (WAM) to hype up the crowd between sets.



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

James Szalkie '25 begins a song for his band Wally's Creek, backed up by Oliver Ramos '26 (left) on the drums.



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Students packed the Delta Tau Delta pit on October 18, 2024, to watch a stacked lineup, including Week-Long Flight, pictured onstage.



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Week-Long Flight was the only act at Ralph's Brother not comprised of Wabash students.

New director breathes life into Glee Club

Juan Hernandez finds camaraderie in return to Indiana



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Choral Director Juan Hernandez introduces "America the Beautiful," one of the pieces to be sung at the Glee Club Homecoming concert on September 14, 2024 in Salter Hall.

ASHTON MOORE '25
STAFF WRITER

This semester, one of the most beloved traditions at Wabash received a breath of fresh air. The Wabash College Glee Club hired Choral Director Juan Hernandez to take the reins of the club, one of the oldest student organizations on campus. People love to celebrate the instant successes of new coaches and directors, be it in sports or the arts. However, just like any new hire, there are bound to be anxieties for both members of the organization and the incoming director. Transitions can be difficult and chemistry takes some time to build. As easy as it can be to hop on the hype train right away, things are seldom that simple.

But, if there was going to be someone who could make the change seem effortless, it would be Juan Hernandez. Given that he grew up in Columbia, moved to the United States for graduate school, lived in three states and conducted many choirs prior to arriving at Wabash, maybe it shouldn't be surprising that he found his footing early. After getting his doctorate in choral conducting from Indiana University, Juan Hernandez moved to the University of New Mexico for three years in an interim position. He eventually moved to Odessa College in Texas, where he took his first proper conducting role, although it wasn't quite everything he wanted.

"My schedule was completely packed from morning to noon teaching," said Hernandez. "I didn't have time to do anything to further my career. It was only teaching, but I wanted to write arrangements of music. I wanted to do research and publish things, but I didn't have the time."

After six years in Odessa, Hernandez had enough. After being asked to temporarily take over a voice instructor position that quickly became permanent, he decided to pull the plug on Odessa. He noted that he wanted to come back to Indiana, a decision that has paid personal dividends rather quickly.

"I'm happy that I'm renewing my love for the career," said Hernandez. "I've always loved music, but now it's like, 'this is what it's supposed to be.'"

Hernandez's quick pace of speaking, expressive tone and energetic use of his hands indicate a man who is full of life and excited about music in a way that is deeply infectious with the members of the Glee Club. This energy is something that Glee Club President Carl Suba '25 not only emulates himself, but clearly appreciates from his director as well.

Suba didn't join the Glee Club until his sophomore year, despite having done it in high school. He initially chose football over the Glee Club, having done both in high school, but needed to make a decision. After an injury-ridden year with football, Suba decided to leave the team. Initially, Suba knew he made the right decision, but faced doubt as time went on.

"As time went by it grew stale a little bit," Suba said. "I stayed solely because I wanted to make the Glee Club stay alive, and then it felt like a chore to go to."

Despite some malaise in the middle of his Glee Club career, Suba is now finding his love for it all over again, similar to how Hernandez has described his own experience with the club. Their passion for choral music rings true, in the notes that they sing and in a newfound pride for the club itself.

"Hernandez has helped so much in terms of keeping the club alive," said Suba. "We're working so hard to make sure that recruitment goes well for the next few years. He just has that energy and it's really refreshing. He can feel how we're feeling when we're all going through Wabash in a sense."

Hernandez has thrown great chemistry together as one of his core values, and it has borne fruit. He led Glee Club students and alumni together during the Ringing-In Ceremony as his first job, something that Hernandez said earned him praise from alumni. A more organized performance, the Glee Club's annual Homecoming Concert was exceptional and firmly established a new and optimistic era for the Wabash College Glee Club.

Despite initially coming in worried about the previously declining number of Glee

Club members, as well as working within an all-male college, Hernandez has quickly fallen in love with Wabash. He admits to expecting a "macho" atmosphere from his students, but was shocked by the camaraderie of the Glee Club members. Now, Hernandez feels as if he has found his fit and is having a lot of fun in his new role.

"That was my main goal, having chemistry with the students," said Hernandez. "They are less shy. They're coming out of their shells now that things are going smoothly, we're having fun in rehearsals and we laugh all the time. It's so fun."

The instant mutual affection between Hernandez and the students of the Glee Club is the first of many promising signs for the future. Many are now viewing the club with renewed interest and hope for its growth and continued success.



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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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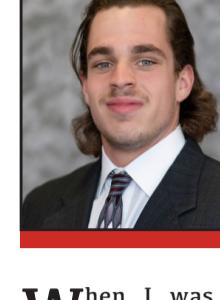
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Where has our great campus gone?



Seth Acero '25

Reply to this opinion at sacer025@wabash.edu

When I was recruited to come to Wabash, I was hit with the same marketing that the College has used for all its current students: this is a different campus from the rest. Wabash prides itself on creating a group of gentlemen and responsible citizens who countered the world's injustices and recognized there were issues that they could resolve, not by focusing on themselves but by focusing on the world around them.

The campus prided itself on being a center of intellectual thought, with students eager to be challenged daily through rigorous academic articles, papers and novels that introduced a new way of thinking. The idea was that Wabash was a place of liberty and expression, and even though there may have been opposition in the ways we think, all men on this campus were united in the idea of individuality and being themselves.

This is not that campus.

