

# FIJI reclaims Homecoming title



**Bryan Garcia House '27 waves the FIJI flag during the 2025 Chapel Sing Competition on September 25, 2025. FIJI placed third in Chapel Sing, behind Lambda Chi Alpha (first) and Sigma Chi (second).**

**ANTONY SANTAGATA '29**  
STAFF WRITER

After Sigma Chi missed out on reclaiming their Chapel Sing crown after falling to Lambda Chi Alpha for the second year in a row, the freshmen of Phi Gamma Delta managed to reclaim their spot as Homecoming champions, just a year after Lambda ended the three-year streak the FIJI's had. "It feels good to reclaim the throne," said FIJI freshman Hayden Johnson '29. "We were told that FIJI's win Homecoming, so hopefully this is the start of another streak." "It is always a goal to have our freshmen do well at Homecoming," said FIJI President Nate Joven '26. "I think it helps build class unity and it also helps our house as a whole." While the Phi Gams didn't manage to win every event, they did place in the top-five position for most events. During the first event – chants – FIJI placed third, behind Lambda and Delta Tau Delta. The banner competition that followed pitted FIJI and Delt against each other, with Delt beating out FIJI, which placed second. Chapel Sing, arguably the most important event of the week, saw Lambda winning back-to-back, with Sigma Chi placing second. FIJI followed in third and Delt was

close behind – but Delt held on to the lead in the rankings. The upperclassmen dodgeball portion of the week didn't see FIJI crack the top-five, putting them farther behind in the rankings. With Homecoming floats and the philanthropy competition remaining, the freshmen Phi Gams knew they needed to win out for a shot at the Homecoming title. "We knew we had to try equally hard on both the float and philanthropy, but we knew other houses would focus more on the float," said Johnson. "We had most people in the house, especially freshmen, contact every single family member to donate and spread the word."

**“We sacrificed sleep and free time to win. Outside of class and homework, we put all of our time into Homecoming.”**

- FIJI freshman Hayden Johnson '29

The FIJI's ultimately managed to win the float competition with a well-designed float and humorous skit and finished the day by winning the philanthropy competition as well – raising \$4,129.

The two victories at the tail end of Homecoming secured the top spot for the FIJIs, but it came with a cost. "We sacrificed sleep and free time to win," said Johnson. "Outside of class and homework, we put all of our time into Homecoming. Even with guarding the Senior Bench putting us at a slight disadvantage, it just meant we had to lock in." Knowing that time was short and the events were seemingly endless, it was necessary for the freshmen to lean on each other, "Tensions were high, but we used that to our advantage," said Johnson. "We grew closer together as we worked through adversity." With Little Giant football blanking Denison 36-0 to end the Homecoming week, it's arguable that the only thing better than a shutout was the Wabash community raising a total of \$7,546.22 during the charity competition, barely beating last year's total of \$7,467.70. "We were over the moon about how much philanthropic involvement we saw this year at Homecoming," said Sphinx Club Vice President John Schnerrer '26. "Friendly competition always brings out the best at Wabash, especially when it is for a good cause."

# Free flu vaccines shoot to protect campus



**A nurse administers a flu vaccine to a Wabash student on September 30, 2025, in the Allen Center.**

**TOBIN SEIPLE '29**  
STAFF WRITER

With Fall just around the corner, flu season looms large. Given that "Frat Flu" has already become a problem in living units across campus, Wabash must ask: how safe are students, how easy is it to get vaccinated and what does the broader national debate over vaccines mean for us here at Wabash?

**“Getting more of us vaccinated helps protect the whole community.”**

- Nurse Practitioner Chris Amidon

Around a century ago, the influenza pandemic occurred between 1918 and 1920, killing an estimated 600,000 Americans. By 1945, the first flu vaccine was developed and approved, yet ten years later another strain broke out that killed another 100,000 people. Currently, the flu claims anywhere between 12,000 – 50,000 deaths domestically per year, with many of these deaths occurring because of other health complications. However, at Wabash, many students are not necessarily at a high risk for the worst outcome – death – but the flu is still a dismal experience for most. In addition to causing missed classes and increasing the likelihood of being behind on schoolwork, students with

the flu are highly contagious and thus spread the virus to vulnerable peers. "Living in close quarters is one of the highest risk factors for getting any kind of communicable disease," said Nurse Practitioner Chris Amidon. "Even though most college students aren't in the highest-risk age group, we do have students who take immune-suppressing medication or who live with serious health conditions. And of course, we want to protect our staff and faculty as well. Getting more of us vaccinated helps protect the whole community." At Wabash, flu vaccines have historically been provided free of charge to students. Although it is not 100% effective, it reduces the severity of the illness if someone does contract the flu. "Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, we were sending students home for a week because of how sick and contagious the flu can be," said Nurse Amidon. "With the vaccine, students may only miss two or three days of class instead of an entire week." Each year, new strains of the flu emerge and a new vaccine is created in hopes of effectively combating it. According to early data from Australia's flu season, this year's vaccine is expected to be a fitting match for circulating strains of the virus, meaning that students could save days of sickness by taking a trip to the clinic.

**Continued page 2**

# News around the world: Israel– Hamas peace deal agreed on by Trump and Netanyahu

*Pro-EU Party of Action and Solidarity wins majority in Moldovan Parliamentary elections*

**GABRIEL ROBINSON '29**  
STAFF WRITER

Moldova, a wooded, scenic Eastern European country situated southwest of Ukraine, is a nation caught between its past and present. Having been a former Soviet republic for 51 years, Moldova has struggled to free itself from Russian political and cultural influence. But now, after decades of Russian influence – and the sufferance of the sec-

ond-lowest human development index in Europe – the agenda of pro-European and anti-corruption advocate President Maria Sandu has reshaped the political environment. The current administration has pursued candidate status for the EU and a total rejection of territorial violations under United Nations law by the Russian Federation. On September 28, the citizens of Moldova rejected continued Russian influ-

ence in Moldovan elections. The pro-EU Party of Action and Solidarity won a clear majority in the 2025 Parliamentary Elections, capturing 50.1% of the vote. The pro-Russia party, Patriotic Electoral Bloc, only secured 24.2% of the vote. The results mark a historic moment for Moldova, as its government continues to steer it towards the west and away from Russian influence.

With this new discovery, and denials by Chinese officials for any involvement, it is uncertain what either country will do in reaction to this discovery. sions and a conflict. The conflict was over quickly, as Thailand has a far more advanced arsenal relative to Cambodia, responding to Cambodian attacks with F-16 Fighting Falcons. During the new discovery, and denials by Chinese officials for any involvement, it is uncertain what either country will do in reaction to this discovery.

