



## Community Center update



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Renderings of the completed Community Center, which is estimated to be completed 18-24 months after the start of construction.

ELIJAH WETZEL '27  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After months of delays and no active construction progress, Wabash officials expect the end of the wait for the critical U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development loan (RD) to be within sight. Once that loan is closed with the USDA, construction on the new Community Center can and will resume with full force.

Currently, the College is completing its interim financial plans, which requires internal approval. That process is underway and is anticipated to be approved by the end of the week. Wabash will also receive final rate options from the bank in May. Upon interim closing, which will authorize Wabash's financial plan, property appraisal and approval of the Gross Maximum Price Amendment with F.A. Wilhelm Construction, construction of the Center can begin. Officials are optimistic that students will return to find construction in full swing.

"I hope that there is a lot of active construction going on, akin to what we experienced with the demolition process,"

said Chief Financial Officer Kendra Cooks. "We will also be engaging in workshops with students, faculty and staff to help define what our food service, restaurant and hospitality operations may look like with this modern and well-equipped facility."

After warnings in the spring of 2025 that the sounds of building machinery and work crews would become the campus's new regular soundtrack in the next year, the Wabash mall remained mostly serene and peaceful all year. Students, many of whom expected to be able to use the new center before their graduation, would now call construction restarting a win on its own.

"The hardest part for students is the fact that a lot of us pay a great deal of money to be here and endure the hardships this place has to offer, and because there is no visible progress it is easy for us to think that we are not technically getting everything Wabash College has to offer," said Student Body Vice-President Luke Purichia '28. "It is an investment by Wabash in the future of the College and we

just happen to be attending the college in the present."

But even if construction were to start tomorrow, students will have to wait patiently for 18-24 months before the building actually opens. So, while many students won't get to use the Community Center as undergraduates, some students likely will get to enjoy the Center and its amenities. In the meantime, Cooks hopes that people can find some level of satisfaction in the other building projects which have taken off.

"Though the Community Center itself is not an active construction site, our enabling projects are underway and active — temporary dining, the Cooling Plant project and the parking lot projects to name a few. Adriann [Rhoades] and I were also in Boston a week or so ago to work with our Shepley Bulfinch team on interior finishes, furnishings and fixtures — so a lot of work continues, though it may be less visible to our community than other aspects of the project."

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## Fulbright on full display

ANTONY SANTAGATA '29  
STAFF WRITER

Only 1,800 students a year are selected by the federal government to represent the U.S. abroad in the prestigious Fulbright Program. This year at least three of those winners are Wabash men.

Evan Bone '26 received the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) scholarship for Estonia, while Braiden Foster '26 and Hunter Otto '26 both received ETA scholarships for Germany.

This year, there were 12 Wabash men who applied for the Fulbright scholarship, 10 going for ETA positions and two for independent research studies. Of the 12, there were five semifinalists: Three ETA's and both independent research studies. All three semifinalists for the ETA position received the scholarship. As for the two of the three independent research studies semifinalists, one unfortunately did not receive the scholarship.

"I really see it as a year to get my feet on the ground as a teacher," said Bone. "I think the Fulbright will be a great experience to learn how to be a teacher and connect with students, while also immersing myself in something new and learning about a different culture."

Estonia has one of the most acclaimed and highest rated education systems in the world, so Bone will be learning from the best. He will be able to apply what he learns when he gets back, which is one of the goals of the program.

The Fulbright scholarship has easily become the most popular program for Wabash students to apply for, and there has been an increased

interest in the program in the last four years. European nations seem to have the most draw for Wabash men.

"I would say about 12-14 Wabash students apply in any given year," said Susan Albrecht, Fellowship Advisor and Library Visual Media Liaison. "We've had as few as zero and as many as six wins in a particular year. It varies a lot from year to year."

"We had some winners of Fulbright back in the day, in the 50s and 70s, but for a long spell there weren't any Wabash Fulbright grantees, which was frustrating for young men interested in the program," said Albrecht. "In 2014, we had three guys win, all for Spain, and the year after they won, the administration elected to create an advising position to give better support to students who wanted to try for these nationally competitive programs."

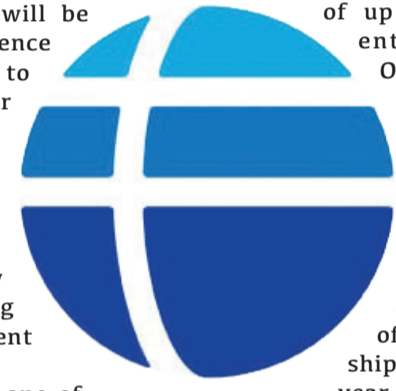
The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is a large program that is open to U.S. citizens and nationals to seek an academic year abroad in one of up to 150 different countries.

One can either apply to be an English teaching assistant (ETA), or to do an independent research study. There are about 1,800 of these scholarships offered every year.

Albrecht helps students understand what options are out there for national and international competitive awards and then helps them complete an application with as much strength as possible.

"Susan requires that she sees multiple versions of your application, which forces you to get started early," said Evan Bone '26. "She isn't going to

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COURTESY OF FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND

## Ralph's mom has got it going on

EVAN BONE '26  
OPINION EDITOR

The word "tradition" gets thrown around liberally at Wabash. From our first visit to campus to our graduation walk under The Arch, our time at Wabash is spent learning about and experiencing traditions. But what does it mean to hold something as a tradition?

The traditions a community enshrines are reflections of that community's values. We return to these same experiences, dodging The Arch, Chapel Sing, painting the bench and more because they reflect our values. Chapel Talks demonstrate a willingness to learn and grow from others, Chapel Sing shows a commitment to our Alma Mater and avoiding The Arch shows the prestige we lend to our degree. The recent revival of Ralph's Mother, an event that originated in the spring of 1968, signals Wabash's love for music, refreshments and each other.

On May 1st at 5:00 p.m. Ralph's Mother will come back to town on The Mall. This time the event will be fundraising for Indiana Youth Group (IYG), an organization dedicated to helping LGBTQ youth. Ralph's Mother will feature music from Wabash's own DJ Aru '26, Jeremiah Clayton '26, The Jersey Goosey Experience and Spencer Phillips '25's band, The Shay537. The Sphinx Club will be providing fun ways to donate to IYG with pie-a-Sphinx (with honorary Sphinx Club members), karaoke, gift card raffle and tie-dye shirts for sale. Burgers, kebabs and hot dogs will be provided

by the Sphinx Club, and La Alianza will provide carne asada. Cornhole, spikeball and more games will be provided as well. But some people may still wonder: where did this oddly named concert come from?

The first mention of the concert Ralph's Mother in *The Bachelor* archive is from the March 15, 1968 edition, and it describes a concert born out of the cultural revolution of the 1960s. The name was in reference to a security guy who worked at Wabash named Ralph, and it was the students' way of poking fun. The original concert was a multi-media experience built around celebrating students and their artistic endeavors. Ralph's Mother returned in 1969 and in 1970 as a wacky, all-day festival celebrating the arts and providing free entertainment to students. Ralph's even spawned the bed-racing tradition we still celebrate today! One of the first organizers of the event, Dean MacDougall '69, described the purpose of the event as, "to bring the community together so it can appreciate itself."

An editorial from the May 7, 1971 issue of *The Bachelor* described the end of "Ralph's Mother." The author chronicles the end of Ralph's that semester as being due to Student Senate withholding funding as senate was holding onto money in case issues arose with an outside, popular band that was coming to town. The writer, who signs off as J.B.B, writes, "Why did Ralph's Mother die? Mainly because Wabash students have

decided it is easier to let other people provide our own fun, to attract big name rock groups who will take thousands of dollars from us for an hour and a half of entertainment, to do other things which cost lots of money for little benefit to the college as a whole." He ends the editorial with the sentiment that he is uncertain if Wabash has the energy and commitment to bring together an event like Ralph's Mother in the near future.

But lo and behold, The Sphinx Club would answer J.B.B.'s call to action from decades ago when the club reintroduced the Ralph's Mother event. The event was revived by James Szalkie '25 and Matthew Lepper '25, and it came back in the form of Ralph's Brother in 2024 which aspired to carry on the do-it-yourself ethos of the original concert. The story of Ralph's revival is a testament to the power of the College's history and the inspiration that lives on in our archive.

"The idea came from an archive blog post I read about Ralph's Mother. I thought the name was funny, but looking deeper, the strangeness of the whole thing drew me in," said Szalkie. "When I joined the Sphinx Club, I knew it was for a reason, and I decided to use my position as treasurer to make that happen and uphold the values of the Sphinx Club — of course, with a few twists and tweaks."

This Ralph's Mother has its own philanthropic tweak as the Sphinx Club raises money for IYG. IYG is the oldest organization in North America ded-

icated to supporting LGBTQ youth. The organization has its own Crawfordsville branch located at St. John's Episcopal Church.

"IYG exists to create safer spaces where LGBTQ+ young people are not only supported but celebrated. Our mission is to foster community, providing affirming programming, and empower young people to discover their strength, use their voice and shape the world around them," said IYG's Director of Resource Development Whitney Morris-Lang. "Giving to IYG is a direct investment in the lives, safety, and futures of hundreds of LGBTQ+ young people across Indiana. Every service we offer, from a warm meal and a safe place to land, to mental health support, a food pantry, clothing closet, hygiene resources, housing program and affirming programming, is

completely free to those we serve."

Carrying the torch of the original Ralph's Mother, The Sphinx Club hopes to celebrate student artistry, student cooking and to make a difference in Crawfordsville through philanthropy. In a letter to the editor in the April 26th 1968 issue one student wrote in praise of "Ralph's Mother," "Too many of the all campus events have an air of competitiveness about them which serves only to broaden the hiatus between the fraternity and non-fraternity men. For once Wabash men could be Wabash men first and Kappa Sigmas, Phi Deltas, Betas or Independents second." Today, Ralph's Mother aims to do the same thing. This revived tradition will be coming to town, and you can enjoy her festivities on Friday May 1st at 5:00 p.m. on The Mall.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash Association of Music (WAM) performing at Ralph's Mother hosted by Phi Kappa Psi in 2025.

## Walt Snodell '68 shows the strength of Wabash alumni support



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Future and current Snodell Scholars pose with Walt '68 and Cathy Snodell.