I have witnessed the exact opposite of these ideals Wabash holds to themselves. I have witnessed students oppose the idea of going to certain classes they chose for themselves because of ideas they did not agree with on a surface level. I have witnessed students that, when presented with new ideas of thinking, different ways of life other than their own, of loving a different gender than they love, submit to acts of aggression, going as far as defacing property.

I have witnessed students paint the words f*****s and queers on houses different than their own because they forget that the people they directed these slurs to are their brothers, united in a common goal of individuality.

I have witnessed students go behind anonymous usernames to express resentment and aggression because they are afraid to do so while showing themselves.

Finally, I have seen students, in the middle of a pitch-black night, walk to the

campus mall, pick up flags celebrating the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community and throw them in the trash like a bunch of cowards, afraid to associate their face with such an idea.

We are not the campus we say we are. We are not the student body that prides itself on the values of our college, which we pledge to hold and act according to. We are a college with cowards, unable to be challenged because of their ignorance and selfishness that force them into a narrow-minded view of the world. We are a campus with people focused solely on themselves and their ideas and they believe that they must become the authoritative figure of those who do not agree with them because they lust for power, for they are so self-conscious that they must project their insecurities onto those who are also trying to find themselves.

When we are presented with new ideas, the objective is not to wholeheartedly agree with them but to acknowledge their existence, for that is society's way. Nobody, not even twins born two minutes apart, are the same people; there will always be a difference in thought and expression, as there always has been in history. When we pledge ourselves to liberty, freedom, and individuality, we also pledge to recognize that not all people will live their lives the way we do. Yet, even in these moments of conflict, is there the ability to come together and see that we all strive for the same goal of being free, riden from the shackles of oppressive thought?

Thus, the students of Wabash College, the students who swore to themselves to act as responsible citizens both on and off campus, the students who pledged to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely, must look at themselves in the mirror and ask if they truly are the next leaders of tomorrow. Our campus administrators must ask themselves if we can be trusted with such freedoms without needing extra security to fulfill the college's mission.

The entirety of Wabash must look at itself and ask if it is ready to take the next step in administering the values that make the idea of the institution so great and carry out the consequences for those who act as cowards and aggressors towards the free thinkers of society.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY

OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

TAKE YOUR SON TO WORK NIGHT

Hi-Five to LeBron and Bronny James for combining to score 16 points in the Lakers season opener. Bronny contributed zero of those 16 points, proving what FIJs already knew — it's all in who your father is.

THETA DELT SUPREMACY

Hi-Five to the brothers of Theta Delta Chi for going on a generational streak. Between throwing the first TDX party in years, shredding the axe at Ralph's Brother and protecting the flags by night, I think we can safely call them top-house.

"SEE THE LOVE IN MY WOMAN'S EYES"

Lo-Five to Zach Bryan for cheating on his girlfriend Brianna "Chickenfry" LaPaglia, and double Lo-Five to her for announcing it on the "Talk Tuah" podcast. Their relationship may be ruined, but as long as we get a new album out of it, that's a sacrifice we're willing to make.

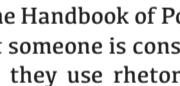
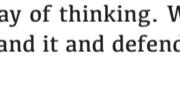
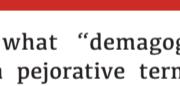
NATIONAL ACT WHO?

Hi-Five to Ralph's Brother for bringing some killer musical guests to town last Friday. Now they just need to bring Ralph's Mother back...

THE REAL BURGER KING

Lo-Five to McDonald's for causing a "deadly E. coli outbreak" with its Quarter Pounder burgers. We're not saying this has anything to do with Trump's McDonald's visit, but we will say if people would just stick to eating their pets, we wouldn't be having this problem.

Defending against the dark art of demagoguery



Xavier Cooper '28, Faustino Dimuro '28, Maksymilian Domanski '28 and Jack Miller '28

Reply to this opinion at xacooper28@wabash.edu, fdimuro28@wabash.edu, mldomanski28@wabash.edu or jvmiller28@wabash.edu

Identity, individuality and society



Tobias Oyaniran '28

Reply to this opinion at oyanir28@wabash.edu

Half-true. What is important to understand about Liberty is that our ignorance eclipses our knowledge. Our misunderstanding of nature is greater than our understanding of our identity. Not purely in the context of gender and sexuality, but in all areas of life where there exists genuine controversy.

So, to hear from esteemed members of this college's student body, that if one does not "acknowledge and accept someone else's identity" they are incontrovertibly hateful, unsettles me. Our great ideal is to be gentlemen. Does being a gentleman require deference to an opposing moral, political, or factual position? Surely not.

Yet it is deference that was being implicitly mandated from SHOUT. You won't grumble amongst your teammates about how uncomfortable you are, you won't post on YikYak about how you wish someone would do something about it. You will walk the paths without complaint, or you will be known and branded as a homophobe. This could all be avoided, if the flags were never put there in the first place.

No referendum was called for to gauge the student body's position on the display. No consultation was made to reach any kind of compromise. The backing of the administration was all that was necessary to push a truth, that like all truths is incomplete, on every member of this campus.

Stealing property is ungentlemanly. Crude and cowardly disagreement is ungentlemanly. However, unilaterally decorating campus with ideologically one-sided flags is ungentlemanly. Ignoring real discomfort, that people should be allowed to have, is ungentlemanly. We need to live together with respect for, not deference to, each other's opinions.