*Thailand suspects Chinese involvement in 5-day border conflict*

A few months after the 5-day war between Thailand and Cambodia that was sparked over a border conflict in late July, Thai intelligence has deduced that China's Y-20 cargo planes delivered large shipments of weapons and ammunition to Cambodia leading up to the conflict. The new evidence – not denied by Cambodian military officials – puts China in

a contradictory position. The Chinese government urged the two neighbors to end the conflict in July, but the discovery of their involvement on the Cambodian side of the line has caused tensions to flare up again. Cambodia, before the conflict, had been building new roads and mobilizing forces near an ancient Temple claimed by both countries, which led to escalating ten-

*Israel-Hamas peace deal ends Israeli occupation, sets path for Palestinian statehood*



**A masked member of Hamas in Gaza City on February 21, 2020.**

President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated on September 29 that they had agreed on a plan to bring peace to Gaza. However, it is uncertain whether Hamas will respond positively to the proposal as peace talks have ceased before. If Hamas agrees to the terms, three key steps will occur: De-escalation, reconstruction and transitional governance. Here's what to expect if the peace deal is agreed upon. **De-escalation** The peace deal calls for all hostages held by Hamas to be released within 72 hours of agreement. It is believed that Hamas still holds 48 hostages. In return Israel would free 250

Palestinians serving life sentences as well as over 1,700 detained Palestinians. Israel would also be expected to withdraw all troops in the Gaza strip, but only after Hamas disarms. **Reconstruction** The plan would result in immediate restoration of full aid. There would also be a rehabilitation of infrastructure systems such as sewage systems and electrical grids. There would also be an effort to restore businesses and services in the Gaza strip. During reconstruction, all of Hamas's military infrastructure – such as weapons and tunnel systems – would be destroyed. Members who pledge to live

peacefully would be granted amnesty. The international security force that will replace the Israel Defense Force would oversee the dismantling of military infrastructure. **Transitional Governance** The Gaza Strip would be governed under a transitional governance of a technocratic board composed of an apolitical Palestinian committee and international experts, with supervision from the Board of Peace. The Board of Peace, which would be headed by President Trump and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair would provide a framework for funding and organization of a new Palestinian authority within the region of Gaza. The Board of Peace would oversee the appointed interim-government placed in charge of Gaza, which would be involved in running the day-to-day affairs of the area. During the interim government, the Palestinian Authority would undergo reforms, and if Gaza redevelopment continues, the plan states that, "the conditions may finally be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood."



# Mental Health Mile proves to be success

The event, held on September 18, featured green t-shirts in solidarity with Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.



PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

## Free Flu vaccines

Continued from page 1

But beyond the walls of Wabash, vaccines have become a hot political topic that have intensified with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. leading the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Kennedy, known for his skepticism about vaccine policy, has rolled back recommendations, such as no longer recommending the COVID-19 vaccine. He has emphasized his removal of pro-vaccine CDC members as a part of a goal to “restore public trust” and prevent “industry profit-taking agendas.” Still, some scientists and public health voices see danger in destabilizing vaccine recommendations, especially now during the flu season. They argue that undermining vaccine guidelines could have serious consequences on public health.

While the national climate around vaccines changes,

one thing remains sure: the flu is a predictable enemy for all. While Wabash students can choose to remain unvaccinated, they also have the freedom to get the flu vaccine for free.

“Students can get vaccinated if they want – I think it is a safe thing,” said Evan Dickey ’26, a pre-med senior. “But if people are truly not comfortable with that, they should not have to. I think they should do what they want. They should just know the risks of not getting a flu shot.”

With a successful showing this week on September 30, there will be two more opportunities for students to get the free vaccine on October 7 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and on October 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Taking advantage of these clinics can be a simple way to help safeguard student’s health and keep the campus community strong as the winter season approaches.

## Government shutdown increases expectations of additional rate cuts by Fed

The market recap: Sep. 24 - Oct. 1

AGUSTIN A. ANTELO TEODOVICH ’29  
STAFF WRITER

This week the market balanced a United States government shutdown, sticky inflation data and a weakening labor market. While stocks managed modest gains in tech and healthcare, gold surged to record highs as investors looked for safety.

Rate cut expectations intensify: What’s driving sentiment

The Fed’s preferred inflation gauge, the core PCE index, rose 0.23 percent in August, putting annual inflation at 2.9 percent. While inflation remains above target, labor market weakness is starting to dominate the conversation. Private payrolls fell by 32,000 in September, a sign of slowing momentum. With jobs cooling and inflation stable, investors are betting heavily on another rate cut at the Fed’s October meeting, following a cut of 25 basis points on September 17. The government shutdown added more uncertainty, delaying some data releases that the Fed relies on to guide policy.

Indexes: modest resilience in volatile week  
Dow Jones: -0.3%  
S&P 500: +0.1%  
Nasdaq: +0.2%  
Russell 2000: -0.4%  
Despite the shutdown and mixed data, Wall Street held steady. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq eked out small gains, driven by tech strength, while the Dow and Russell slipped. Treasury yields moved lower as investors shifted into bonds, and markets

stayed focused on the likelihood of further easing by the Fed.

The big moves: AI, semiconductors and safe havens

- Micron Technology reported record quarterly revenue of over 11 billion dollars, boosted by demand for AI chips, and raised its outlook.
- Alibaba jumped more than 8 percent on plans to expand its AI and data center business. EchoStar climbed nearly 20 percent after striking new spectrum deals tied to Starlink.
- In healthcare, Pfizer and Merck gained after a pricing deal with the White House.
- Meanwhile, gold surged past 3,800 dollars an ounce, hitting new record highs as investors hedged

against the shutdown and policy uncertainty.

Debt markets and yields

Treasury yields declined as bond demand rose, with the 10-year yield falling toward 4.1%. Investors looked for safety amid the shutdown and weak job numbers. Corporations found favorable conditions to refinance, though debt issuance was quieter than earlier in September.

Global backdrop and policy risks

The U.S. government shutdown weighed on global sentiment. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers were halted from their jobs, and delays in official economic data clouded the outlook. The stronger U.S. dollar pressured emerging-market currencies, while gold’s rally highlighted investor unease. At the same time, concerns

about political pressure on the Fed resurfaced, adding another layer of uncertainty to markets already focused on the central bank’s next move.

Looking Ahead: Policy and data watch

The next major test is the Fed’s meeting at the end of October. Markets now expect at least one more cut by year-end, but the Fed’s path will depend on how inflation and jobs evolve. If inflation stays sticky or data releases are delayed by the shutdown, policy clarity may take longer. Earnings season will also begin to show how companies are navigating slowing growth and shifting policy. For now, the bet is on easier conditions ahead but the risks remain high.

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COURTESY OF U.S. NEWS

With the government officially shut down, eyes turn to Washington D.C. as the economic impacts remain unknown.



## Chacon '85 receives honorary doctorate degree

OWEN VERMEULEN '28  
FEATURES EDITOR

The best part about leaving the Wabash College nest is the inevitable and triumphant return. This is no more true than for Hipolito Rafael Chacon '85.

The dedication of the new Latino Community Center (LCC) took place on September 26, in an opening to the public that could only be described as grand. It is evident that the College spared no expense or effort in the planning for the ribbon cutting of the new LCC. Students and alumni came in droves to share in the amazing aesthetic, food and music that the event had to offer. One such alum that came to share in the festivities was Hipolito Rafael Chacon, who was presented with an honorary doctorate from Wabash at the dedication.

Chacon was a refugee from Cuba, who became a star student at Wabash. He then went on to receive his Ph.D in art history with honors from the University of Chicago. Chacon is currently a Professor of Art History and Criticism at the University of Montana. He came back to his alma mater for the opening of the brand new LCC and to receive his honorary doctorate.

Chacon credits a lot of the success that he has had in his life to Wabash and the support it gave to him.

"The college has played a seminal role in my life as my academic home," said Chacon. "This is the place that formed me intellectually, academically and it gave



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Hipolito Rafael Chacon '85 speaks after being honored with an honorary doctorate from Wabash College on September 26, 2025.

me the template that I've used throughout my life. Everything that I need to know about life I've learned here at Wabash in four years."

Chacon was overjoyed by the addition of the Latino Community Center at Wabash. He found a lot of support in the Wabash community and believes that doubling down on that support is integral for many latinos, especially in this political climate.

"I learned to love in this

community that loves me back and embraces me, those people have buoyed me," said Chacon. "[building this community center] is not politically correct. The college is swimming against the tide in our society today. It is holding firm to the belief that every human being counts, and that every human being has something to contribute and that Wabash students can play a huge role in that, not just years after they graduate but as soon as they step on campus."