WILL DUNCAN '27  
PHOTO EDITOR

Brotherhood that lasts a lifetime — a hallmark often associated with Wabash College. When you look for examples of lifelong brothers, Walt Snodell '68 is an outstanding example. Walt, alongside his wife Kathy, have created their own scholarship titled the "Snodell Scholarship," for incoming freshmen who reside in the Chicagoland area. The scholarship program was launched in 2018, and was created to make a Wabash education more accessible for a greater number of students outside of Indiana, as part of the Greater Chicagoland Initiative.

This initiative focuses on four main components: scholarships, a Chicago-based admissions counselor, marketing and support for recruitment events that are based in Chicago, its suburbs, Wisconsin and eastern Iowa.

The Snodells envisioned the initiative as a potential template for the college to use in expanding its recruiting efforts. Its success is encouraging similar programs in Dallas, Phoenix and Southern California.

This year marked the ninth annual ceremony, and was held at The Elm, a venue in La Grange, IL, where numerous incoming freshmen were awarded scholarships.

"For a lot of these students, the Snodell Scholarship played a real role in why they chose Wabash," said Senior Associate Director of Regional Admissions Kyle Vowell. "They know what the support means for them and their families — the goal is that they'll eventually want to pay that generosity forward

to the next generation."

Alongside the newest recipients of the Snodell Scholarship sat current Wabash men, who too have benefitted from the couple's generosity. Their hope is to continuously give back to the school as the Snodell's so graciously had given to them.

"I hope that I set out to achieve my goals—but, also that I can appreciate that achievement and share my experience with others," said Evan Rauwolf '28, a former recipient of the Snodell Scholarship. "I am part of the community who is willing to serve, as the Snodells have offered to serve me financially."

This sentiment was shared by the keynote speakers, one, a current student and the other, an alumni. Luke Cushing '27 both started and ended off the ceremony, offering



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

An incoming freshman poses with his recently awarded Snodell scholarship alongside the Snodells.

welcomes and advice for the Class of 2030. Luka DiFillippo '25 also shared his experiences as a former Snodell Scholar, encouraging the next round of students to work hard and to be grateful for the opportunity presented to them.

President Scott Feller also spoke at the scholarship ceremony, and shared a testament to the incoming freshmen, urging the future Wabash men to use this generosity as motivation. Feller mentioned within his speech that each recipient of this award was chosen carefully, as they are believed to fit the Wabash mold, with their ability to lead effectively and their potential to change the world.

"I heard Walt describe the scholarship that he and Kathy support as a 'pay it forward project,'" said President Feller. "Now that I have met the young graduates who were recipients of their generosity, and it's clear the Snodells have established a legacy that will forever strengthen Wabash."

As the generosity of Snodells continue, so too does the number of men that have been shaped by their commitment and belief in Wabash. The scholarships awarded to the Class of 2030 stand as just the latest demonstration of a school rooted in opportunity, legacy and brotherhood. In this way, Wabash is not confined to the boundaries of campus, but trailblazed through each man it impacts — growing stronger with every generation.

## New Student Senate committee chairs sworn in



COURTESY OF CONNOR PHILLIPS '28

Student Senate Committee chairs are all sworn in at the Student Senate meeting on Monday, April 27.

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28  
STAFF WRITER

Student Body President Jack Ray '28 set out in his platform to make the Student Senate more impactful than it has been in years past. Following each spring election, the newly elected president appoints committee chairmen, who play a critical role in shaping their committees' direction and influence on campus. These leaders help determine not only what their committees accomplish, but also how they engage with the broader student body. With a new group of chairmen stepping into these roles, the coming year is expected to bring both continuity and change.

Many of the newly appointed chairmen are entering their positions with ambitious plans that build upon the work of previous years while expanding their committees' reach. Rather than introducing small adjustments, several leaders emphasized that their goals involve broader initiatives designed to address ongoing campus needs in more meaningful ways.

"Often, issues with mental health are not because of one event, but because of an accumulation of negative emotions, stress, and experiences," said Mental Health Concerns Committee Chairman Aidan Pierce '27. "Addressing issues before they grow into a bigger problem is crucial. To achieve this goal, my team and I will work alongside living unit mental health chairmen to coordinate plans to identify and address the early warning signs of mental health crises."

Pierce's focus reflects a larger trend among the new chairmen: a desire to be more proactive rather than reactive. By strengthening communication between committees and student groups, leaders hope to address concerns earlier and more effectively. This approach also underscores an emphasis on collaboration, with many committees looking to partner more closely with different areas of campus life.

Student Life Chairman Kenton Chase '28 similarly aims to build on past successes while expanding the committee's role in improving everyday student experiences.

"I want to scope out the things we have around campus that could use improvement with the help of the students

and attack those things," said Chase.

Student Life had a successful past year, hosting a Casino Night and a Top Golf trip that got hundreds of students out to enjoy the brotherhood that Wabash offers. However, this is not the only thing Student Life is planning to do over the next year.

"I still plan to hold fun events, I think that I will put more focus specifically on advocating for the betterment of the lives of our students," said Chase.

On the topic of events, there will certainly not be a shortage of them in the upcoming year through these committees. Nearly all committees plan to host more public events over the next year.

"I want to see a lot of events done through this committee," said Intramural Committee Chairman Nicholas Kesler '27. "I will also be looking into adding a few tournaments on the weekends and weekdays, depending on what the student body wants. The sports and activities of these tournaments will also reflect what the student body wants to play in."

This highlights another recurring theme among the new leadership: responsiveness. Committees should be more reflective of the wants and needs of the Student Body.

"I hope this gets more participation from people we haven't seen participate in intramural sports in years prior, and makes the experience better for everyone," said Kesler.

Another aspect of involvement comes from the new Chairmen themselves. "I am very passionate about academics as a whole and recognize the grey area that is AI policy campus-wide," said Liam Fuller '28. "It is something I want to change so students feel more confident using AI in accordance with the Gentleman's Rule."

As the new committee chairs settle into their roles, their shared emphasis on expansion, engagement, and responsiveness suggests a Student Senate that is aiming to take a more active role on campus. Whether through events, advocacy, or policy initiatives, these leaders are working to ensure that their committees not only continue past successes but also adapt to the evolving needs of the student body.

## Fulbright on full display

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accept your second revision, even if your second version is good. She really wants to see that fourth and fifth revision."

While the Fulbright scholarship is very competitive, it is not a very long application. Students can only apply once a year, so they must be very careful in choosing the country they're seeking.

"You can apply as many times as you want over time, but you have to choose one country and one award type per year," said Albrecht. "The most important piece of it is wisely choosing the country and the type of award you're going to go for."

Applicants must complete one primary essay called a statement of grant purpose, and then four short answers. These have to do with things like how you want to engage with your host community, some evidence of your adapt-

ability, and how Fulbright will fit with your future. Three recommendation letters and your transcript are also part of it. Those going for a research study award must also secure an affiliation letter from someone in the potential host country.

"There were some strong applicants who didn't make it to the semi-finals, which is always disappointing," said Albrecht. "They're willing to take a chance. They're willing to put out their best effort and just see what comes from it, which I love to see."

"I was very excited to have received such a prestigious award," said Foster. "The first thing I did was call my mom and tell her I had earned it, and she was super excited for me. It was a great feeling to know that the intense language work I had put in these last few years had paid off. At the same time, though, I also recognize

that this is a huge honor with a lot of responsibilities, and I have also begun to mentally prepare myself for what lies ahead."

It's important for competitive programs such as the Fulbright that we learn from those who came before us and lean on the experience of those who have worked through the application process.

"My advice to other guys who are thinking about Fulbright in the future is to just go for it," said Foster. "It is a bit of work to submit a worthwhile application, but it is the payout will be 100-fold. It also provides a sense of post-graduation security if that is ever a worry. Work hard and work closely with Mrs. Albrecht, as she is the key to a successful application!"

## Community Center update

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Anticipation is high all around, and from students to administrators, people are eager to see the vision become reality.

"As a college we preach brotherhood and I think having another shared space on campus, where students are able to go to find that brotherhood would be spectacular," said Purichia. "We all belong to different living units on campus, but this community center will be another building for us all to share and I am really excited for it."

"I share with our community an eager anticipation of resuming the construction process and introducing this

amazing facility to our campus," said Cooks. "It has been an expressed need for over 30

years and we will see it come to life."

**DAY OF GIVING TOTALS**

**\$1,993,305**

**8,605 gifts**



A SCARLET BANNER DAY

**THANK YOU  
PHIPPS FAMILY**



**From all of us, we love and appreciate all your hard work. Wabash Always Fights!**

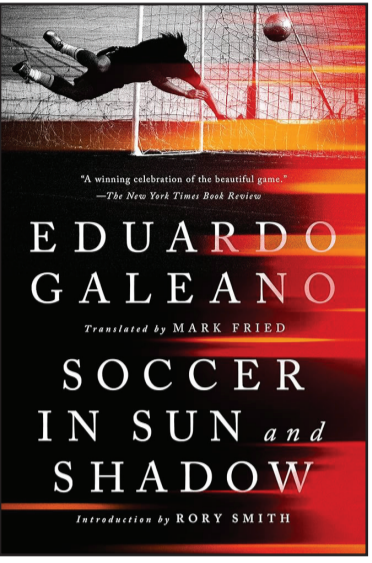
GRAPHICS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

## Summer Reading List: Instructors' recommendations

After a long year of discussion classes, grueling labs and writing papers, summer break seems like the perfect time for rest and relaxation. But a critical thinker never stops their search for challenging ideas and powerful learning experiences. So The Bachelor reached out to faculty and staff here at Wabash to compile a reading list for the Wabash community to sink their teeth into this summer!

EVAN BONE '26  
OPINION EDITOR

The books below cover a vast range of subject matters, genres and fields of thought. Pick one up this summer and give it a try. But don't let your reading be confined to any one list: let your intellectual horizons grow and your interests expand. If you find yourself stuck in a grueling internship, bored at home or just looking for something new, pop open a new book and dive in.



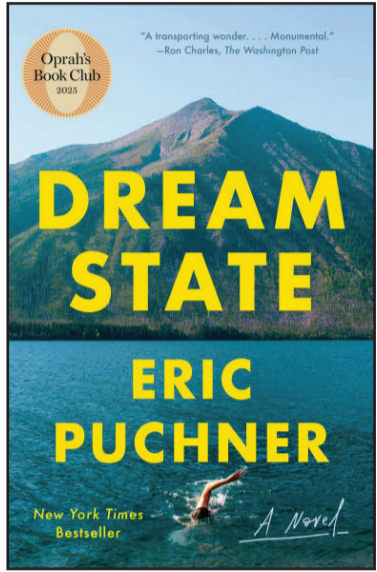
PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON

From Assistant Professor of History Noe Pliego Campos

"I recommend 'Eduardo Galeano's Soccer in Sun and Shadow.' A great book that gives insights into the beauty of soccer as well as the political, economic and social politics around the game and each World Cup edition."