Wally's wall: Sparks memory

Albert Bernhardt '26

My favorite Sparks memory is when they served raw, barely above-room-temperature chicken sandwiches during my Freshman year. I felt compelled to call the USDA and the World Health Organization. Alternatively, once upon a time, when I was a Sophomore at the beginning of the Fall semester, the chocolate milk was so rancid one day that there may have been a new strain of COVID-19 swimming within the mire.

The Prompt: What is your favorite (or most prominent) "Sparks memory" here at Wabash?

Thomas Oppman '25

That guy, I think his name was Josh, who would make sandwiches at light speed. Bro would have one continuous conversation with the stream of students coming through his sandwich line. Absolute GOAT.

Henry Chilcoat '27

My favorite Sparks memory is not having to eat there.

Hiding in plain sight

Comic by Drake Green '28



Ralph Raico: A lesser known Wabash legacy

Daniel D'Amico
Director of The
Stephenson
Institute

Reply to this opinion at damicod@wabash.edu

One of my favorite aspects of Wabash is the campus community's deep appreciation for lore. Before arriving on campus in the Fall of 2022, I was well aware of Wabash's long ties to classical liberal scholarship via the legacy of Ben Rogge, the publication of Milton Friedman's Capitalism and Freedom, and Pierre Goodrich's philanthropic initiatives. In my thus far brief two years here, I've since learned that the long and complex histories of Wabash College, classical liberalism and gay rights are in fact intertwined.

During the summer of 2004, I had the privilege to participate in a week-long intensive seminar guided by Ralph Raico, who was a professor of European history at Buffalo State College at the time. The seminar, "History: The Struggle for Liberty," entailed two lectures per day along with coordinated group discussions throughout the week. Raico's lecture materials served as the foundations for an impressive book length manuscript, eventually published as *Classical Liberalism and the Austrian School*.

I had just finished my undergraduate degree and was about to begin PhD studies in economics. Raico's lectures and insights were fascinating and his personal attention and supportive tone for students were kind and inviting. Furthermore, and anyone who knew Ralph can attest; he was hilarious and a joy to be around. Raico loved wine, cigarettes, and dark humor, as all were complementary accoutrement to intense conversations and academic debates.

I learned more history in that week than I had in all of my formal schooling prior, but what I now remember most was how infectious and inspiring Ralph was as a scholar. Relatable, humble, yet brilliant; he made it seem like knowing things deeply, and having read widely were the ultimate metrics of being cool. The time I spent with Professor Raico imbued in me the inescapable lesson that the quest for knowledge is actually really fun. As I only now fully appreciate, Raico was very Wabash.

Two years later, I competed in a student essay contest at Grove City College. Raico was the keynote speaker. Grove City hosts a modest archive of some of the personal correspondences of the late twentieth century economist Ludwig von Mises. Therein, I was drawn to an old advertisement for a youth organization in the 1960s, "The Cobden Club" named after radical essayist Richard Cobden who argued for free trade, peace and spoke out against the corn laws in the 19th century. The flyer emulated the youthfulness of the organization's members, as it was handwritten and showcased a list of naively ambitious goals including "the end of collectivism in all pernicious forms." For more information, readers were instructed to contact the club's founder and acting head... Ralph Raico.

Ralph was standing next to me when I read the flyer out loud. "We shouldn't let just anyone in these archives," he sighed as others chuckled. It turned out that Ralph and friends spent much of their free time across middle and high school on the steps of the Columbia University library challenging passer by students and faculty to debate. Raico and fellow Cobden founding member George Reisman always defending capitalism and the free enterprise system. Furthermore, Ralph confessed an endearing story of when he and Reisman discovered the home address of Mises and plotted to visit him under the false pretense of selling subscriptions to the Freeman (the monthly magazine of the Foundation for Economic

Education at the time). Mises did answer the door, informed them he was already a subscriber and promptly closed it shut.

As I dove deeper into the intellectual and institutional histories of the American classical liberal movement during the 20th century, I continued to learn more about my friend Ralph's important role. In 1975, Ralph penned, "Gay Rights: A Libertarian Approach." Therein he provides a brief but thorough account of government sanctioned oppressions against homosexual behaviors, uniquely pronounced by church and state collaborations in the English and American experiences. He then identifies Scottish Enlightenment thinkers as the intellectual origin behind a more inclusive worldview of individual rights and gay tolerance.

John Stuart Mill perhaps best encapsulated this insight by arguing that coercive force was only legitimate as a means of forestalling coercive force. Thus, laid the conceptual foundation for takes like Jeremy Bentham's and many others since, that homosexual acts were "fictitious crimes," as they lacked a victim. Classical liberalism is a social theory of formal legal tolerance for all consenting behaviors absent force or fraud, while individual citizens and groups retain full freedom of conscience and freedom of association regarding the maintenance of cultural and social tolerance.

I reread this pamphlet often, as it has proven to be a document of significant historical importance. In 1976, Roger MacBride included the essay as a campaign pamphlet for his presidential run under the libertarian party. Such represented the first national presidential campaign agenda to include gay marriage in the U.S. A policy position only the libertarian party has ever campaigned upon thereafter. This election season represents an additional milestone, as their chosen candidate, Chase Oliver is the first openly homosexual presidential nominee by a national party in American history.

Ralph Raico passed away in 2016. I hadn't thought about him very much until I arrived at Wabash in the Fall of 2022. Upon alerting a mutual friend of my new institutional affiliation, they informed me that Wabash was Raico's first academic appointment after he completed his dissertation in history under the guidance of F.A. Hayek at the University of Chicago's committee on social thought. Raico taught history at Wabash from 1964 until 1967, and according to interviews thought of it as his best academic position and Wabash students at the time (one of whom was David Blix) were "really very good."