The director of the Latino Community Center and Latino Partnerships, Julio Enriquez Ornelas '08 was thrilled to be able to tie in Chacon's honorary degree ceremony with the dedication of the LCC.

"I really hope the Latino Community Center is where academic work happens," said Ornelas. "Whether it's innovation through teaching or through research, having this academic affairs presence is key. So, having [Chacon] receive this award and celebrating his accomplishments as someone who has made a serious dent in his field connects well to that purpose."

Outside of just promoting the academic success of different latino scholars, Or-

nelas agrees with Chacon on what the real goal of the LCC is. The Latino Community Center is about building exactly that, community.

"Before I started working at Wabash I remember being invited to the La Alianza Spring Festival outside the Lambda Chi house," said Ornelas. "Standing out there grilling carne asada and play-

ing Spanish music full blast while people were playing soccer was crazy to me and was not something that I had experienced since coming to Wabash. I felt a sort of warm fuzzy feeling that I imagine a lot of alumni felt last Friday. If there is one thing I want people to take away is this [Latino Community Center] is a long time coming."

**"The college has played a seminal role in my life as my academic home," said Chacon. "This is the place that formed me intellectually, academically and it gave me the template that I've used throughout my life.**

- Hipolito Rafael Chacon '85

The feeling of unity that came from the event is so palpable that every alumnus and student that came felt the electricity.

"It behooves every Little Giant to understand the importance of this community center," said Chacon. "To understand the work that is happening here and the importance for us to knit our communities together. That's my takeaway from this."



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Significant members of the College, Community and alumni organization cutting the ribbon to the Latino Community Center.

### ¡Bienvenido a Casa!

**Cheers to the opening of the Latino Community Center!**

[instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis](https://www.instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis)

## This is not 'A Big Bold Beautiful Journey'

NOAH MINTIE '29  
STAFF WRITER

In a world where companies often cater to simple vernacular that is easily remembered and googled, few movies are brave enough to have a title as long and self-aggrandizing as Kogonada's "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey." The title's three adjectives almost demand a large tub of popcorn, a bubbly drink, and a Friday night out of the viewer. After checking all three of my boxes, I was taken aback to find that the film did not check any of its own, and even more surprised to find that it was still very good.

The title is actually something of a misnomer. The journey is not "big," but actually very small in scope. The story follows David (Collin Farrell) and Sarah (Margot Robbie), two romance-weary singles who meet at a wedding and begin to follow each other through their respective pasts. From there each beat is quaint and mostly familiar, solidifying a journey that is not necessarily "bold" either. The set design and cinematography are functional, but are not all ambitious enough to tear past the screen and strike the viewer. A few moments stand out as "beautiful," but the film rarely aims for that label.

This deception may seem like a reason to pass on the film, but it actually becomes the film's hidden strength. "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey" is actually "A Quaint Humble Charming Journey," and an effective

one at that. Rather than flaring up self-serious drama, the film aims for a more unique target. It fits into very "post-Wes Anderson era" world-building. For example, a car rental company in the film is literally called "The Car Rental Company," without acknowledging the name's inherent absurdity. Such fantasy bleeds into the dialogue, the characters and even the pacing. The film skips over what would otherwise be boring scenes of the characters questioning "how is time traveling possible" and "who's pulling the strings?" This flippant attitude makes it difficult to get on the film's wavelength early on, especially because the film's whimsical script contrasts so heavily with its realistic set. Even so, the viewer adjusts.

What the viewer may not so easily adjust to is the writing. "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey" has already garnered criticism for the lack of chemistry between its leads. Disliking the way that David and Sarah rush into a full-on love story after barely exchanging names is reasonable, but it actually works for the film's themes. Consider the thousands of other stories wherein two jaded misanthropes learn to love one another. The focus of this story is elsewhere, so why dwell on tropes that the audience is undoubtedly familiar with and tired of?

Instead of wasting time, the film begs other unique questions. Instead of "will two bad lovers put their selfishness aside and get to-

gether," the film asks "assuming they already want each other, how can they make it work?" By asking the ladder question the film no longer needs natural chemistry. In fact, if Sarah and David displayed adorable couple behavior, the question of whether or not they could function as a couple would be undermined by clear evidence that they already can. The viewer still roots for them to get together because it is clear that their lives are missing romance. To remedy this, the film explores their troubled pasts and bad habits.

It is here that "A Big Bold Beautiful Journey" brings forward material as unique as its name. Sarah and David, despite being played by some of Hollywood's most lovable stars and wearing a sweet demeanor, are actually terrible people. They want to be happy at heart, but trauma and bad habits inhibit them from reaching that goal. The goal of the titular journey is to make them find the hope for a happy ending in each other. As corny as it may sound, the film insists that such a hope for love is the most big, bold and beautiful thing there is.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
4/5 WALLYS**



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# The transformative experience of study abroad

AGUSTIN ANTELO '29  
STAFF WRITER

It is no secret that attending Wabash offers a plethora of amazing opportunities and benefits. One such benefit being the amazing study abroad program that we offer. Many students have had the opportunity to explore and learn about other cultures that they might otherwise not have had.

Amy Weir, the Head of the International Center, explained why Wabash men should consider studying abroad.

"It is one of the most transformative things a student can do," said Weir

Wabash's Off-Campus Study program allows students to spend a semester living and learning in another country. Unlike many colleges, Wabash does not limit students to a short list of options.

"If a program fits your academic and personal goals, you can make the case for it," said Weir.

In recent years, students have studied Buddhism in Cambodia, combined math and piano in Paris, and trained in opera in Italy while reconnecting with family heritage. Applications are due sophomore year, with this year's deadline at noon on Monday, November 3.

Weir has seen the change

firsthand. Students return from abroad with greater independence, stronger problem-solving skills, and a broader perspective on both the United States and the world.

"One of the biggest takeaways for me was having a better understanding of what it means to be an American, seeing my own identity through the lens of another culture," said Nathan Ellenberger '26, who studied in Salzburg, Austria in Spring 2025. "Austria and the U.S. are more alike than you would think, so studying what actually makes the two cultures different was very enlightening"

"They come back different, more confident, more adaptable, and more aware of who they are," said Weir.

The experience also makes a difference after graduation, as employers look for adaptability, cultural awareness, and resilience. Beyond professional benefits, students also build lifelong friendships and learn to manage life without the safety net of family.

"The independence is a huge shift," said Ellenberger. "Being fully responsible for feeding myself and navigating public transportation in strange places was a huge adjustment, but one that



COURTESY OF NATHAN ELLENBERGER

was very fulfilling once I got used to it."

For sophomores preparing to apply, Weir's advice is straightforward: start early. Students should attend advising sessions in October, meet with their academic advisers to plan courses, and choose faculty recommendations well before the deadline. The personal essay is the most important part of the application.

"We want to know why this program matters to you specifically," said Weir.

She also noted that fall programs usually come with higher approval rates and fewer conflicts with athletics.