From Associate Professor of English Eric Freeze

"I'd suggest Eric Puchner's 2025 novel 'Dream State.' It was an Oprah's Book Club pick and is one of those books that is well deserving of the hype. Dream State is perfect for summer: a tale about choices before a summer wedding that ripple through generations. It's a novel for our time that speculates about near-future challenges, such as the destruction of our natural world. It's rich in description with characters who are flawed and sometimes contradictory. A tour de force about family, parenting, climate change and the consequences of living."

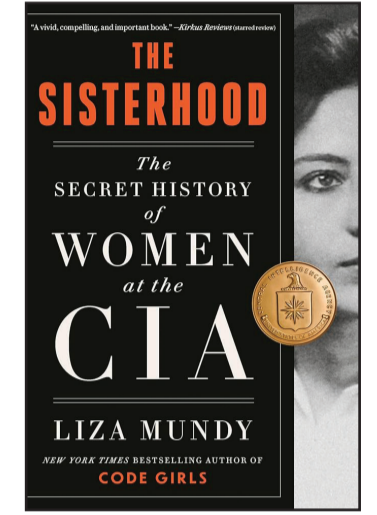


From Associate Professor of Theater James Cherry

"I'm particularly looking forward to reading 'The Revolutionists: The Story of the Extremists Who Hijacked the 1970s' by Jason Burke. Burke examines how terrorist groups like the Red Army Faction in West Germany, the Japanese Red Army and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine came to define "terrorism" years before Al Qaeda came into being."

From Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics Alison Rosenblum

"One long-time favorite of mine (which those who appreciate the Classics department may particularly enjoy) is 'The Thief' by Megan Whalen Turner. Gen claims to be the greatest thief since mortal men were made. He is currently in prison for stealing the king's seal ring and bragging about it in a wineshop. He sees his chance when the Magus, the king's most powerful advisor, offers him a deal: his freedom in exchange for stealing a stone that belongs more to the region's mythology but has very real political implications. The book easily stands alone, but is the first in a six-book series (and contrary to the current publisher's claims, the series absolutely should be read in publication order)."

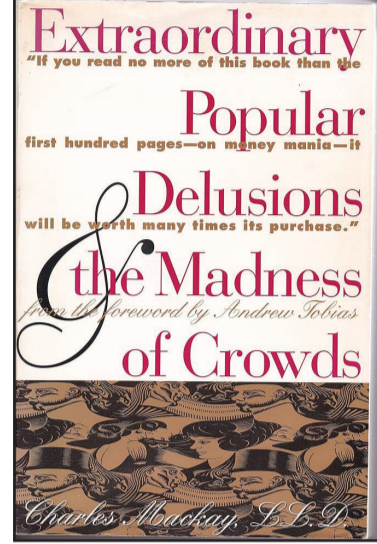


From Professor of Political Science Shamira Gelbman

"The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA' by Liza Mundy tells the stories of the women who worked as Central Intelligence Agency spies from World War II through the War on Terror. It goes behind the scenes at the CIA to reveal how they practiced spycraft, how discrimination shaped their careers and how they developed a "sisterhood" network for mutual support."

From Visiting Assistant Professor of Rhetoric Azmat Khan

"Wry and often exaggerated, Charles Mackay's classic ['Extraordinary Popular Delusions & the Madness of Crowds'] chronicles episodes of collective irrationality — from speculative bubbles to social crazes — showing how emotion, imitation and persuasion can override independent judgment. In today's engagement-maximizing (digital) public sphere, its insights remain strikingly relevant, illuminating the persistence, appeal and persuasive power of mass delusion."

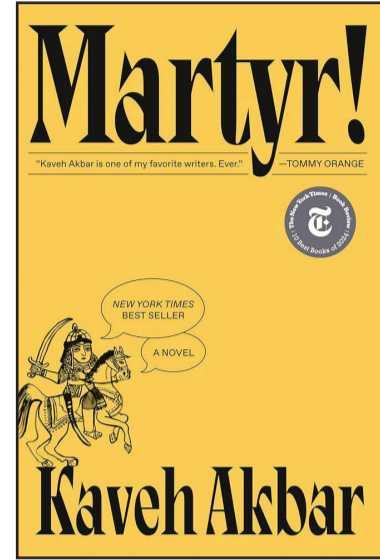


From Associate Professor of Educational Studies Michele Pittard

"My Friends,' by Fredrik Bachman is an honest representation of the whole human experience from the heartbreaking beautiful realities of loss to the simple joys of enduring friendship. It's the kind of book that sneaks up on you with equal parts subtle humor, quiet sadness and profound insights, but what lingers is the way the novel makes a case for art, not in some abstract way, but as something deeply human and necessary."

From Research and Instructional Librarian Beth Lindsay

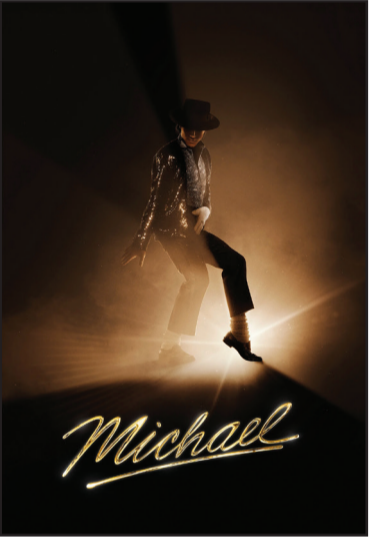
"I strongly recommend Arline Geronimus's 'Weathering: The Extraordinary Stress of Ordinary Life in an Unjust Society' to all people interested in making the world a better place. I knew something about the social determinants of health before reading but Dr. Geronimus explained much more. I particularly enjoyed her own story about being one of the first women to attend Princeton."



From Professor of Philosophy Adriel Trott

"'Martyr!' by Kaveh Akbar. Martyr! is a coming-of-age story, a prose poem, a tearjerker, a quest of a recently orphaned Iranian-American queer man to find connection, to make recompense and to come to terms with his desire."

## 'Michael' fails the pop legend



COURTESY OF TMDB

NOAH MINTIE '29  
FEATURES EDITOR

It is ironic that the king of pop sings the lyrics "don't stop till you get enough," only for the movie that takes his name to end before ever deepening. After an incredibly troubled production, Antoine Fuqua's "Michael" finally hit theaters with the promise to translate the brilliance of Michael Jackson's music to the medium of film — four decades after Jackson already did that. While the film is enjoyable, it does less than a rewatch of "Thriller," "Beat It" and "Smooth Criminal" could in nearly half the time. Originally, "Michael" was going to dive into the eccentricities of the

real singer, but last-minute legal troubles forced a large portion of the film (which had already been shot) onto the cutting room floor. The film had a lot going against it, which becomes very apparent when you look deeper than the music. Instead of diving into the conflicts that made the real singer who he was, "Michael" pivots to chronicling Michael's (played by the singer's real nephew Jafaar Jackson) emancipation from his driven yet cruel father, Joe Jackson (Coleman Domingo). This story is comparatively underdeveloped. It certainly reads like it was never meant to be stretched so far, and buckles under the weight of its status as a central conflict.

Of course, a movie can only be so generic while also blasting the greatest pop songs of all time. Fuqua's directing is solid throughout, peaking when it just shows Michael dancing and singing. Jafaar Jackson captures the essence of his uncle perfectly. Each dance move, vocal inflection and glamorous outfit lives, breathes and bleeds the aura of Michael's early years. Right alongside him is Coleman Domingo, who continues to prove himself as one of the best actors working today. Miles Teller also packs a surprisingly refined performance as Michael's lawyer John Branca, it is just a shame that there is never any conflict that allows his performance to go somewhere.

The lack of compelling drama is

the most disappointing aspect of the film. Joe's selfish grip on Michael's talent starts and ends exactly as expected, with very few moments of genuine intrigue. Instead, the film wins its emotional connection by throwing a cool new montage over Michael's iconic songs. Yes, it is fun, but it is also unearned. If this movie wants to stand on the shoulders of a giant, it should try to do something with that added height. Instead, it does not develop Michael past being a talented man whose tragic problems are flanderized into little quirks. The scenes that do highlight the quirks often involve a painfully dissonant chimpanzee.

As I exited the theater I could not help thinking of Spike Lee's "Malcolm X." That biopic also had powerful subject matter which it fully leveraged, but it also used Malcolm's story to do something new. The movie takes full advantage of the medium, with Denzel Washington's monumental performance not just capturing Malcolm's essence, but also his development. Reading Malcolm's autobiography or rewatching his speeches are fundamentally different from watching the movie, and likewise, "Malcolm X" stands as one of the most acclaimed and possibly the best biopic ever made.

Movies like "Michael" never meet these heights because they are too content to just show the viewer what they already know. In ten years I doubt anyone will re-

watch this movie nearly as much as they would rewatch Michael's short films, whereas "Malcolm X" is known for being more than just an accurate translation of its subject.

Nowhere is this more apparent than the third act, where the scenes that did tap into Michael's psyche dissolve and it just becomes a jukebox musical. Even with the incredible nature of Jackson's songs, it feels like more of an indulgent tribute than a self-supporting story. If that is all the viewer wants, then that is fair enough. But if that is all that matters, why not just do away with the story and make the plot a greatest-moments montage?

Do not get me wrong, "Michael" still has its moments. Fuqua brings together a very nice-looking movie. The lighting and sound design have clear intent in every scene — a rarity among modern blockbusters. The composition of most shots is fairly standard, but there are a few standout moments where the blocking spikes in quality. While the dramatic moments do not leave an impact, they are also not unpleasant by any metric. "Disappointingly unambitious" and "bad" are two very different things. Also, given that this movie was hacked to pieces and then re-stitched together, it is commendable that the editing manages to still be pretty good.

It is still sad to see a film that had so much going for it slide back into playing it safe. Some might argue that cool song sequences and a

serviceable representation of Michael's story are all that the film needed. To them I would argue that at the same time, there may never be another chance for a movie like this. They managed to get an incredible cast that included Michael's blood-relative to play him. They also picked a sweet spot in history where Michael is far enough in the past to be a legend but recent enough to be remembered. After this movie and its rumored sequel, I highly doubt that there will be another chance to bring Michael's life to film as a biopic.