It is for all of the reasons above that Raico's portrait hangs proudly on the wall of the library at the Stephenson Institute for Classical Liberalism. If you'd like a copy of Raico's essay, please come by and we will happily make one available.

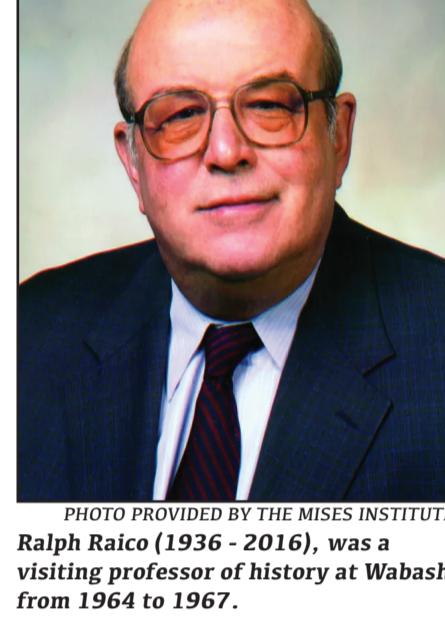


PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE MISES INSTITUTE
Ralph Raico (1936 - 2016), was a visiting professor of history at Wabash from 1964 to 1967.

The cultural impact of "Talk Tuah"

Harrison Wainman '26

Reply to this opinion at hpwainma26@wabash.edu

As a Wabash student with little time, I typically don't listen to podcasts when I'm doing something in my free time. I'm either on Tiktok, Instagram, sleeping or playing games with my friends. In these last few weeks, however, I have become an avid podcast listener. This is due to the rise of "Talk Tuah," a podcast about real people having genuine conversations, hosted by Haliey Welch.

Haliey Welch, who rose to fame because of her quote, "Hawk tuah," talks about how she handles her fame and how her life has changed after her sensational moment on the internet. She talks about how it was hard to come out of her house for the first couple weeks, and then slowly started rising to fame by starting the great "Talk Tuah" podcast.

I believe this shows us how glorious internet fame can alter someone's life, for better and for worse. Haliey starts her podcast by talking about how her podcast is a place for real people to talk about real things, and she hasn't looked back since.

Personally, I enjoy the Talk Tuah podcast for numerous reasons. The cultural significance keeps me up with the times and I use it as a news source in a sense. Every Tuesday when one of these podcasts comes out, I sit and I watch the entire thing without moving a muscle because of how important it is to me.

She has conversations about historical moments such as Thanksgiving, moments with other celebrities such as Jake Paul, and Christopher Columbus sailing across the ocean. Moments like these are the reason why I believe that watching or listening to podcasts is a good way to spend time.

There are also life lessons to be learned from this podcast. In a moment where Haliey is trying to teach a co-host about how to pronounce "Hawk Tuah," she tells her to be more confident. This is a great way to help build people up in a way that will influence their life in the

long run. I personally took this to heart. After hearing that quote, I stood upright, I sat in the front of my classes, and I raised my hand more. I go up to more people, and lets just say, I "talk-tuah" them.

Overall, this time I've spent listening and experiencing the "Talk Tuah" podcast, I've found a deeper meaning for not only myself, but for the life that I live outside of the experience. This podcast truly can change people's perspective on how living life is as simple as talking to other people regarding their opinions and subjective truths influence their day-to-day life.

I challenge you, Wabash, to listen to this podcast, and truly learn about the important opinions of my beloved Haliey Welch. Thank you.



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SPORTS

Red Pack runs final pre-conference race

NICK WANGLER '27

STAFF WRITER

With the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championships just around the corner, the Wabash cross country team is looking to hit their stride at the right time. The NCAC Championship will take place on November 3 in Terre Haute at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course. Sitting a little under two weeks away, the Red Pack is excited to make their mark against rival competition.

The Little Giants competed at the Augustana College Interregional Invitational over the weekend, but the team was left slightly disappointed. Previous competitions were successful, but the team was unable to find the correct click during this one. Although disappointing, the team must refocus their energy for the conference championships.

"We had a disappointing overall effort at Augustana," said Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary. "Ultimately, the collective team effort just wasn't there, but the timing of it will serve the guys well heading into conference. They have run very well all season, so having a down weekend right before championship season should ensure that they're all mentally in the right place moving forward."

Placing 29 out of 40 teams is not worrisome by any means, but the team holds a higher standard for themselves. It seems as if the team left a lot out on the course and felt like they could have fought harder when the race got difficult.

Losing a senior leader is obviously hard for the team's expectations this late in the season. Justin Santiago '25 suffered a calf sprain, but is currently in the rehabilitation process. The team is staying in high spirits while looking for some other guys to step up and display increased leadership in the coming weeks. Augustana was only a small test to their season, but now there's much more to compete for.

"We will assume he's racing at conference up until the day," said McCreary when asked about Santiago's health.

"Coming off a rather disappointing performance at Augustana, we're taking time to re-



COURTESY OF TYLER CURNUTT

Jacob Sitzman '25 fights through the pack in a straightaway during the Augustana College Interregional invitational on Saturday, October 19, 2024, in Rock Island, Illinois. The meet was the final race for the Little Giants before they face the North Coast Athletic Conference at the NCAC championship on November 3.

member all the hard work that's gotten us to where we are now," said Hayden Diemer-McKinney '26. "Augustana was a good wakeup call before the most important race of the season."