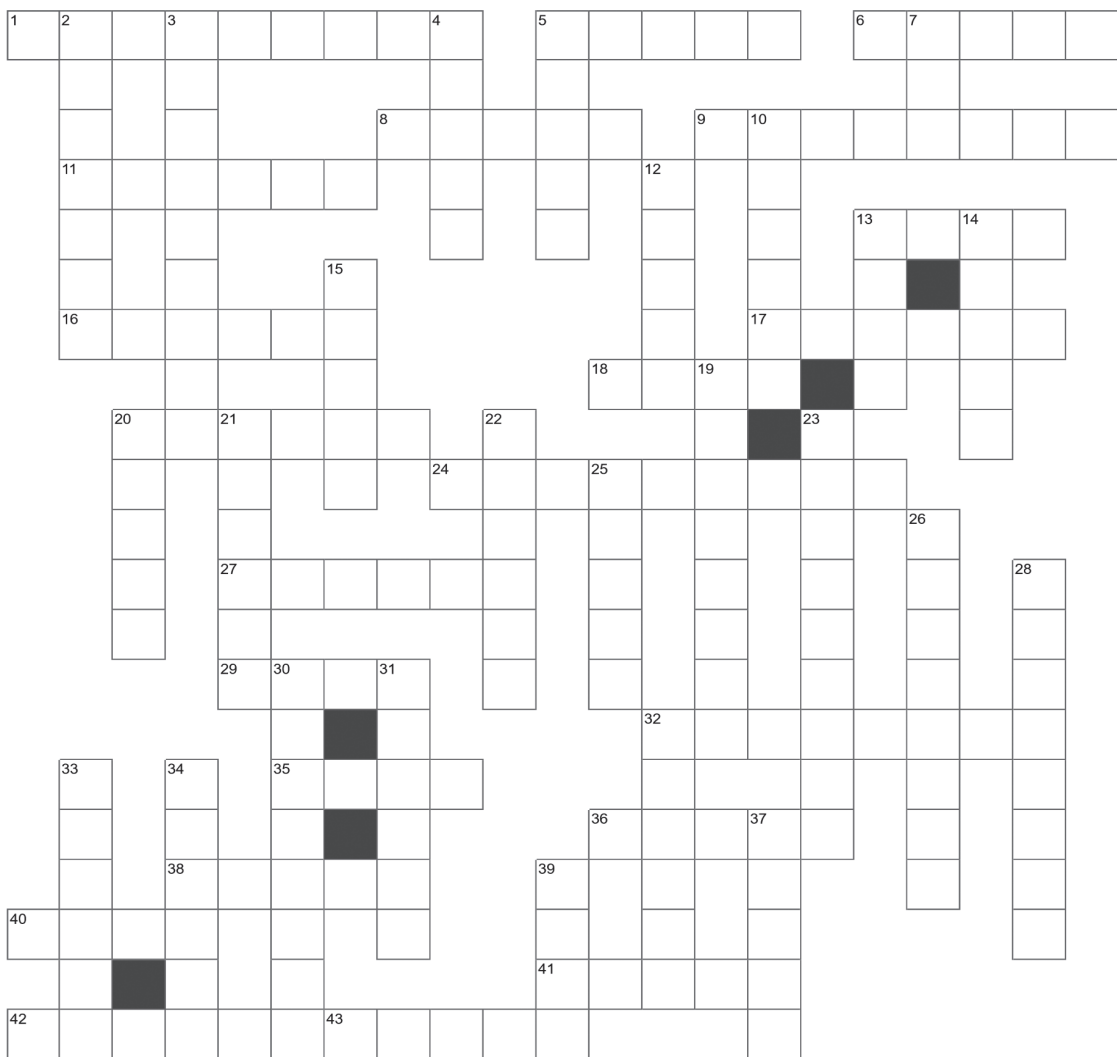
As the conversation was coming to an end, Weir emphasized that studying abroad is not only about traveling to a new country, it is about growth.

"It pushes you outside of your comfort zone," said Weir. "That is where real change happens."

A key part of the Wabash experience is about broadening our understanding of the world and different cultures. With the application deadline rapidly approaching, Wabash men who are ready to take the leap have the chance to see the world and come back with their lives changed.

## 'Cultures'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26



### Across

- Practice passed down through generations
- Rhythmic movement as cultural expression
- Recreational activities
- Set of guiding principles or profession of faith
- Source of belonging
- U.N. agency devoted to education, science, and cultural preservation
- Subdivision of a larger religious group
- The immaterial essence of culture: beliefs, emotions, values
- Traditional story from the past
- Hindu spring festival of colors and joy
- Object standing in for an idea, belief, or value

### Down

- Formalized sequence of ceremonies rich with symbolism
- Condition of many cultures existing side by side worldwide
- Social rules of conduct, often unspoken
- Garb associated with a culture or era
- Creative expression that shapes and reflects a society
- Hindu festival of lights
- Culturally forbidden act, often unspoken yet strongly enforced
- lengthy tale recounting the

- feats of legendary heroes
- Body of works considered culturally authoritative
- From the greek word for "character"
- System of words for communication
- Traditional Brazilian dance
- Distinguishing right from wrong
- Literary art form, often following a rhyme scheme
- Group identity
- Notes of a culture
- Give-and-take
- Gesture of welcome, whether handshake, bow, or kiss on the cheek
- Japanese paper folding art
- World-spanning
- Annual Japanese celebration of cherry blossoms, marked with picnics under blooming trees
- Clothes, collectively
- Community members revered for age and wisdom
- Narratives passed orally across generations
- Traditional story explaining origins, gods, or natural events

## Review: 'Him' comes up short

NOAH MINTIE '29  
STAFF WRITER

Justin Tipping's horror movie "Him" may just be the biggest letdown of 2025. For a film about an upcoming quarterback named Cameron Cade (Tyriq Withers) being put through secretive and violent tests of his mettle, it has too much restraint and not enough substance to leave an impact on the viewer.

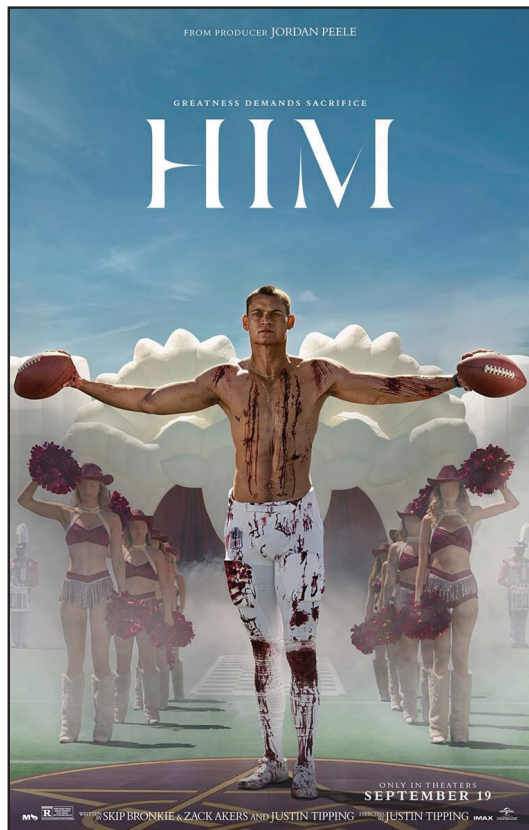
Much like its driven characters, the film aspires to be one-of-a-kind and disregards self-care to do so. One may see the trailer playing in the theater lobby, which sells the promising concept of a bloody, tightly shot and edited, ambitious, and substantial criticism of the sports industry. However, once the viewer is past the ticket booth it all goes downhill fast.

Part of the reason that the division between trailer and film is so relevant to "Him's" failure is owed to a movie that was released a year before. Coralie Fargeat's "The Substance" is "Him's" killer by comparison. Both films explore very gendered structural violence with little subtlety and lots of gore. "The Substance" went all-in on its criticism of Hollywood's female beauty standards with bombastic and toe-curling sequences of the nastiest possible interpretation of such subject matter. "Him" also bears a unique visual language, using X-rays and extreme close-ups to qualify the brutality of sports injuries. The problem is that "Him" stops short of fully embracing it to showcase football culture's problematic elements.