So for a movie with such a limited window of opportunity to steer clear of all of Michael's complexity is a shame. Michael Jackson was a worldwide phenomenon before the internet, and he remains one of the most famous people in modern history. Yes, he deserves a movie that honors his legacy, but that is the easy part. Especially when he already provided so many masterpiece songs for the film to use. The hard part is making a film that matches his ambition. In its narrative diffidence, "Michael" doomed itself to carry his name but never his impact.

**FINAL VERDICT:**  
**2.5/5 WALLYS**



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### The Hoffmans: A Wabash power couple



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

PHILLIP HARVEY '29  
STAFF WRITER

The institutional memory of Wabash is not just woven through traditions and red bricks. Frequently, it is built out of the people themselves. Dawn and Steve Hoffman '85 do not just work at Wabash; much rather, they are woven into its architecture. They represent a combined half century of service to the college through Steve's 44 years of involvement and Dawn's 10. The Hoffmans have given countless hours of support, backbone and one of their own sons to this College. Steve Hoffman's journey at Wa-

bash is a masterclass in institutional loyalty. A graduate of the class of 1985, Steve Hoffman spent his undergraduate years as a member of the football and baseball teams. He was a member of the Sphinx Club and a brother of Delta Tau Delta. After some professional development, he returned to Wabash as an assistant coach for football and golf.

When the College offered him a position in fundraising, he was hesitant at first, but gave in after some discernment. 29 years later, Steve Hoffman is one of the college's most effective advocates in Alumni Advancement. Steve Hoffman works on major gifts, which are contributions from alumni so generous the college watchlists them.

"It's just fun seeing students come and go and be changed while they're here," said Steve Hoffman. "I see many students when they're freshmen, and I see them again their senior year, and they're mature. They've changed."

In that capacity, Steve Hoffman has traveled all over Indiana, the Midwest and even to the East coast, connecting with alumni to match their philanthropic generosity to the needs of the College. Steve Hoffman has worked with donors for Division II (Fine Arts and Humanities) intern-

ships for students, the recent FIJI renovations and Birdzell '61 baseball field turf. An overwhelming majority of students receive some amount of aid in paying tuition. Every student benefits to some degree these contributions by alumni donors.

"It's really trying to match up the interest of donors with the college's needs," said Steve Hoffman. "So, it's kind of a puzzle. It's a lot of fun. And when you get somebody who is interested in helping, and you find a way they can do that, they feel really good about it."

While Steve Hoffman focuses on the philanthropic engine keeping the College running, Dawn Hoffman runs practicals. Dawn Hoffman made the decision to join Wabash staff one decade ago after years of teaching elementary school and hearing her husband's encouragement.

"I wanted to be part of Wabash," said Dawn Hoffman. "I very much already was through him, but I wanted to be an employee and really be a part of it."

She spent her first eight years in the Business office, helping in the complex world of tuition and accounts receivable. Since then she has transitioned to her current role as an Academic Administrative Coordinator.

She is today the primary support for the english, philosophy and religion departments, where she helps professors with administrative tasks. Professors in each of these departments come to her asking for scanned copies of books and research materials, as well as some basic help in classroom preparation. She coordinates anything from simple copyright filing to the visit of Pulitzer Prize winner Hernan Diaz and hiring new members of the faculty. She also plays a vital role aiding international students. Dawn Hoffman works alongside Amy Weir to manage the intricate visa and immigration paperwork that allows these students to come to Crawfordsville.

The Hoffmans' impact and longevity is perhaps most visible in the generational cycles they have witnessed. Steve has attended 44 consecutive Monon Bell games, a streak he began as a student. As a coach and assistant telecaster for athletics, he has seen the sons of men he once coached or studied with arrive on campus as collegians. Dawn recalls their relationships with Leo Dellinger '29 and Sam Benedict '25, both of whose fathers Steve coached decades ago.

Their personal lives have been just as connected with the college. Mar-



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

ried for 25 years, the Hoffmans have four sons, including Corey Hoffman '16. Even now, Steve remains a fixture at home football games as a broadcaster, providing live-stream commentary.

The Hoffmans represent a unique duality of the Wabash experience. Steve goes out, traveling the country to keep alumni involvement strong and the endowment growing. Dawn looks inward, managing the daily logistics that allow professors to teach and international students to attend. At the end of the day, their motivation remains their love of the College and its students.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

## Braiden Foster: Capturing the action



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Brody Frey '26 (left) and Braiden Foster '26 (right) cheer on their fraternity brothers at the 2026 intramural basketball championship.**

### JERRION ROSE '29 STAFF WRITER

Few things are more desirable than having the opportunity to work from within one's dream industry. During his time at Wabash, Braiden Foster '26 was able to do just that. He is a rhetoric and German double major with a minor in film and digital media. He is also a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Originally from Batesville, Indiana, Foster has always been involved in athletics. While in high school he played three years of varsity football and basketball and one year of varsity baseball. As a kicker for the Batesville Bulldogs, Foster scored 100 career kicking points to rank third in all-time school history.

"I was a kicker and my goal when I came to college was to score," said Foster. "I ended up getting in a varsity game and scoring, so I was super

of Wabash football and recruiting students. Foster also worked for the Wabash Video Network as a camera operator and transitioned into graphics and replay directing. After doing camera work for the Independent Sports Companies network, he landed a position with the Pacers Sports and Entertainment, the Indianapolis-based organization that manages the NBA Indiana Pacers, the WNBA Indiana Fever and the Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

"It was definitely hard at first," said Foster. "Seeing Tyreese Haliburton up close and being able to say 'What's up' is cool, but I learned to build a professional working relationship."

Foster's biggest takeaway from his time working at the professional level is to appreciate every moment. He understands that everyone will not have the opportunity to work their



PHOTO BY BRAIDEN FOSTER '26

**Foster's photo, pictured above, earned him a 2nd place finish for DIII sports photo at the 2026 Indiana Collegiate Press Association Awards.**

happy about that."

Coming into Wabash, Foster played football during his freshman and sophomore years as a kicker. After finishing his sophomore year he decided it was time to start his career search. Based on the evaluation of his position on the football team, he chose to focus on the social media presence and recruitment aspects of the football team. He's always had a passion for capturing sports moments and testing the limits of cameras, dedicating his interest to learning how to recreate professional work.

"Braiden was in charge of all football photography, video creation and social media," said Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98. "We used Braiden extensively in recruiting and he was great at working against deadlines."

Foster turned out to be more effective in the social media and management roles as he created new media graphics and helped recruit three classes. He enjoyed showcasing the underrepresented features

dream job, and is therefore grateful for the opportunities he has. Being on the photography side of the field allows him to experience games first-hand.

Capturing the right moment is crucial to the athletics industry, and Foster is committed to displaying the talents he records. What stood out to him about his role is involvement on the team. While he may not actively play on the field he feels like he has always been an important piece of the team. He is thankful to Wabash for helping him learn to be himself and empowering him to display his talent.

After he graduates, Foster is hoping to work for another large sports corporation. On top of his sports aspirations, Foster has been accepted into the Fulbright program in Germany, where he will teach English. Braiden Foster would like to shout out his parents, his brother and everyone he's gotten to know that have helped shape his perspective of the world.

# Two talented campus leaders to speak at the 2026 commencement ceremony



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Quinn Sholar '26 (left) and Precious Ainabor '26 (right) pose at the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies. Both seniors have been chosen to commence the 2026 graduation ceremony.**

### JERRION ROSE '29 STAFF WRITER

On Saturday May 16 the Class of 2026 will receive their diploma after four years of determination. Commencement is a celebration because it signifies a turning point from one stage of life to the next. The word commencement literally means "to start." It represents the spirit of starting something new after four years at Wabash College. Commencement is one of the last times a group bounded by similar experiences such as professors, classmates and alumni will be gathered in one place.

"Commencement is a really wonderful celebratory event, a moment of transition," said Dean of the College Todd McDorman. "It's a great cap to the year and a celebration of the students, of passing generations and a time to both look back and forward".

The College selects the commencement speakers through an extensive process that involves the Dean of the College, Dean of



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Quinn Sholar '26 (right) was named to the 2025-2026 Associated Press All-American 2nd team in DIII football as an offensive tackle.**

Students and Division chairs.

"We look for a couple of people that we think, based on our knowledge of them, likely have a message to share," said Dean McDorman. "We don't necessarily know what that message is, but we know they have one"

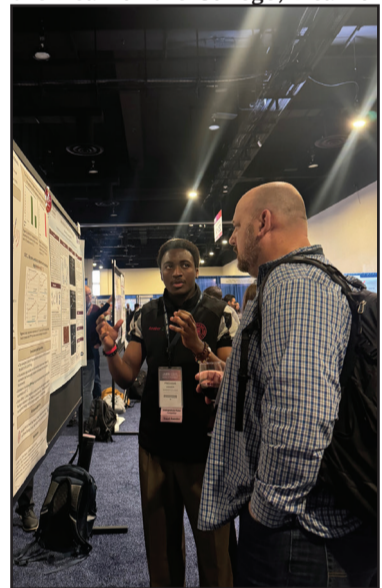
This year, the two speakers will be Precious Ainabor '26 and Quinn Sholar '26. Precious Ainabor is a biochemistry major with a minor in theater. Ainabor is from Auchi in Edo State, Nigeria, and plans to attend medical school while also training alongside global public health research, which will ideally lead him to his desired career path of becoming a general surgeon. Across campus, Ainabor is a brother of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies. He is also involved in the Global Health Initiative and Public Health Organization. He has also been the recipient of several awards and honors, including the Underwood Award, the Lloyd B. and Lone Howell Scholarship Award, and induction into the Hovey Honorary Chemical Society for excellence in Biochemistry and Chemistry coursework.

"I am excited to be bestowed with the honor of serving as a commencement speaker," said Ainabor. "Having attended every commencement since my freshman year, I understand the magnitude of this honor and the audience I will be speaking to."

Quinn Sholar was selected to speak because of his dedication to the college. Sholar is an Art major from Indianapolis, Indiana. He has a passion for marketing and advertisement, along with listening to music, lifting and sewing. His work in the classroom earned him the Dean's List and Art History Awards. On the other hand, in athletics he is an All-American athlete in both football and track and field.

"Quinn and Precious have excelled in all sorts of facets," said Dean McDorman. "They have been prominent student leaders."

Across their four years here at Wabash College, Sholar and Ainabor have worked immensely to achieve their goals and leave their mark. They look forward to sharing their gratitude and celebrating a new beginning.