Moving on from a tough pre-conference meet will be difficult, but the Red Pack knows they have more in store for conference. The entire season has led up to this point and the team knows they are well trained and prepared for the moment.

"Mentally, we're visualizing different scenarios of the race to

be ready for any outcome," said Diemer-McKinney. "Anyone can have a plan going into a race, but we want a level of competency to where we can adjust when things don't go to plan and believe we're the hardest workers on the course."

The conference championships will be a test for the Little Giants, but it will more importantly be a time to show how their work has paid off. Catch the Redpack in action at the NCAC Championships in Terre Haute next Sunday, November 3.

Highs and lows propel soccer through conference play

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26

STAFF WRITER

Wabash soccer is hitting the homestretch of its season and the race for the final spots in the conference tournament is coming to a close. The Little Giants final few games will be monumental in determining their chances to win a conference title.

The team celebrated senior day on Sunday, October 19 against the Fighting Scots of Wooster in a pivotal conference matchup. With disciplined play, Wabash took full control of the game and delivered a commanding 5-0 victory over Wooster, improving its record to 9-3-2 and securing an important head-to-head advantage against the Scots.

The team took a fair share in scoring, with midfielder Jose Escalante '26 taking the first two, followed by Bruno Zamora '25, Bryce Kinnaman '27 and Ben Wallace '25 securing the third, fourth and fifth goals respectively. It was a convincing full-team effort for the seniors' last ride together.

"Over my four years, I've grown super close with my fellow seniors, and being able to play on the field together was an awesome experience," said Wallace. "The best part was seeing [Andrew Dever '25] run around out of position and almost scoring a goal. It was definitely one of my favorite moments of my Wabash soccer career."

However, the momentum from their dominant performance against Wooster was short-lived, as on Wednesday, October 23, Wabash faced a much tougher test in their next matchup against Ohio Wesleyan University. Despite midfielder Alfredo Campos '27 flying across the field and forward Myles Bernat '26 having a late attack in the first half that almost resulted in a goal, the Little Giants struggled to find their footing and ultimately fell in a 8-0 defeat. The team was outmatched by a strong Battling Bishops squad, and must regroup and refocus for their final three games of the season.



Isaac Gomez '28 (top) dribbles the ball through the midfield. Fernando Ramos '25 (bottom) lines up a goal kick in the Little Giants 5-0 victory over the College of Wooster on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at Fischer Field.

"Obviously, the loss to Ohio Wesleyan is a punch in the gut," said Kinnaman. "However, a spot in the conference tournament is not out of our hands. The team will grow from this experience and will continue to fight as a team for a spot in the NCAC tournament."

"We control our own destiny and can't rely on others' results," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "A positive response will include coming out to play our game and take it one game at a time. Every game is worth three points, so none is more important than the other."

As the conference stands now,

Denison, Kenyon and Ohio Wesleyan are three favorites to get into the tournament. DePauw currently sits at eight points with Wabash trailing behind with seven. The last spot will be intriguing to follow as the season reaches its end. With a win against Wooster and loss against Ohio Wesleyan, the team looks to find its consistency to lock up a few more wins and maximize their chances at a spot in the conference championship tournament. The Little Giants will put their resilience to the test as they host nationally-ranked Kenyon College on Saturday, October 26.

NCAC shake up continues

Continued from page 1

With John Carroll and WashU – who have recorded 41 and 37 wins, respectively in the last five full seasons – joining the conference and Hiram leaving, the NCAC will be in a better position to send two teams to the playoffs each year via one automatic bid and one at-large bid.

"Our conference champion will get into the playoffs every year automatically and our second place team will hope for the at-large," said Associate Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98, who will become the program's head coach in 2025. "The strength of our conference will get much better with John Carroll and WashU joining. I hope that means we [the NCAC] will get an at-large team almost every year."

Elevating the level of the conference will not just bring benefits on the field. It will also be vital in protecting the NCAC from a growing trend of Division III programs and schools shutting down in the post-COVID landscape. Football and other sports can be an important driver of recruitment to help schools recover from the economic strain brought on by the pandemic.

Since 2021, 12 Division III colleges have shut their doors for good or done away with athletics entirely. Countless others have made cuts to individual athletic programs.

The NCAC currently is not in clear on the issues plaguing Division III and the NCAA more broadly. The conference will suffer two close-to-home shots on athletics in 2025. The first will be the closing of Fontbonne University. Though not technically affiliated with the NCAC, Fontbonne is a member of the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL) alongside the Wabash and Wittenberg men's volleyball programs.

"Fontbonne from the MCVL, our [Wabash's] volleyball league, announced they were closing," said Tanney. "They're not sponsoring volleyball this year. So it's happened to us in one of our other leagues."

The second and more impactful change will be the loss of Wittenberg tennis. Neither the men's nor the women's programs will

not return after the 2024-2025 school year. Wittenberg will also be cutting a number of academic programs. Without addressing the current state of the NCAC, this could become a trend within the conference of closures rather than growth. Wittenberg stands as one of the most historic athletic universities in Division III, boasting nine national championships in four-different sports, the most recent being in men's golf in 2019. An institution like Wittenberg falling on hard times should stand as a warning sign to every single NCAA Division III school.

"The strength of our conference will get much better with John Carroll and WashU joining. I hope that means we [the NCAC] will get an at-large team almost every year."

-Associate Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98

However, continuing to bring in top-level athletic programs – alongside the conference's excellent academic record – could serve as bulwark against the tides of change sweeping over small-school higher education.