Instead, "Him" embraces some of modern Hollywood's most annoying tropes. Once Cameron is taken to the remote training compound of his football idol Isaiah White (Marlon Wayans), the plot becomes beat-for-beat identical to the handful of other recent movies with the same premise. All of the unique identity displayed in the trailer is shaken off and replaced with the same tired story seen in countless other horror movies. "Him" just becomes "The Menu" or "Opus" but wearing a coat of football paint.

The messages quickly get lost, and the presentation takes a nose dive. By the end of the film, "Him" loses what little direction it had to start with. The final sequence is aimless, and none of the violence even hits the same. It is a fitting cap-off to what was about as precise a film as tossing a football in complete darkness. You may feel the power of the throw, but you have no idea where it is going, and neither does "Him."

**FINAL VERDICT:**  
**2/5 WALLYS**



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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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# Wallies in the wild: Everything was practice



Brett Driscoll '24

I didn't know it at the time, but every late-night meeting in Lilly Library, every tense exec board conversation at my fraternity and every "optional" club event I dragged myself to – they were all practice.

Now that I'm "out in the wild," it all makes sense though. The seemingly messy, student-led nature of Wabash extracurriculars where you're forced to manage different personalities, build consensus, make decisions with incomplete information and somehow get things done mirrors real life more than any textbook ever could. Clubs, sports teams, CIBE projects, WDPD, whatever it was – it all mattered. It built muscles I now use daily in the working world:

how to speak up in meetings, how to stay composed under pressure and how to lead without defined authority.

Thinking back to my time as a student, I didn't always see the value. Meetings at 10 p.m. on a Tuesday night? Group projects that felt like chaos? Saying yes to too many things? It all felt like a tax. And yet, those late-night moments when you and your classmates were still figuring it all out are what separate Wabash men out here. I'm realizing now that the "extra" stuff was the point.

The second thing I've realized is just how rare Wabash relationships really are. The camaraderie on this campus is something most people never experience, and we don't fully realize how special it is until we're gone. I spent a year after graduation in the dorms at Notre Dame while getting my master's degree. It's a phenomenal place, and I'll forever be grateful for my time there, but it doesn't come close to what Wabash gave me, and what it continues to give to its students.

There's something about the smallness of our campus – the shared suffering of comps, the all-male awkwardness that quickly dissolves into friendship and the trust to lead when you're still figuring out how – that forges a type of brotherhood extremely hard to find anywhere else. The phrase "Wabash Always Fights" isn't just about persistence. It's about fighting for each other.

So what do I wish I'd known while I was at Wabash? I wish I truly would've known that all of it counts. That the little things – the awkward icebreakers, the late-night brainstorming, the weekends spent planning a campus event – were building something more in each of us.

Lastly, I wish I'd told the people around me how much they meant more often. Because once you're "out in the wild," you realize Wabash didn't just give you a degree. It gave you people. It gave you practice. It gave you a foundation, and that's a gift I'll spend the rest of my life eternally grateful for.



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

**Brett Driscoll '24 rings the Monon Bell at the 128th Monon Bell classic on November 12th, 2022.**

# The social mobility exception: What places like Wabash get right



Joshua Ammons

Reply to this opinion at ammonsj@wabash.edu

Imagine a fantastic machine: a gleaming apparatus with an entrance on one side and an exit on the other. Poor people walk in through the entrance; the machine whirs and hums for four years and then rich people walk out the other side. What a marvelous invention this would be! A device that could transform economic fortunes, elevate social status and create prosperity with mechanical precision. This is, essentially, how many people view an Ivy League education. Students from poor backgrounds enter through the admissions gates, spend four years on pristine campuses and emerge as high-earning professionals destined for success.

But economists, trained to be skeptical of apparent causation, ask, "are we really witnessing transformation, or merely selection?"

Alan Krueger, an advisor to Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, tackled this puzzle in 2002 by matching students who applied to and were

accepted by similar colleges, finding that students who attended more selective colleges earned about the same as students of seemingly comparable ability who attended less selective schools. The machine, it seems, might not be transforming anyone at all. It might simply be selecting those who were already destined to be successful. If the machine merely sorts rather than transforms, then its existence may actually perpetuate injustice, allowing those born with advantages to claim they "earned" their success through education while denying opportunities to those who needed transformation most.

Bryan Caplan, an economics professor at my alma mater, George Mason University, builds on this and argues provocatively that education functions primarily as a signaling device rather than a skill-building enterprise. According to this view, the diploma certifies intelligence, conscientiousness and conformity; qualities employers value, rather than imparting useful knowledge or skills that are retained after graduation. The observation that returns to education are nonlinear, with degree completion providing a discontinuous jump in earnings, offers perhaps the strongest evidence for signaling theory. Dropping out signals a lack of conscientiousness and conformity, destroying most of the credential's value regardless of skills acquired.

Returning to our thought experiment with

new evidence, we must confront an uncomfortable reality about who actually walks through the machine. In a 2025 paper, Mary Borg finds that Florida's state university system and Bright Futures Scholarship Program exhibit deeply regressive patterns: an average high school with no disadvantaged students could expect to send 124 students to state universities and have 121 receive scholarships, while the same school with 100% disadvantaged students would send only seven students to universities and seven would receive scholarships. The machine, it turns out, might not transform poor people into rich people at all. In this case, it operated as a device in which relatively wealthy people walked in, collected subsidies funded by taxes from those poorer than they will eventually be, and walked out even wealthier.

Even for those who do access the machine, the path chosen through it matters for outcomes. In 2022, Zachary Bleemer and Aashish Mehta exploit a policy that prevented students with low introductory grades from declaring an economics major, finding that students who barely met the GPA threshold earned \$22,000 (46%) higher annual early-career wages than they would have earned with their second-choice majors. About half of this wage premium is explained by economics majors working in higher-paying industries, with the major shifting students' preferences toward

business and finance careers. For Wabash students, this finding resonates particularly strongly: the median starting salary for economics majors at Wabash is \$79,447, according to U.S. News & World Report's recently released rankings. Yet access to these high-return majors often depends on early academic performance, which itself correlates with pre-college preparation and resources. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may struggle initially while adjusting to college, may find themselves locked out of the most economically rewarding paths.

The education machine is neither the magical transformer that optimists imagine nor the pure sorting device that skeptics claim. It is a very old institution that combines elements of human capital development, signaling, sorting and channeling. Wabash College counters the signaling narrative because it was recently ranked as the 26th-best performer on social mobility. This suggests that the college experience you are receiving is like the fantastic machine that improves human capital, especially if you take tough classes. Just in case you take this as a reason to rest on your laurels, I should remind you that the ladies of Spelman College are number two. Men, it's time to lean in.

# Root beer: The best soda around

Some of the Coke fan boys will claim that Coke is "the real thing". Others may point to Pepsi, but really Pepsi is more of a "sit in the chair in the corner of the room" type of guy if you know what I mean. Some people even point out Mountain Dew, but people only drink Mountain Dew if they want their kids to come out with three eyes and six toes; go ahead, chug that radioactive lime potion. All these soda king wannabees can't even touch root beer. And in fact, root beer isn't just a soda. It's a life changing experience.

First, let's talk about the flavors. Coke and Pepsi are basically the exact same thing: sugar with a taste of battery acid. Mountain Dew tastes like gasoline mixed with citrus flavored bleach. Ginger Ale? Fine, if your tummy is hurting and you need something to recover with, go ahead, have some Ginger ale. But root beer, oh root beer. It's rich, creamy, and complex. When you take a sip of root beer you can taste the history behind it. You can taste the pioneer apothecaries brewing this magical concoction of flavors to cure

both headaches and heartbreaks. With just one sip of root beer you will be feeling like you should be wearing suspenders and calling people "chap."