COURTESY OF PRECIOUS AINABOR '26

**Precious Ainabor '26 (left) presents at a conference in Maryland over his research on protein engineering during last spring break.**

### Across

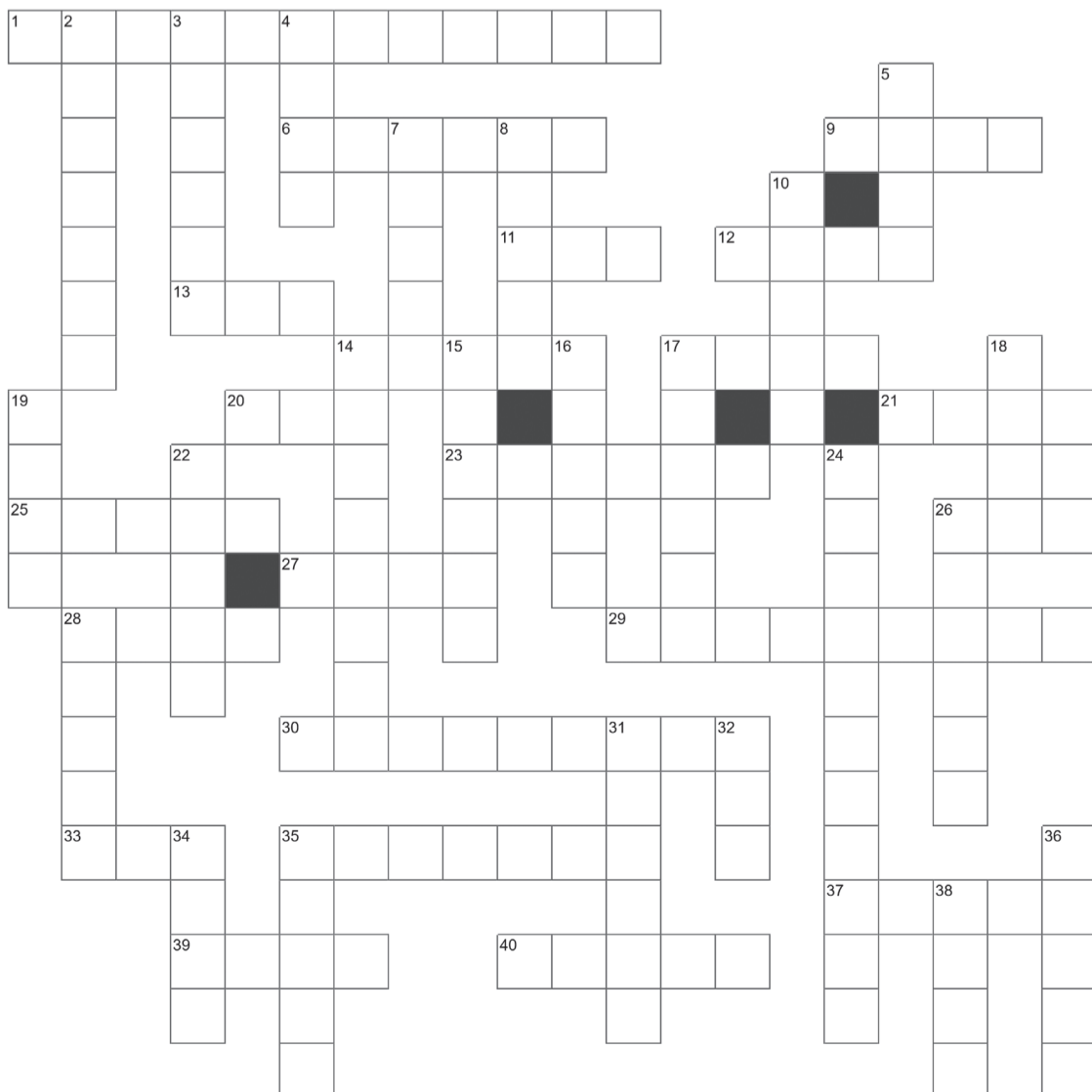
- Chicago music festival with diverse genres
- Budget-friendly festival on a Budapest island
- Genre celebrated at New Orleans festival
- Electronic Dance Music, popular at raves
- \_\_\_\_\_ & Roll
- Catchy music genre
- Rhythmic pulses in music
- Common shelter at music festival campsites
- City known for its 'Rock in \_\_\_\_\_' festival
- Genre with deep emotional expression
- Electronic music genre at a rave
- Soulful genre
- A musical performance
- Enthusiastic attendees at a music festival
- Acoustic genre, often at smaller festivals
- Legendary 1969 hippie music festival
- Popular desert music festival in California
- Performers who spin tracks
- Overnight stay option at many festivals
- Premier electronic music festival in Miami
- A performance at a festival
- Heavy music genre, often at rock festivals

### Down

- Describes many large music festivals
- List of performers at a festival
- Ticket for festival entry
- Common festival ground, like Grant \_\_\_\_\_
- Genre featured at Primavera Sound and Outside Lands
- A planned public gathering, like a festival
- Auditory experience at a music festival
- Tennessee's major multi-genre music festival
- Performer on a festival lineup
- Area for performers at a music festival
- Detroit-rooted electronic music genre
- Japanese rock festival, \_\_\_\_\_ Rock
- Atmosphere at a music festival
- Street in Memphis with a music festival
- Iconic English festival at Worthy Farm
- Rhythmic feel at a music festival
- Grassy area for festival attendees
- Visual effects at a festival show
- A performer or group in a festival lineup
- Austin's interactive media and music event
- Large gathering at a festival performance
- Common activity at music festivals
- Series of performances, going on \_\_\_\_\_

# 'Festivals'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26



Scan for answers!



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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.

Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. The *Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

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

*The Bachelor* reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution. Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

*The Bachelor* is printed every Thursday at the Purdue Exponent in West Lafayette. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College. All advertising published in the *Bachelor* is subject to an established rate card. *The Bachelor* reserves the right to deny requests for publication of advertisements. Student organizations of Wabash College may purchase advertisements at half the listed rate.

*The Bachelor* is a member of the Hoosier State and Indiana Collegiate Press Associations (HSPA and ICPA).

## Staff editorial: Senior farewell

As commencement creeps closer, I have spent many hours reflecting on gratitude. I am grateful for innumerable aspects of Wabash, yet I think one object of my gratitude that may be the most encapsulating is the Gentleman's Rule. It is an imperfect institution, yet one that I endorse wholeheartedly.

The tricky thing about the Gentleman's Rule is that it is frequently broken. I would go so far as to say that it's broken more often than we would like to admit. We've all seen it, we've all done it. But the good news is that neither the Gentleman's Rule nor Wabash expects you to be perfect. We are bound to make mistakes, and we are bound to fall down. The Gentleman's Rule was designed for this. The important thing is not that we are perfect gentlemen, it's that we take being a gentleman and responsible citizen seriously.

Even though I sing its praises, the Gentleman's Rule is not perfect either. There are instances where bad behavior slips through the cracks, and it's frustrating when we see it. That risk never goes away. But a wise man once told me that if the goal of Wabash College was to have zero risk, it wouldn't be a place inhabited primarily by men ages 18-22.

My point is that if perfection is the expectation we hold, we are bound to be disappointed. Our institutions aren't perfect, our leaders aren't perfect, our buildings aren't perfect and our food certainly isn't perfect. However, it would be hypocritical of us to expect perfection from an institution that does not expect it of us.

We can love Wabash while still recognizing the ways it can be improved. In fact, one of the best ways to love Wabash is to go out there and change those things that are within our power to change. But the temptation to sit around and do nothing but complain is strong. I urge you to resist it.

Humans generally tend to focus on bad experiences over good ones, this is what psychologists call negativity bias. As with all bias though, we can resist it by stepping outside of ourselves and trying to think of the big picture.

I'm confident that all of us woke up this morning in buildings that have air conditioning and running water. That alone is a privilege that billions of people throughout human history have lacked, even today. We have access to so many relationships, opportunities and experiences here that enrich and empower us. We all have real struggles, I don't want to discount that at all. But I would encourage you to put things in perspective, and never forget how much of a privilege it is to attend Wabash College. Being a Wabash Man has been one of the greatest blessings in my life, and I will always be grateful.

**Best, Nathan Ellenberger '26**

A year ago I was taking the reins of Opinion Editor from Preston Reynolds '25, and I struggled with Adobe Indesign, our software. But here I am laying out *The Bachelor* without that struggle after tinkering for months. When I joined the staff, it was to hangout with my friend Nathan Ellenberger '26, yet as I found out as an editor, just like my other roles at Wabash, the lessons we learn are not the ones we are after.

As I began my tenure, I discovered the bane of an opinion editor's existence: getting opinions. It's not that bad (I thank the Wabash community for keeping the opinion section full), but asking someone for an opinion for the first time was awkward. So to tame my anxiety, I began writing opinions almost every week to be safe. I asked tons of

people to write. The consistent hurdle for writers, besides being busy, was a fear of their writing being criticized. It was a fear I could relate to, but as a creative writer, my writing's been torn to shreds in workshops. Writing excites me as an opportunity to understand how I feel and think. The writing process can approach the spiritual as writers grapple with nuanced sides of the human condition. This is an experience I don't just want for myself: I want it for everyone, especially my Wabash brothers.

So as I graduate from Wabash, I encourage the Wabash community to write and revise more than ever before. Don't just do it for the next opinion editor, Paul Hawksworth '28, do it for yourself. You never know how your words will resonate. A poem I wrote and ran in *The Bachelor* generated conversations with friends and faculty across campus. I joined *The Bachelor* editing staff on a whim, and I discovered much more than the fun I was after. I put my own twist on the opinion section with the "Poetry from Wallies" addition, reconnected with alumni and wrote all the time. Just as Wabash pushes you to put yourself out there, put your writing out there — you'll never know what you'll find until you try.

**Warmly, Evan Bone '26**

I have written many goodbyes this week, but this one is definitely one of the hardest. On April 23, 2025, I remember stumbling down to *The Bachelor* office for the first time ever and meeting James "Jimbo" Wallace '26. Jimbo kindly asked me if I wanted to be the interim Sports Editor in the fall while Ty Murphy '27 was studying abroad. I have to be completely honest and say that I was hesitant because I heard about the time commitment that was required. By the summer, I told Jimbo that I would do it, and I can confidently say I do not regret my decision and that it was one of the best decisions of my Wabash career.

As I've been thinking about what I would want to say as my parting advice, I really don't want to give the corny quote saying, "Write for *The Bachelor*!" Instead, I want to talk about regrets. In a couple of weeks, I will hopefully — God-willing — cross a stage, receive my diploma from President Feller and graduate from this prestigious institution. That thought, however, has made me think about the things I have and have not done in my time here, and I have to say that the things that I have not done do haunt me.