"I think the NCAC is really fortunate because we're in an incredible position of strength," said Tanney. "Top-to-bottom now, with Hiram's exit this year, John Carroll coming in next year – look at the slate of institutions that we have, it's an incredibly robust group of pro-athletic programs and institutions."

The issues faced by Division III schools will not disappear overnight, as many unfortunate colleges have. But rigorously pushing the level of competition in NCAC will be a way for the conference to stay one step ahead of the wave of post-Covid closures. Using athletics to boost recruitment and national recognition is one the pieces to the puzzle that NCAC schools will have to solve to keep their doors open.

NCAC SOCCER STANDINGS

NCAC RECORD

5-0-1



4-0-1



4-2-0



2-1-2



NCAC Tournament cutoff

2-2-1



2-3-0



1-3-1



1-4-0



0-6-0



GRAPHIC BY ETHAN WALLACE '25

Jim Amidon '87 celebrates 40 years as the voice of Wabash Football

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
STAFF WRITER

Wabash is celebrating a key milestone for one of its most dedicated professionals, Jim Amidon '87, as he marks his 40th year of broadcasting and service to the College. His time at Wabash has had multiple roles. On top of his duties in the booth, Amidon is the chief of staff to the President, handling significant projects and day-to-day activities.

Furthermore, he has worked as a sports information director and football broadcaster, capturing the spirit of Wabash athletics for generations of fans.

"Few people in Wabash's history have been as enthusiastic an advocate for Little Giant student athletes as Jim Amidon," said Joe Emmick '98. "He promotes every athlete, regardless of their sport, with equal enthusiasm. It is the same enthusiasm one hears on Saturday afternoons as he describes Little Giant football games."

His four decades of work not only reflect his love for the College but his commitment to share the stories and successes of Wabash athletes. The journeys of student-athletes that aren't on camera are what Amidon enjoys uncovering the most.

"I love seeing young men who come here and don't know how good they are," said Amidon. "It never gets old watching a fresh group of freshmen come in and try to figure out which ones are going to be the rock stars. The best part is getting to know the students, getting to know their parents, watching them succeed and learn from their mistakes."

Aside from his respect for the development of student-athletes, Amidon is known for his strong attention to detail and elite coverage of Wabash football.

"What sets Jim apart from other broadcasters is his pre-game preparation," said Wabash football color commentator Steve Hoffman '85. "He speaks with our head coach, reviews historical stats and prepares his game sheets which have all sorts of information on the players. He does all of this so that our viewers have one of the best Division III football viewing experiences in the country."

many people that care and in a place that is always trying to get better."

With 40 years and counting, Amidon currently has no plans to stop what he loves, even as new paths continue to reveal themselves.

"I've had so many new opportunities over the course of my time here," said Amidon. "When I got promoted out of sports information, I oversaw communications and marketing. We shifted from an inter-

"Few people in Wabash's history have been as enthusiastic an advocate for Little Giant student athletes as Jim Amidon."

-Joe Emmick '98

"Jim is always prepared, highly professional and knowledgeable," said Tim Grusenmeyer '85, a long-time Wabash football fan. "He's not going to settle for a sub-par product."

Given his professionalism, Amidon could have easily accepted another broadcasting job with a higher division of collegiate athletics or

national communications shop to more professionalized marketing. Then I became secretary of the board of trustees, which was a whole different thing. I'm always after the next big challenge and have probably had five distinct careers in one place. But I've been fortunate to face a lot of fun challenges."

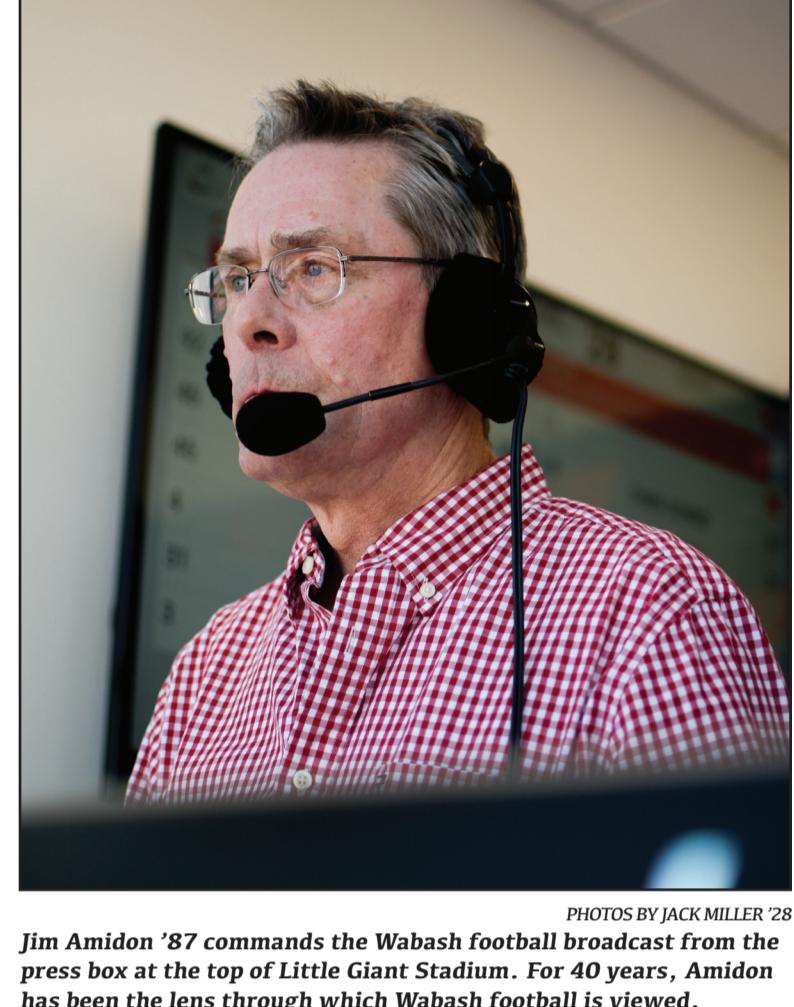
"I'm always after the next big challenge and have probably had five distinct careers in one place. But I've been fortunate to face a lot of fun challenges."