Second, I would like to talk about the versatility that you have when you're drinking root beer. Can you make a Coke or Pepsi float? Technically you can but it tastes like you're drinking cough flavored ice cream. However, on the flip side, root beer was destined to meet with vanilla ice cream. A root beer float is one of those things that everybody needs to enjoy after a long day of classes and walking up those dreaded Detchon stairs. One taste of a root beer float and all the stress from those biology and political science classes instantly melt away.

Third, I want to talk about the branding behind root beer. Coke and Pepsi are two massive companies that are in a never ending war for superiority. They spend billions of dollars just to convince us common folk that their sugar and battery acid tastes better than their competitors. But root beer on the other

hand, doesn't play that game. You got A&W, Barq's, Mug, Dad's, Sprecher, IBC and many more brands. All of these different brands have their own unique personality and their own unique flavors. Some of them creamier, some spicier, some that taste like they were brewed in an actual wizards cauldron because of their intense flavor profiles. Root beer doesn't belong to a single mega corporation; it belongs to the people. Root beer is inherently democratic, scrappy and always consistent.

So the next time you're in the drive through at McDonalds or the gas station getting a beverage and you're choosing between these sugary water concoctions, remember this: Only one drink has the taste, tradition and the versatility to deserve your hard earned money. Choose root beer, not because it's trendy, not because it's convenient but because it is scientifically, historically and intellectually the best soda.



# Which terrain is best: Ocean or mountains?



Michael Cruzado '27

Reply to this opinion at [macruzad27@wabash.edu](mailto:macruzad27@wabash.edu)

The age-old question: Which do you prefer, mountains or oceans? This has been a debate that has stood for as long as time itself. Everyone and their mother have been asked this question and had their fair share of “civil discussions” on the matter. It is a debate of the utmost significance, and in this opinion, I hope to shed some light on the topic and clearly demonstrate that mountains are the better of the two choices.

Often this debate becomes one which is focused on the idea of natural beauty. I personally dislike this measurement, because it is simply different aesthetic preferences pitted against each other. There is no way to know which opinion is best because they are all so subjective. Both mountains and oceans are both beautiful in their own regards. If you compare the Rocky Mountain range to the Great Barrier Reef, you will see what I mean by that. So, instead of using beauty as the measurement, I want to use something a little more quantitative.

To do that, I have decided to base my decision on the number of activities you can do in either terrain. This is a measurement that can clearly be identified, collected and compared between the two different terrains and that is what I plan to do. I know that many of you reading this piece will be wondering how the mountains would have more activities than oceans. Honestly, you are not wrong in questioning that. Many students here at Wabash College have never been to a major mountain range simply because Indiana, and the surrounding areas, really do not have much in terms of elevation change. So, it comes to me as no surprise that many people are clueless as to the mountains’ activity greatness.

In the mountains, you can go hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, forest camping, off-roading, freshwater fishing, snowboarding, skiing, white water rafting, ziplining, staying in a cabin and hunting. That is not a completely exhaustive list, but that alone is much more than I can say for the ocean. When I look over at the ocean’s list, all I see

is fishing, tanning, making sandcastles, snorkeling, surfing and scuba diving.

Now, I will say that I could be ignorant and just lack experience with ocean activities, but when I compare those two lists, I find that the mountains have a clear and distinct advantage over oceans. So, it should come as no surprise that mountains are superior.

Now I must add that my opinion may be slightly biased. I am currently the president of the Outdoors Club as well as an avid mountain biker, snowboarder, camping enjoyer and I spend a lot of time exploring the mountains of Arizona when I am home for summer. It is safe to say that I am a big fan of mountains. Taking that into consideration, I am curious as to what others think of my statement. If you agree with me, good. If you disagree, even better. I am more than happy to discuss this topic with anyone to hear their thoughts on the subject. If you see me walking around the mall, don’t hesitate to say hello and strike up a conversation.

One more thing I would like to add: I know that Wabash gets stressful and puts you down, but don’t fret, there is hope. One way that you can ease that stress is to get off campus and go immerse yourself into nature. The Wabash Outdoors Club does exactly that! If any of this mountain activity talk has gotten you excited, then I have something that might interest you: On October 11th, the Outdoors club will be going on a trip down to Turkey Run where we will be kayaking down Sugar Creek. If you are interested at all, shoot me an email! I love nothing more than to share my love of the outdoors with my



PHOTO BY Michael Cruzado '27  
Members of the outdoorsmen club go on a peaceful hike this past spring.

# Wally’s Wall: Mental Health Advice

Colin Krekeler '27

One of my favorite ways to support my mental health is by spending time outdoors. Basking in the sunshine and taking in the beauty of the foliage always lifts my spirits and gives me the pick me up

Michael Cruzado '27

Although Wabash keeps you busy, make sure that you take the time to do something that YOU want to do. Taking time for yourself is a necessity for good mental health.

Ayden Salpietra '27

Have a healthy vice. Find something that will calm you down in any situation. For me, it’s listening to music.

Quinn Sholar '26

Do what makes you happy when not in service to others. Don’t be afraid to put yourself first.

Bryce Kinnaman '27

I journal every night before bed. As a religious man, I journal to answer the question “Where did you see God today?” However, this question can easily be made secular. “Where did you see beauty in the bustle today?” This helps me realize that I have more good days than bad, and that no matter how crappy a day is, I always can look back to one positive from my day.

Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26

I always take a second to stop doing work regardless of how busy I am, and try to talk to someone regardless of who it is. We’re all busy men, but I’ve realized that genuine human connection has boosted my mood a ton. Additionally, athletic practice has always served as a great mental break from vigorous academic work. But even if you aren’t an athlete, taking a portion out of your day to run, walk, bike, swim, lift, hike or whatever will do wonders! Most importantly, talk to others when you feel you’re alone, because you’re never alone!

Neil Johnson '27

I personally believe that the best pick-me-up is a great session in the gym. In the weight room, it is just you and the weights in front of you. This activity allows me to release my stressful thoughts, take a step back, and be in the moment. Plus, there is always a Wabash brother in the Allen Center, always looking for a good mid-gym yap sesh. Even if you haven’t lifted weights before, I urge you to go and try it out the next time you are feeling down.

# ‘Wally raises a glass to motorcross’ by Drake Green '28





Ghidini '26 and Rin '27 combine for promising performances at ITA's in Kalamazoo

CARTER MCCALL '29  
STAFF WRITER

Little Giant tennis players, Augusto Ghidini '26 and Rafael Rin '27, traveled to Kalamazoo, Michigan and delivered a strong performance at the 2025 Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Central Region Fall Tournament this past weekend. The duo advanced to the quarterfinal round in a deep and talented field hosted by Kalamazoo College.

The Little Giants' top tandem started their impressive run on Friday with an authoritative 8-3 victory over Kalamazoo's Derek Blackwell and Cameron Crosby. The win set the tone for what would become one of the team's most memorable doubles performances in recent ITA competition.

In the round of 16, Rin and Ghidini faced a significant challenge against Washington University's Jeremy Sieben and Ethan Wu. The match proved to be a thrilling back-and-forth affair, ultimately ending in an 8-7 win for the Wabash pair in a tiebreaker. The win secured their spot among the top eight doubles teams in the region.

Their run came to a close in the quarterfinals with a tough 2-8 loss to Case Western Reserve's Bryce Ware and Trey Lambright, one of the tournament's most experienced duos.