I regret not joining the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies. I regret not being a part of the Theater department's plays and productions earlier. I regret not going to as many campus events. I regret not frequently hanging out with my brothers that are in fraternities. I regret not using the Counseling Center as much as I should have. And yes...I regret not becoming more involved with *The Bachelor* earlier.

While there are plenty of things I do not regret — like coming out as a gay man my freshman year, taking an immersion course to Scotland my junior year and stepping away from the golf team the second semester of my senior year — I have to say that Wabash is a place that offers you so many opportunities. Take advantage of those opportunities. Please don't make the same mistakes as me. Don't regret anything by the time you walk across that stage at commencement. Be active on campus. Be active in your brothers' lives. Be an active Wabash man.

**Thank you, Wabash, Sean Bledsoe '26**

## HI-FIVES

### FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

#### BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES

*Hi-Five to current De\*\*\*\* head baseball coach and former Wabash assistant baseball coach Jordan Niespodziany for shutting down the Danny student section yelling slurs at Wabash players during the rivalry matchup. His time in the scarlet and white showed him how to be better than the dannies, even if he is one now.*

#### RESTING PLACES

*Hi-Five to former Wabash employee Nick Kashon, whose charity Y22 donated mental health benches to campus. You are making a difference.*

#### "BANG! BANG!"

*Lo-Five to Klay Thompson for reportedly cheating on Megan Thee Stallion. First she was shot by Torey Lanez, then cheated on by Thompson. Apparently, she has a thing for shooters.*

#### RETIRING THE LICENSE

*Hi-Five to Rylan Hendricks '26 on his final drive in the campus shuttle. GOAT.*

#### "GIVE ME YOUR ILLITERATE MASSES"

*Hi-Five to The Bachelor's senior staff members for graduating. You probably spent more time reading freshmen's writing than anything for your classes.*

## The Gentleman's Rule turns 80!



Marc Welch '99

Associate Dean of Students

Reply to this opinion at welchm@wabash.edu

We all know that Wabash College is an institution steeped in tradition. The traditions that bind generations of Wabash men and our entire community often include Homecoming, Chapel Sing, Ringing In, Monon Bell, Midnight Munch, Pan-Hel and Comprehensive Exams. Beyond these specific events, some daily actions (or rather inaction) symbolize the ways in which we honor and carry on traditions: not walking on the College seal, not walking under the arch or not stepping on the W.

Behind these traditions is a backdrop of academic rigor and a community of care as defined and supported by The Gentleman's Rule.

In its simple yet sometimes ambiguous form, The Gentleman's Rule reads: "The student is expected to conduct himself at all times, both on and off campus, as a gentleman and a responsible citizen." When talking about the Gentleman's Rule, we often describe what it is not: a rulebook, a handbook or a checklist. We often highlight that it is about the balance between freedom and responsibility.

Balancing such freedom and responsibility is a continuous, ongoing process that transcends generations of Wabash men. It's an ongoing conversation with oneself, each other and an entire community (not just students) fostering accountability for oneself and each other. While Wabash prides itself on being diverse in many ways, we also take pride in a student body that can self-govern and mostly agree on what

is right and what is wrong. Some absolutes remain static across all generations while each generation also defines what it means to be a gentleman within the social context of their time. National regulations around Title IX and the Stop Campus Hazing Act (SCHA) in no way have replaced The Gentleman's Rule. In many ways, The Gentleman's Rule actually calls our students to a higher level of behavior and accountability giving the College more discretion to educate, be accountable and discipline as appropriate — especially when rigid rules and regulations fall short of desired intentions and behavior.

As we begin summer break, we also begin planning for the 2026-27 academic year that commemorates 80 years of The Gentleman's Rule. Milestones invite celebration, but also reflection and conversation about the present and future. During these summer months, I invite you to share with me any notable stories or experiences with The Gentleman's Rule, either from your student days or as

an alumnus. I also welcome suggestions on how we should celebrate and honor our esteemed student code of conduct. More articles like this in *The Bachelor*? Gentleman's Rule swag? (We had some in the 90s!) Luncheon talks? Guest speakers? This invitation to share is extended to all faculty, staff and friends of the College. I hope that all of you will help us celebrate the rule, ask, and answer, "What does it mean to be a gentleman in 2026 as we enter into our third century? How does it speak to belonging, brotherhood, leadership, and community? How does a sentence written decades ago continue to resonate with students today?"

My hope is that these questions and others will be answered by the entire Wabash Community — not just the Dean of Students Office. The rule has endured because it's woven within all of us. With that in mind, let's all decide how to celebrate it and strengthen it now and for future generations of Wabash men.

## Fan the flame



Elijah Wetzel '27

Editor-in-Chief

Reply to this opinion at ejwetzel27@wabash.edu

Chief during 2025, Sam Benedict '25 and James Wallace '26, rightfully received the recognition their hard work and leadership deserved. I'm also proud of *The Bachelor's* dedicated staff of writers, photographers and editors, who each week sacrifice hours of their own time to make the paper. We have fun, but it's hard work.

But my pride extends further. Above all, I'm proud of Wabash, and more specifically, the people at Wabash who make the news we cover. Athletes breaking records, seniors leading passionately, professors and staff nurturing relationships, poets and artists interpreting the world and so much more. It would be no use having a paper if there were no

stories, no narratives, no doing to write about.

Wabash is at its best when there is an atmosphere of striving, a vitality of action that animates students, teams, clubs, fraternities and the community at large. I've heard a lot of talk the past three years about how Wabash has lost a little life, some of its old spirit of vigor and dynamism. Perhaps, but perhaps not. Either way, it has felt to me at times that this is at least somewhat true. But this spring, I believe we've begun to rekindle that old spirit. The Chapel has looked a few people fatter. Our Opinion section has to push pieces to the next week when last year we barely had enough. To me, these and other things indicate that we

are trending in the right direction. That we are caring about our community, and not just about our own little sliver of it.

Wabash is a place for doers; we are a school of action. We must own that ethos and submit ourselves to it, inviting it to mold and motivate us to get out and live. When Wabash does that, when you do that, our stories write themselves. I want there to be so much happening at Wabash, so many people diligently cultivating their talents and dreams, that *The Bachelor* simply cannot write about it at all if we had three times the staff. That's a reality we can choose to bring into being, and next fall, I have all the faith that's exactly what we'll choose to do.

# The universal appeal of the dance floor



**Alex Arruza '26**  
Reply to this opinion at [ajarruza26@wabash.edu](mailto:ajarruza26@wabash.edu)

thing else felt amplified—the music, the movement and the connection between complete strangers.

The figures before me were dancing and throwing their hands up to the sound of an artist they didn't even know the name of before the main set began. As an aspiring DJ, this sight was seriously comforting and reassuring, acknowledging that there is beauty in making people dance regardless of your popularity. It was this realization that made it clear I had made a good decision that night. As fulfilling and cathartic as this environment already was, I felt a shift in my own life when the main act started. Frost Children are known for their distinct sound; a callback to early 2010s EDM with a sense of maximalist hyper-pop. After a few listens, you know a Frost Children track when you hear it. I had my expectations or predictions for what I might hear them play that night, but never in a million years could these expectations compare to what I heard. Never would I expect to release months of forgotten tensions within my body and let loose in a crowd jumping in perfect unison. It's this experience that fully convinced me to never take out my phone in a place like this, let alone a standard concert. Once you experience that level of presence and connection, it becomes obvious that phones dilute the moment rather than simply document it. It was that night that filled me with a desire to dance like no one was watching whenever I found the chance. As a life-long introvert, this was a huge accomplishment and revelation. If it can do that for me, I suspect it can do that for anyone. I have finally found the perfect method and manner of self-expression, something that you don't have to be good at or look good while doing.

I don't need scientific studies to explain the benefit of dance floors like this — the experience speaks for itself. I would rather keep this memory of mine as the only evidence I need to suggest that everyone experiences a phoneless dance floor. It isn't the type of thing that requires familiarity, talent or experience. Fellow introverts have asked me, "how do you not look stupid? I don't know how to dance." To that I say that maybe it isn't all that bad to look like a fool. You never know, maybe it's the one thing you're missing in your life: to stop taking yourself so seriously, stop trying to be nonchalant and to submit to the love and unity of strangers sharing a dance floor. After all, it's a lot harder to keep yourself from dancing than it is to simply let loose. And maybe that's exactly what makes the dance floor so powerful: it reminds us how to exist without holding anything back.

# Spend the month of May in Speedway



**Owen Vermeulen '28**  
News Editor  
Reply to this opinion at [ohvermeu28@wabash.edu](mailto:ohvermeu28@wabash.edu)

After the songs conclude, one of the coolest flyovers in sports signifies the commencement of three hours of straight hot blistering noise. Drivers getting the call to start their engines take off for their formation lap. The smell of hot rubber and gasoline fill the stands. Then all of the drivers come out of the northern short shoot, into turn four and towards the start line for the next 500 miles.

If I'm still being honest, I don't remember every lap or even most laps for that matter. I don't remember every daring overtake or brilliant defense. I only remember sharing cokes and frozen PB&Js with my brothers Jake and Griffin telling them what I was doing at school. I only remember asking my dad which driver won which year and him telling me every detail of the 1981 controversy of Bobby Unser winning over Mario Andretti. All the while, fitting our conversations in between the noise of cars racing by.

Some of the best memories of my life have come from the month of May. The Indy 500 isn't just a race, it's a collection of traditions. Each time you go, you make new connections. You make connections with your family, the yellow shirts at the gates, the mechanics working on the cars and even the drivers.

As life does what it does best and brings change, I no longer get to see my brothers and parents everyday. As my brothers start their new lives, getting married and starting the dreaded grown up job, and I begin to discover who I want to be in my life, I find myself cherishing the month of May even more. It's an opportunity to do what we all want to do. Go home.

Every year, for one month, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway breeds thousands of new traditions: New ways for people to connect and go home. So, I encourage you, even if it's only for practice, qualifying or the race itself, find someone to share the experience with and start a new tradition.