-Jim Amidon '87

even a nationally-known network. However, the culture of support and connection has kept him at Wabash.

"It's the strong sense of community without question," said Amidon. "After I took the job in sports information, the opportunities just kept growing, I was starting to meet alumni and I was developing all these friendships. We're really fortunate to be surrounded by so

After 40 years of service to Wabash, Amidon's passion for the school and its athletic programs remains strong as ever. His influence in broadcasting and behind the scenes will last in Wabash's tradition for years to come.



PHOTOS BY JACK MILLER '28

Jim Amidon '87 commands the Wabash football broadcast from the press box at the top of Little Giant Stadium. For 40 years, Amidon has been the lens through which Wabash football is viewed.

Underclassmen raise tides in second meet

NOAH TAYLOR '28

STAFF WRITER

There was something in the water on Saturday as the underclassmen led Wabash swim & dive in their second meet of the season. The Indiana DIII invitational took place on Saturday, October 19 at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The Little Giants' swimming & diving teams made a strong showing, finishing third out of seven teams behind DePauw and Rose-Hulman.

The Little Giants excelled in the individual races, taking first place in seven of the 13 events.

"I think overall the team did pretty well," said Head Swimming & Diving Coach Will Bernhardt. "We won over half of the individual events, so we were pretty excited about that."

The theme of the individual races for the Little Giants was definitely freshman and sophomore success. All seven of the victories were captured by a combination of two freshmen and a sophomore. Quinn Sweeney '27 was the standout performer, taking the win in the 200-yard butterfly and the 100-yard freestyle, a race in which Ethan Johns '25 placed third. Sweeney also claimed victory in the 100-yard butterfly.

"Heading into the DIII invite I was really focused on getting quality race reps in," said Sweeney. "When I was younger I had a coach



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Wabash competed in the Gail Pebworth Invitational on November 17, 2023, at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

tell me, 'Focus plus fun equals fast.' I had those words in the back of my mind during the meet, and I think it benefitted my performance."

His three victories also earned him the honor of being named the North Coast Athletic Conference's men's swimming & diving athlete of the week.

"I think the award goes to show how much work our team puts in

each day. Swimming is often perceived as an individual sport," Sweeney said. "But it is hard to reach a high level of excellence and success without the support of the guys around me."

Mason Gilliam '28 and Ryan West '28 also stood out on Saturday. Both freshmen won two events a piece. Gilliam touched the wall first in both the 500-yard and 1000-yard

freestyle races. West took the win in both the 100 and 200 yard backstroke races.

"It felt great making an impact this early," said Gilliam. "I felt very welcomed by the team early on and it feels awesome being able to be a key contributor to the team's success."

"It feels good to make an immediate impact on the team," said West.

"It's a way to really hold myself accountable since everyone will be expecting a lot from me."

Bernhardt also pointed out the amount of time dropped by Little Giants across the whole team is a highlight in itself.

"The amount of time that our guys dropped from [our meet at] Purdue the week previous, it's pretty huge," said Bernhardt. "So I'd say that's a pretty huge highlight as well."

Two Wabash quartets managed to finish inside the top three in the relay races. And on the diving front Alexander Arruza '26 tied for second in the three-meter event and placed third in the one-meter dive. These results speak toward the growth that Bernhardt praised.

"We had guys that were swimming a lot faster," said Bernhardt. "Our divers scored a lot better from week one to week two, so from a team standpoint, we're pretty happy with where we were at last weekend."

The swim & dive team looks ahead to a doubleheader this weekend. They travel back to Terre Haute on Friday, October 25 to take on Rose-Hulman in a dual meet. Then on Saturday, October 26, they open their home schedule with a tri-meet against Centre College and Albion College.

"We're really preparing mentally," said Bernhardt. "Just as much as

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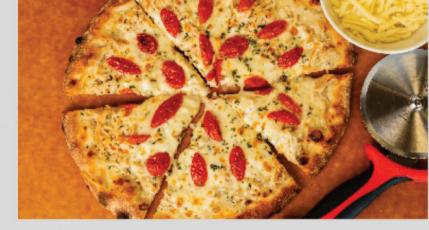
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On this day in history

October 25, 1884

Wabash plays first intercollegiate football game



ETHAN WALLACE '25

SPORTS EDITOR

The Allen Center's trophy cases are lined with evidence of Wabash football's historic lifespan. But even the aged collection of memorabilia doesn't capture the earliest history of the gridiron tradition. On this day in history, 140 years ago – October 25, 1884 – the Little Giants played their first-ever intercollegiate football game.

Although calling them Little Giants would be anachronistic — they predated the nickname by 20 years — those first 11 players left a legacy that is integral to the Wabash tradition today.

"The strength of the campus community is often reflected in people filling the stadium on a Saturday afternoon," said Director of Athletics and Recreation Matt Tanney '05. "It brings people together. And that's probably the greatest strength of the program. We have almost 140 students on the football roster this year ... It's a great program to be a part of. It's rich in history. I think it brings a lot of value to the campus."