"I think my chemistry with Au-

gusto has only been improving since the beginning of this season, and this weekend was definitely a result of the work we have been putting in lately," said Rin. "I believe we managed to capitalize on our opponent's mistakes and were able to take over the net."

In singles action, both Rin and Ghidini also showcased individual skill and resilience. Rin opened

**"Based on where we are now, if that trend continues, I feel extremely positive about our ability to accomplish our goals."**

- Head Tennis Coach  
Daniel Bickett

his campaign with a dramatic three-set victory over Ohio Northern's Dylan Catanese. After dropping the first set 5-7, Rin rallied to win the second 6-3 and sealed the comeback with a 10-7 super tiebreak.

His momentum was halted in the next round, however, where he fell 1-6, 2-6 to Denison's Andreas Chapides, a seeded player in the draw.

Ghidini started strong in his singles bracket with a decisive 6-2, 6-2 win against Alejandro Perez of Transylvania University.

He then met a familiar face in the round of 64: Kalamazoo's Cameron Crosby — the same opponent he and Rin defeated in doubles the day before. This time, Crosby edged out Ghidini in a tightly contested 5-7, 2-6 match.

Despite the early exits in singles, the tournament marked a step forward for the program, especially in doubles play. Competing against some of the top teams in the Midwest, Ghidini and Rin demonstrated both competitive edge and composure on the court, representing Wabash in a strong way.

With the fall season winding down, the performance at the ITA Regional gives the team positive momentum heading into winter training and the spring dual season. Rin, Ghidini, and their teammates will look to build on this experience as they continue to elevate the program's competitive standard.

"Overall, I'm really encouraged by the results so far this fall," said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "We've still got room to grow, and every year we've shown a lot of growth by the time the season concludes. Based on where we are now, if that trend continues, I feel extremely positive about our ability to accomplish our goals."



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

Augusto Ghidini '26 prepares to serve in his singles match against DePauw on April 16, 2025, at Crawfordsville High School.

Soccer falls to Illinois Wesleyan to wrap up non-conference play  
NCAC matches on the horizon



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Jesse Martinez '26 celebrates his goal with Brady Reiter '29 in Wabash's match against Adrian College on September 24, 2025, at Fischer Field.

ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28  
STAFF WRITER

The Little Giant soccer team fell to Illinois Wesleyan on the road on Saturday afternoon at Neis Field with a final score of 0-4. The first half was a close contest, but the Titans scored three times in the second half to pull away, dropping Wabash to a 4-6 overall record.

Illinois Wesleyan struck early, finding the net just three minutes into the match when Joey Rodino capitalized off a setup from Ryder Coleman and Hunter Reinberg. That quick goal stood as the only difference in the first half despite multiple chances from both sides. The Little Giants fired six shots with two of them on frame, but unfortunately, nothing found the net. On the other end of the pitch, Ansel Rincon '27 made four saves to keep Wabash within reach.

As the second half got under way, the hosts broke through again in the 69th minute, with Colby Thomas scoring his first goal of the season thanks to a pass from Logan Tierney. From there, the Titans controlled the time of possession and piled on two more goals. Cristian Schmidt scored in the 83rd minute with assists from Rodino and Reinberg, and Daniel Smazil capped off the day in the 89th minute courtesy of Tierney's second assist.

Wabash recorded only 11 total

shots — five on goal — and Angel Vazquez '26 led the way with three attempts. Bryce Kinnaman '27 and Ethan Simmons '29 each registered two shots on frame. The Titans finished with a 22-11 advantage in shots and a 6-2 edge in corner kicks.

While the match did not go the way of the scarlet and white, the team learned some valuable lessons from the match against Illinois Wesleyan and other non-conference schools.

"Being able to experience teams like Illinois Wesleyan and go through struggles before conference is great for us," said Kinnaman. "IWU had a bunch of big and strong guys, so it forced us to play more physically than we are used to."

Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller noted the importance of building stability as the team moves into conference matches.

"We need to focus on Wabash soccer and finding consistency with our young group," said Keller.

"Going into conference play with more of a losing record than we're used to, there have been moments where we look at the guy beside ourselves and say that we need to figure this out," said Kinnaman. "But the thing is that we can't carry negative energy from pre-conference matches into

the conference record."

Coach Keller also emphasized the challenge of the North Coast Athletic Conference schedule ahead.

"The NCAC is the top or second-best conference in the country," said Keller. "Last year the NCAC had more teams in the national tournament than any other conference except the New England Small College Athletic Conference. Currently, three of the top four ranked teams in our region are in the NCAC. That means every team and every game will be difficult but equally as important."

The Little Giants will open North Coast Athletic Conference play with a road trip on Saturday to Wittenberg University.

"No conference game is easy," said Kinnaman. "It's a grind. It's going to be an even bigger grind going away for our first conference game. We have to set the tone early while being on the road."

The Little Giants will then return home on Tuesday to host DePauw, and it's a match that has left a bitter taste in Wabash's mouth in recent years.

"The last two seasons we have tied DePauw," said Kinnaman. "It's a game where we feed a lot off of the crowd, so we want to feel the support in the stands."

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# Little Giants beat down Big Red 36-0 in Homecoming clash, eyes shift to No. 16 JCU

SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Little Giant football team hosted the Denison Big Red on Saturday for Wabash's Homecoming game, and the Little Giants came out with a commanding 36-0 win, earning their revenge after 2022's Homecoming contest.

Denison started the game with the ball, but they only picked up 13 yards before punting it away to the Little Giants. Wabash took over at their own 35 yard-line, and it only took them a little over three minutes to plot their way down the field to find the end-zone. Brand Campbell '27 found Kannon Chase '26 on a 17-yard completion where Chase climbed the ladder to snag it over the Denison defender's head.

Wabash forced another three-and-out on the next Denison possession, but the Little Giants were unable to maintain possession of the ball, turning it over in Big Red territory. Denison applied the pressure on the Wabash defense, driving them back on their heels to the goal line. After three failed attempts to convert for six points by the Big Red on the Wabash one yard-line, Gavin Ruppert '26 applied pressure on fourth down to Denison Quarterback Tyler Green to cause an errant pass. The missed opportunity would be the closest Denison got to scoring the whole game.

"Our pursuit is something that we depend on," said Ruppert. "All 11 guys need to get to the ball every play. I think the first two weeks we were somewhat disappointed in the product on the field by the defense and that started with

us being lax in our pursuit during practice and in the game. Holding ourselves accountable to that has led to us getting back to that being the standard and the results on the field can speak for themselves."

**"For us, it comes down to execution and focusing on doing our individual jobs. This team is hungry to show what we are capable of, and we will lean on each other no matter who we line up against."**

- Kannon Chase '26

Wabash turned Denison's squander into an extra three points, and on the very next Big Red offensive foray, Gage Gulley '28 read Tyler Green's mind and jumped the receiver's route to pick Green off and take it to the house for another Wabash touchdown. By the end of the first half, Wabash had a substantial 23-0 lead.

Coming out of the halftime break, Wabash picked up right where they left off. They drove across midfield, but the drive stalled at the Big Red 33 yard-

line. Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98 sent out his field goal unit, believing in the leg of Brody Rucker '26. Rucker's attempt was from 50 yards, and he drilled it with plenty of distance to cover the crossbar. The senior's kick went down in the record books, tying Joe Bevelhimer '86 for the longest made field goal in Wabash football history.

Wabash did not stop scoring, however, as Campbell capped off his incredible passing performance by throwing a deep 31-yard touchdown pass to Chase, who laid out to make the grab.

When the clock showed zeroes, Wabash had itself a statement win and a 4-0 record. Coach Gilbert was pleased, especially since he felt like the team wasn't fully living out the team's theme of "humble and hungry."