As an avid concert and live music enthusiast, one image is seared into my mind's eye: the stark contrasting light of cell phones illuminating what would otherwise be a dark space filled with the occasional laser or spotlight. As a member of a generation raised with incredibly accessible technology, I find the desire to film immersive experiences, like concerts, hard to rationalize. Is it truly worth recording videos that you will look back on once or twice in your life? Is this the 'future nostalgia' that ultimately distances us from the present? As underqualified as I am to make accurate generalizations about my generation, I use my own experiences as direct evidence to a trend of cell phone use during concerts. This trend marks a less obvious shift in the culture surrounding not only dance, but live music altogether. This is a shift from unspoken unity among strangers to stepping outside of the moment, only jumping back in when convenient. It actively weakens one of the few remaining spaces where strangers can connect without distraction.

I think back to what I now call one of, if not the best night of my life. A small underground club in Chicago hosted an electronic duo called Frost Children on November 6, 2025. I decided to bite the bullet and buy a ticket as an early birthday gift to myself, knowing that none of my buddies would want to take a Thursday night to drive to Chicago for a group they had never heard of. From the very beginning, while waiting in line on a busy Addison Street in downtown Chicago, I noticed that the people around me weren't here for the perfect picture or video. Instead, these strangers were here simply to exist. I found myself caught in several conversations with people who had come from all over the country for a single DJ set. Once I made my way down two flights of stairs, I entered a dark and ambient club with two main rooms, complete with a full bar in each. I was welcomed by the sound of reverberating kick drums and a deep, chest rumbling bass. But what hit me harder than any vibration in the venue was the lack of phones: I couldn't spot even one. And it was in that absence that every-

It's the month of May, and as someone who has been going to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway since I can remember, I can't help but get excited. Because with the month of May comes the greatest spectacle in racing — The Indianapolis 500.

My first time ever going to the Indianapolis 500, I was nine years old. It was 2016 and the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500. Alexander Rossi, a 24-year-old rookie, stretched his fuel in order to bring his 98 NAPA Andretti car across the finish line to the win. I'd be lying if I told you that I remember everything from that day perfectly, because I don't. I can only tell you exactly how that day went because of the traditions my family has built over the years of going to the 500.

My dad, brothers and I spent the morning parking cars in a little parking lot a mile from the track. After we filled up the lot, we grabbed our coolers full of soda and peanut butter sandwiches and walked to that great palace speed. It stands as a church for those whose religion is speed and family.

When we get to our seats the opening ceremony is what greets us. One of the most remarkable things to me is that the loudest event I've ever been to starts in total silence, as fans hang onto every word of "God Bless America" and "Back Home Again In Indiana." 350,000 people in complete silence letting two simple songs wash over them with a wave of emotion.

## Poetry from Wallies



**Bennett Strain '26**  
Reply to this poem at [bcstrain26@wabash.edu](mailto:bcstrain26@wabash.edu)

### 'Citric Self-Reflection'

My life is being peeled away from me as my days in the dirt drag longer.  
I fell and flew  
and it shouldn't be a surprise to you  
that even now I'm still rolling.

I bounce and bruise  
against rocks that puncture my putrid skin.

Baring raw seeds, unripe flesh,  
and a softened core.

Excreting the sweet and sour juices  
that drool,

and pool,

and pervert.

Pick me and  
bargain a bite.



**Gabrien Smith '27**  
Reply to this poem at [gsmith27@wabash.edu](mailto:gsmith27@wabash.edu)

### 'Late Night Lyric 2'

Time of time of night  
ringdings the chapel bell & born  
the thin moon is. glamorous  
gaunt hydrangea bloom

glued over Orion  
nighting a patch of grass on I  
stare upup &  
moon caught my voice

moon is hole  
moon a skull of reflections  
of watereddown thinkings  
moodstabilizer moon

un do ing my words  
backwards flying bats.  
I haloed hollowed  
wishes of sunrise.

# The Arch isn't a magic portal



**Tobey Condon '26**  
Reply to this opinion at [tcondon26@wabash.edu](mailto:tcondon26@wabash.edu)

with coursework, or you're bored to death scrolling social media, it's probably time to find a productive middle ground. In lieu of waiting for the new Wally's, grab a pitcher at Stony's and chat about your paper, or work through a problem aloud while enjoying the sunshine.

Second, become comfortable with sacrifice. Our college is sustained by it — it's only through the altruism of previous generations that being a Wabash man still holds value. Therefore, we should share our time, treasure and talent with the hope that an education here means as much or more for the next man than it did for us. It doesn't have to be heroic — maybe it looks like attending the first meeting of a fledgling club, enduring a "rebuilding year" in a sport or fraternity or choosing to get your homework done the honest way instead of taking an easier path. However sacrifice presents itself, embrace it knowing that, at some point in the past, a member of the Wabash community sacrificed for you.

Wabash has provided for me in so many ways, and I hope it will continue to provide for others for a long time yet. But the Arch isn't a magic portal to success, and a college's reputation is gained by the drop and lost by the bucket. So buy in, find a way to mix work and fun and leave something behind for the next guy. You won't regret it.

With all the messaging about the power of a Wabash education, it can be easy to assume that the benefits — alumni networking, career opportunities, a liberal arts toolkit — are granted unconditionally, rather than earned through dedicated effort. It's entirely possible to spend four years and tens of thousands of dollars here and have little more to show for it than a Latin diploma. And that should scare you. It should shock you into action for the betterment of yourselves and your fellow students, making sure that every day on campus is one spent in the pursuit of everything you've been told a Wabash degree gives you and then some.

Beyond the common message of "stay engaged," I'll offer two strategies to turn this pursuit into reality. First, learn to combine Wabash's greatest strengths: our ability to work hard and play hard. If you're struggling

## Congratulations, Gavin Schippert '26 WCI Scholar-Athlete Award Winner



Stop by Our Hospitality Tent at the 500 Festival Mini Marathon on May 2

@wabashclubofindianapolis

## Baseball trades dominating performances with DePauw to split doubleheader

TY MURPHY '27  
STAFF WRITER

The baseball team had a busy week filled with highs and lows that included a record-tying performance against Franklin College, a fierce North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) rivalry doubleheader against DePauw University, two losses in Illinois and a dominant win against Hanover College.

The team entered the doubleheader against DePauw on Tuesday with a fire under them as they wanted to pick up where they left off after beating the Tigers in both games last season.

Right off the bat, the first game was not looking good for the Little Giants. Like many other games in the season, the team fell flat and the Tigers were able to dominate. By the fifth inning, the school down south had a 13-0 lead. Wabash finally broke through thanks to a two-run single from Will Fremion '27 that brought in Will Wallace '28 and Jimmy Hawksworth '28 to score, but it was not enough to get Wabash back in the game. Ultimately, the team lost 3-13, which officially ended the team's chances at making the NCAC tournament. Despite the frustrating outcome, the team refused to let it get to them as they refocused for the next game.

"We had a great mindset of flushing the first game and not letting one bad performance beat us," said Caleb Ellspermann '27. "Even though this season has not gone the way we wanted it to, we have been a resilient group. So many



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Will McKinzie '26 watches an at-bat from the dugout in a game against Eureka College on April 13 at Goodrich Ballpark.**



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Will Wallace '28 steps into the batter's box in a game against Eureka College on April 13 at Goodrich Ballpark.**

games have not gone our way, and it was energizing and fun to see the ball start to roll our way in the second game."

While the Tigers struck first in the second half of the doubleheader, Wabash refused to fold. After going down two runs early, Aidan Ramsey '29 hammered a home run in the third inning that sparked the comeback, and things kept rolling on from there. After taking a 4-2 lead, Wabash scored five runs in the sixth inning, three more in the seventh and capped off the win with a Kade Buecher '29 three-run home run in the ninth to close the game out with a 15-3 victory.

"We had good energy and senior leadership on Tuesday," said Ellspermann. "Dominant wins show that even in a tough season and when we know that we cannot make the tournament, we still won't back down because there are so many guys who take pride in wearing Wabash across their chest."

On Wednesday afternoon at Goodrich

Ballpark, the team hosted Franklin College, and the team had something to celebrate at the beginning of the game. With his relief appearance, Jackson Woehr '26 tied the school record for most career appearances at 58. The game looked to be all Wabash after the scarlet and white went up 9-1 in two innings, but Franklin answered back, cutting the Wabash lead down to 9-7 by the sixth inning. A DJ Mendez '28 run, however, sealed the game for the Little Giants with a 10-7 win.

The team dropped two nonconference games against the Milwaukee School of Engineering and North Central College on April 25 in Naperville, Illinois.

In the first game against the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Wabash got off to a slow offensive start. After a scoreless first inning, the Little Giants managed to take a 1-0 lead thanks to a Landen Basey '29 sacrifice fly that brought Bradley Gilliam '27 in to score, but the team struggled to find the barrel for the rest of the game as

they only recorded three hits. The Raiders took over with eight unanswered runs, allowing them to dominate the rest of the game. Wabash scored its second run in the fifth thanks to Ben Henke '26, but the squad could not get anything else going and lost 2-8.

In the second game against North Central, the Little Giants looked more promising. Behind strong performances from Fremion, Mendez and Wallace, Wabash gained a 5-4 entering the bottom of the eighth inning. The Cardinals, however, exploded for eight runs in the frame, which was enough to hand Wabash a 5-12 loss.

Finally, the Little Giants had a dominant game against Hanover College on April 23 at Goodrich Ballpark. Hawksworth became the standout performance going three-for-four at the plate with a home run to lead Wabash to a 15-0 win that ended via mercy rule in the seventh inning.

"Our focus as a group right now is on the little things and being fundamentally sound," said Henke.

The season has not gone how the team hoped it would as the wins have not piled up. As the Little Giants approach the end of their season, their focus is not on their record but on the little things that will make the team better. The squad will return to action on Saturday for their final NCAC doubleheader of the season against the College of Wooster. The first game is slated to start at 12 p.m. EST at Goodrich Ballpark.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Caleb Ellspermann '27 prepares to step up to the plate against Eureka College on April 13 at Goodrich Ballpark.**

## This week in sports

CARTER MCCALL '29  
STAFF WRITER  
SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

The track and field and golf teams both had their last competitions of the regular season before their respective conference championships this season, but the lacrosse and tennis teams wrapped up their seasons in the last week.

### Track and Field

The Wabash College track and field team wrapped up its final regular-season tune-up with a solid showing at the Olivet Nazarene Outdoor Open held at Olivet Nazarene University. Competing in a non-scoring meet against a mix of NCAA and NAIA programs, the Little Giants delivered multiple top-five finishes and several personal-best performances as they prepared to continue the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Outdoor Track and Field Championships after a successful showing in the multi-events over the weekend.