Not much is known about Wabash football's inaugural contest. They played just a few years after American football became distinct from rugby, by the addition of the line-of-scrimmage and downs. Almost every aspect of the game was different from what the modern football experience entails.

What is certain is that Wabash traveled to Indianapolis to play Butler University in the College's first-ever intercollegiate game, and Wabash won the game 4-0.

Most of the information on the



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

Pictured above is the 1884 Wabash football team. The athletes' names written on the back of the original photo are (Row 1) Charles Stockbarger, Eben Wolcott, Jesse Taber, (Row 2) Lewis Stidham, John Keiff, Ed Taber (student coach), Billy Martin (captain), Edwin Thompson, (Row 3) Harman Marsh, James Reser, Lewis Little, Campbell Coyle.

game comes from the faded back of a photo of the team.

"They defeated Butler in their only game played by a score of 4-0 at the Indianapolis Baseball Park on October 25, 1884. Jesse kicked all four of the goals in a bitterly disputed contest, which Butler has refused to enter into their record books."

Edwin R. Taber (1863-1916) coached the team. Taber was a resident of Logansport, Indiana and a

student of the College. It was his only credited game as coach of the new team.

The Wabash uniforms did not resemble the distinct jersey of today's team — scarlet and white wouldn't become the school colors until 1886. Like other teams in the era, they wore long pants and long sleeve shirts. The iconic early leather cap was not a widespread part of the game at that time, either. If they wore any headgear, it would

be a loose fabric cap with no added protection.

In those days, playcalling consisted of shouting out instructions across the gridiron. Secrecy was of little concern for the team, as their playbook — predating the invention of the forward pass by 22 years — was limited to running the ball left, right or center. Even if they had wanted to keep their plans quiet, they were playing 10 years before the introduction of the huddle.

1884 COLLEGE FOOTBALL RECORDS

Princeton	Fordham	Dartmouth	DePauw	0-1-0
Yale	Harvard	Tufts	Olivet	0-2-0
Michigan	Wesleyan	Massachusetts	Amherst	0-3-0
Williams	Butler	Lafayette	Lehigh	0-4-0
Navy	Columbia	John Hopkins		
Wabash	Rutgers	Albion		
Penn	Stevens	City College of New York		

9-0-1	5-1-0	1-2-1	DePauw	0-1-0
8-0-1	7-4-0	2-4-1	Olivet	0-2-0
2-0-0	3-2-0	1-2-0	Amherst	0-3-0
2-0-0	1-1-0	2-5-0	Lehigh	0-4-0
1-0-0	1-1-0	1-3-0		
1-0-0	3-4-0	0-1-0		
5-1-1	4-5-0	0-1-0		

Scarlet & White returns to Little Giant Stadium

Offense and defense firing on all cylinders in third-straight blowout victory



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Xavier Tyler '26 carries the ball through a gap in the Terriers defensive line. Behind him, Jax Bower '27 (left) and Quinn Sholar '26 (right) follow the chasing Hiram team. The Little Giants played against Hiram College on October 19, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium.

top of the conference with six touchdowns. For players with over 20 carries, Tyler is second in yards per carry (6.4) behind his teammate Cole Dickerson '28 (7.8).

"He is physical, has great vision, quick feet and a killer jump cut," said Morel. "We have seen his ability to put up those numbers time and time again, he is a great football player."

The Wabash offensive line had yet another impressive game, al-

lowing just two quarterback hurries and zero sacks. They continue to build upon their success this season after receiving the D3foot- ball.com Team of the Week Award just two weeks ago.

"They are highly intelligent," said Morel. "So talented, so tough and completely bought into what we are doing here. I cannot say enough good things about those guys."

The Little Giants' defense stepped up in a big way on Satur-

day. They allowed just 106 passing yards and 57 rushing yards, the latter of which is the second lowest amount they have let up this season. The highlight of the day for the Wabash defense was

the interception returned for a touchdown by Michael Hegwood '26. The first pick-six that Wabash has gotten since Austin Brown '17 and Ryan Walters '17 did it against Oberlin in 2016. Hegwood stayed patient and vigilant, waited for

his moment and was rewarded with his first career pick-six.

"We knew beforehand that they were going to rely on their quick game," said Hegwood. "I was rolled down and I saw their tight end was going to the flat, then I just read the quarterback, jumped the route and made a play on the ball."

"I am thrilled with our depth and the excitement of the younger players so hungry to get into a game. It makes us better."

-Head Football Coach
Don Morel

The Scarlet and White defense has been incredibly opportunistic this season. They have forced at least one takeaway in every game so far this season, including three interceptions against the Terriers. This is a testament to how impactful the addition of Associate Head Football Coach and Defensive Coordinator Jake Gilbert '98 has been and how well he keeps his defense prepared each week.

"Coach Gilbert has brought a new culture that the defense was lacking the last two years," said Hegwood. "We are pretty much the same group as last year, but it feels like a completely different team. We have a lot of trust in each other and a lot of trust in coach Gilbert to put us in positions to succeed."

Following the impressive performance all-around versus the Terriers, there is clear and evident improvement and cohesion within the Little Giant football team. Now, they look to continue to get even better across the board and extend their winning streak this Saturday against Kenyon.

WABASH

137

PASSING YARDS

417

TOTAL OFFENSE

HIRAM

106

PASSING YARDS

57

RUSHING YARDS

163

TOTAL OFFENSE