"I felt like this was a game we had to win," said Gilbert. "We needed to make sure our guys wanted it more than them. We had to be hungry to win the game, and our guys were starving."

Campbell ended up going 14/20 for 207 yards and two touchdowns in the air. Chase caught both of Campbell's touchdown passes with his stat line showing three catches for 57 yards. Chase was not the only major contributor, however, as eight other receivers logged catches. In total, the wideouts

had 20 receptions for 294 receiving yards.

"First off, our coaches do a great job developing us and putting us in positions to make those plays, so a lot of credit goes to them," said Chase. "Brand is a great leader, and all of us wideouts have complete trust in him. He has some crazy arm talent, which makes it exciting to line up every snap knowing what he can do with the ball. For us, it is about executing and getting

**"All 11 guys need to get to the ball every play. I think the first two weeks we were somewhat disappointed in the product on the field by the defense and that started with us being lax in our pursuit during practice and in the game."**

- Gavin Ruppert '26

open, because if we do our job, we know the ball will be there. It makes the game fun, and we all root for each other's success."

"I thought the wideouts did a tremendous job of competing at the catch point and going to get the ball," said Gilbert. "Brand put the ball in the position to trust them to make a play, and they did... When everyone plays the game knowing

they have a chance to get the ball and you spread the wealth a little bit, it makes you harder to defend."

The offense will need to be difficult to defend this week as the team travels to John Carroll in Cleveland, Ohio to take on a Blue Streak squad that has only allowed 41 points in the four games they have played so far this season. The defense will also have a tough task as the JCU offense has a veteran graduate student quarterback, Nick Semptimphelter, who has completed 82% of his passes this season. Semptimphelter also has an array of weapons at his disposal at both the running back and wide receiver positions.

"For us, it comes down to execution and focusing on doing our individual jobs," said Chase. "This team is hungry to show what we are capable of, and we will lean on each other no matter who we line up against. The biggest thing is giving one hundred percent effort every snap, and if we do that, we will put ourselves in position to succeed."

"We're going to have to go over and fight these guys for four quarters," said Gilbert. "We've got to stop the big plays from happening. They have great players, so we have to play fast to defend those players."

The Little Giants will look to knock off the No. 16 team in the country tomorrow at Don Shula Stadium with kickoff set for 2:35 p.m. EST.



PHOTOS BY  
WILL DUNCAN '27

## The Bledsoe '26 breakdown – NCAC football Week Four power rankings

SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

Week Four wtinessed four shut-outs! What an insane week of football. I can't wait to roast the teams that scored no points. Take a look at where they all stack up.

### #1 DePauw (4 – 0)

You Dannies had to actually fight for your win this week! 0-0 at halftime against Wittenberg? Really? You guys do have weaknesses! If only the other Tiger team had the claws to finish you off. Would have been the headline of the century. "Failing poverty school beats fraudulent No. 13 team in the country." That would have had a lovely ring to it, but alas, Wittenberg stinks. And yes, readers of *The Bachelor*, you read that correctly. The clown school from Greencastle moved up to the No. 13 spot in the D3football.com national rankings. But you know what they say? 13 is an unlucky number. I, personally, am praying for the Dannies' downfall, but so is every other Wabash man. Have fun hosting Oberlin this week. I heard they have a 100 man roster, so be prepared for overflow!

### #2 John Carroll (3 – 1)

Whew! You guys survived the Owls! I knew you were probably sweating that game going into it. Thank the man upstairs that your nerdy graduate student quarterback, Nick Semptimphelter (whose mouthful of a name sounds fictional beyond belief), threw for five touchdowns. If he didn't do that, I know your head coach would have been sweating bullets on the sideline. After your small 52-0 victory, you somehow moved up to the No. 16 spot in the D3football.com rankings. I wonder how this could...oh wait! Hope, Mary Hardin-Baylor and Susquehanna all lost games this

week! You guys were gifted that No. 16 spot. The Little Giants are coming to town tomorrow, and they are looking to stomp all over your Blue Streak butts.

### #3 Wabash (4 – 0)

What an absolute DOMINATION from the boys in scarlet and white on Saturday for Homecoming! Denison didn't foresee a 36-0 butt whooping. Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98 was wearing a fork over his ear on the sideline looking like a badass.



Brand Campbell was wheeling and dealing. Kannon Chase '26, TJ Alexander '26 and the rest of the receiving core were Mossing DB's left and right. The defense was keeping the endzone under lock and key. Saturday's performance was as good as it gets. This outstanding performance had the Little Giants earn more points towards getting inside the top-25 on the D3football.com rankings. If Wabash beats John Carroll tomorrow, the Little Giants could be ranked here soon! So who's wanting to carpool to Cleveland this weekend?

### #4 Wittenberg (2 – 2)

You guys do know that a football game is 60 minutes and not 30 minutes, right? How do you play a perfect defensive half of football, holding DePauw to zero points, and then let the Tigers blank you 28-0 in the second half? I cannot even begin to comprehend. Did you guys crap your pants when you realized that you were actually competing against a real football team? But hey! You guys moved up to the number four spot over Denison. You may have been shut out, but the Big

name was. Secondly, hiring a new athletic director got you guys nowhere. I mean seriously. At least Wabash College Athletic Director Jim Peebles was on the sidelines hyping up his guys. That's a true leader of men right there. Lastly, stop trying to look like Alabama with your helmets. The white numbers on the sides are so cliché, and you just look stupid. You don't have five-star athletes going to your school. I think that's apparent with how confused your head coach looked this weekend

football properly when Wabash played you. You went back to the tape (like you're supposed to), and you copied our playbook (you cheaters). I will say that 38-0 has to be the smallest shutout against Oberlin in a long time, but I'm not going to check because I don't feel like it. But what else can I expect when two dumpster fires go to battle? You play the failing school this week. Hopefully you guys can play a full 60 minute football game. If you can do that, I think you can add a tally mark in the win column.

### #8 Kenyon (0 – 4)

I hope you welcomed the new conference team with open arms and...oh wait you did! You let them shut you out! How nice you Owls are. You even let their senior citizen quarterback throw for five touchdowns. How did you manage that, though? Did you just fly away or something? I will say it is pretty embarrassing that you only had five first downs in the whole game. You do realize that if you string five first downs together on the same drive, you could put points up on the board, right? I am not a football genius, but I think that's how that works.

### #9 Oberlin (0 – 4)

I am so proud of you Yeoman! You kept your opponent below 50 points this week! The NCAC should give you a trophy or something. Can we get on that please? Success deserves awards. You probably won't get another one this week because you do play DePauw. But never say never! You guys could have the game of your lives.

on the sidelines. Alright, I should stop. Don't let the Bishops beat you this weekend, or you'll be left praying for a new football team.

### #6 Ohio Wesleyan (1 – 2)

You guys did nothing this week. No game = none of Sean's attention. Good luck against the Big Red tomorrow. Try to shut them out. It's not that hard.

### #7 Wooster (2 – 2)

Wow. Congratulations. You guys shut out the Oberlin Yeoman. So impressive. I think the only reason you won, though, is because you saw how to play

Red took a bigger beating than you did. Kudos to you for holding DePauw to under 30 points. Enjoy the sounds of the bagpipes in Wooster, Ohio this weekend. I think they have replaced their blowsticks by now.

### #5 Denison (1 – 2)

Insult alert! Insult alert! Where do I even start? There's too many. Okay, okay. Here we go. First off, how do you guys split the last six games with Wabash at 3-3 and then lay the fattest and most round goose egg I have ever seen in my life? Must suck not having Fabrocini or whatever that guy's