Leading the way for Wabash on Saturday at the Olivet Nazarene event were the hurdlers, who turned in some of the team's most impressive performances of the meet. Jack Huisden '28 and Alec Saidian '29 both tied for second place in the 110-meter hurdles finals, each crossing the line in 15.77 seconds. Saidian showed continued development by posting a career-best 15.67 in the preliminary heat before advancing to the finals while Huisden demonstrated consistency across both rounds.



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

**Colin Krekeler '27 tends the goal during Wabash's game against Ohio Wesleyan on April 22 at Fischer Field.**

In the 400-meter hurdles, Owen Smith '27 added another runner-up finish for the Little Giants, clocking a time of 57.37 seconds. Ben Thompson '29 also impressed in the same event, finishing fifth with a personal-best time of 58.78 seconds.

On the sprint side, Carter Leininger '28 delivered a strong fourth-place finish in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.99 seconds while Tanner Brooks '27 added depth in the event with an 11th-place finish.

Overall, Wabash recorded five top-five finishes at the meet, signaling positive momentum heading into the postseason. The Olivet Nazarene competition served as a crucial final opportunity for athletes to sharpen performances, hit qualifying marks and build confidence.

With the regular season now complete, the Little Giants turn their attention to the rest of the NCAC Championships on Saturday, where they will look to convert this late-season progress into another trophy being added to the display case.

### Lacrosse

The lacrosse team closed its 2026 season with a 7-16 NCAC road loss to Oberlin College on Saturday at Knowlton Stadium in Oberlin, Ohio. Despite a couple of pushes from the Little Giants, the Yeomen controlled possession and tempo throughout the game which helped them secure the win.

After quickly falling behind 0-2 in the opening minutes, Wabash responded thanks to a Jake Pippen '26 goal off an assist from Evan Bair '28 to make it 1-2. Oberlin then seized control with a five-goal run, but Bair added an unassisted goal to make it 2-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Oberlin then went on another five-goal run in between the second and third periods, giving it a commanding 12-3 lead. The lead proved to be insurmountable for Wabash as they only scored four goals in the second half.

Pippen led the offense with a hat trick, and one of those goals came off an extra-man finish thanks to an assist from Christian Dybedock '27. Will Sorg '27 also scored while Bair finished with a goal and two assists. Additional goals came from Luca Flaim '27 and Sam Santiago '26.

Goalie Colin Krekeler '27 played all 60 minutes and recorded 17 saves as Wabash faced steady pressure from an Oberlin attack.

The Little Giants finished the year 3-13 overall and 1-7 in conference play.

### Tennis

The tennis team had its season come to an end with a 0-5 loss to No. 29 DePauw University on April 24 in the quarterfinal



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

**Mason Pierle '28 watches his tee shot fly through the air on the 16th hole at Pebble Brook Golf Club on April 26 in Noblesville.**

round of the NCAC tournament at Denison University.

DePauw secured early momentum by taking the doubles point as the duo of Scott Anderson and Wils Warren defeated Vittorio Bona '27 and Cole Shifferly '26 6-4, and the pair of Paul Castleman and Will Hutchinson beat Murilo Guariniari '28 and Edmon Neto '29 6-2. Wabash earned its lone doubles win thanks to the team of Augusto Ghidini '26 and Rafael Ren '27, who beat Finley Buelte and William Cramer 7-5.

In singles play, DePauw quickly extended its lead. Rin was swiftly defeated in straight sets (1-6, 0-6), and Neto lost his match in two sets soon after (3-6, 2-6). Guariniari put up a strong fight in the opening set of his match and just barely lost 6-7 (4-7), but in the second set, he lost the momentum and lost 2-6. Guariniari's loss gave DePauw the winning point, sending Wabash home.

The tennis squad finished the season as the No. 49 team in the country according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association with an overall record of 14-11 and an NCAC record of 4-4.

### Golf

The golf team stayed in Indiana on Sunday as they played in the DePauw University Spring Clash at Pebble Brook Golf Club in Noblesville. The 36-hole single-day event proved to be a good measure of where the team was at as there were two NCAC opponents in the field. Wabash finished in fourth place out of 10 teams with a team score of 582 (22-over-par).

In the first round, Wabash got off to a

strong start with a handful of pars with a couple of birdies sprinkled in. Momentum was halted soon after, however, as the team made some bogeys and double bogeys that sent them down the leaderboard. After the team made the turn to the back nine, more bogeys filled up the scorecard. Only three birdies were made between the top five players on the back nine, hurting their chances of staying within striking distance of Denison University, the team sitting at the top of the leaderboard.

Mason Pierle '28 led the way for the Little Giants in the opening round, carding a career-best round of 69 (1-under-par). Leo Dellinger '29 was close behind with a round of 72. The last two counting scores for the first round came from Charlie Seaburg '29 and Finn Carteaux '29, who shot 75 and 76 respectively.

The start of the second round was a little slower compared to the first, but towards the end of the front nine, a flurry of birdies came through for the Little Giants, helping them close the first half of the second round in strong fashion. The team stalled on the back nine however, making plenty of pars and bogeys but only two birdies.

Dellinger posted the best score in the second round for the Little Giants with a round of 70. His 36-hole total score of 142 placed him sixth individually. Carteaux improved by four shots in the second round with a round of 72. Seaburg added a round of 74 while Pierle and Liam McAllister contributed rounds of 75.

The team will travel next to Warren, Ohio to play in the NCAC Championships from May 1-3.

# A look back on Jim Peeples' first year as Director of Athletics and Recreation

SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

During the summer of 2025, Jim Peeples received a call from Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin '03 informing him that the Director of Athletics and Recreation position was open at Wabash. Martin encouraged Peeples to apply for the job, and so he did. The rest is history. With Peeples at the helm of the 2025–26 athletic campaign, it's safe to say that the Wabash athletics atmosphere had a different and positive vibe.

When Peeples arrived on campus in the fall, he had no intentions of making any major goals or changes within the department. Instead, he wanted to put an emphasis on being observant and learning about Wabash and its athletics programs.

**"I've never seen an athletic director who is as enthusiastic about supporting athletes as Coach Peeples. He is the definition of what fighting means as a Little Giant."**

- Quinn Sholar '26

"I tried to come in here with a blank slate," said Peeples. "The first thing I did was meet with all of the head coaches to learn their expectations, their thoughts on where their team was at and what they thought their next step was. I am a firm believer that there are steps to becoming a championship program, and you can't skip steps."

Despite the exciting new job, the fall proved to be difficult for Peeples. While he navigated his new life in Crawfordsville, his wife was still back in Georgia near Piedmont University, where Peeples worked prior to Wabash. Thankfully, the coaches at Wabash understood his situation and gave him grace as he worked through the move.

As the fall months progressed, however,

more obstacles arose for Peeples. In September, Peeples received the news from Clark Tinder '20 that he was resigning from his position as Assistant Athletics Director of Operations to take a new job at fellow North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) school, Denison University. Tinder was a crucial part of making Wabash athletics a well-oiled machine, and he did a lot of jobs that many people took for granted. Peeples chose patience while he looked for a replacement because the position requires a lot of loyal service.

"In our roles as support staff members, we are here to serve," said Peeples. "Coaching today in college athletics, especially at the Division III level, is probably more challenging than ever before. So we have to come in and be able to serve the needs of the head coaches and assistant coaches of every program. I think it was critical to take our time and find the right person who could work with all of us that are in that support staff role."

Eventually, Peeples and the department found their man in Jack Crowley, who has fit into his role seamlessly.

The second problem was one that he knew about when he signed up for the job, but it loomed especially large as November neared. That problem was the Monon Bell Game. In his first year as athletic director, Peeples was the man in charge of running one of the most historic DIII football rivalries in the history of college football. The daunting task would be a challenge for any athletic director, but for someone who was in his first year, people could say that the job was too big. Peeples, however, tackled the issue head-on and leaned on his support staff to make the 131st Monon Bell Classic a step in the right direction for the integrity of both teams and their respective institutions.

"One thing that is interesting about hosting the Bell Game that I didn't anticipate was the relationship between the two institutions,"



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Jim Peeples joined the Wabash athletics staff after a very successful 10-year tenure at Piedmont University in Demorest, Georgia.

said Peeples. "I found it hard to believe that in our seniors' time here that they had never shaken hands with the DePauw team at the end of the game. I don't know how that was possible. I'm sure I'll be the most unpopular athletic director in Wabash history, but this idea of rushing the field is not right. I know that it was an unpopular decision, and that's okay. I'm never trying to win a popularity contest."

The move to deescalate the tensions around the game may not have been liked by many, but at the end of the day, Peeples, like many Wabash alumni, wanted to lower the temperature surrounding the penultimate rivalry game and did so this year.

The last major hurdle is still active. Allison Manwell-Huppert recently left her position as Associate Athletics Director of Internal Operations at Wabash for a new job at Denison University. With the candidate search under way, Peeples is extremely thankful for the way in which his staff has stepped up to the plate to handle the work Manwell-Huppert once did.

Despite all of these challenges, Peeples has continued to show up day in and day out for his student-athletes. His form of showing up is not just with an open office door, however. He has literally been to a sporting event for every single athletic team this year, and some of those games have been away games. He went to John Carroll University to watch the football team. He went down to Georgia to watch the baseball team take on Piedmont. He went to Wittenberg University to watch the NCAC Indoor Track and Field Championships. The list keeps on going, and his high attendance rate at Wabash athletic events has caught the attention of plenty of people.

"One of his biggest strengths is how much he cares about his student-athletes," said Brent Harris H'03, the Athletics and Campus Wellness Communications Director. "Find an event he hasn't gone to. He's everywhere. He knows the student-athletes, and the student-

athletes know him. It's a two-way street. To have a director of athletics with that as a skill set in their tool belt allows everything else to run extremely well. That's something he has shown since the moment he walked on campus."

One of the first people Peeples met on campus was football and track and field star, Quinn Sholar '26. Sholar praised Peeples for his efforts to show up for Wabash athletes.

"I've never seen an athletic director who is as enthusiastic about supporting athletes as Coach Peeples," said Sholar. "He is the definition of what fighting means as a Little Giant."

**"I am a firm believer that there are steps to becoming a championship program, and you can't skip steps."**

- Director of Athletics and Recreation Jim Peeples



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Peeples was a first-generation college graduate in his family. He received his bachelor's degree from Westminster College (PA) before earning his master's degree in Athletic Administration from Slippery Rock University.

## 2025–2026 Little Giants sports

*This athletic season had multiple school records smashed, Little Giants named as All-Americans and performances that demonstrated that Wabash Always Fights.*



PHOTOSPREAD BY WILL DUNCAN '27