

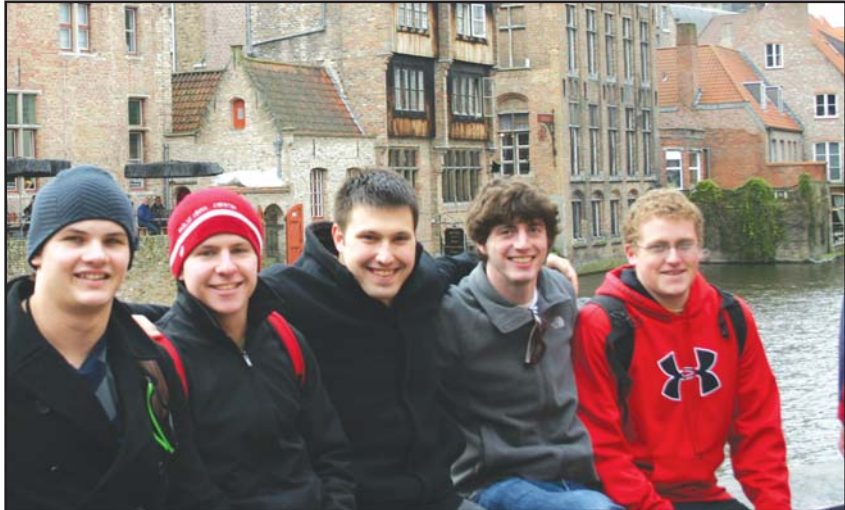


Honor Scholar



Weekend 2011

Immersion Trips Impact Students



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

REED HEPBURN '11
STAFF WRITER

The well-known and oft-lauded class excursions taken by Wallies every Thanksgiving break, Spring break, and after finals, are most commonly called “immersion trips.” To maximize learning and understanding of a subject, students surround themselves with the cultures, languages, or environments that are the subjects of their courses. While this phenomenon is assuredly the objective of many such course-related trips, this is not always the main function of these adventures.

This semester, four classes embarked on co-curricular journeys—Travel Writing went to the Virgin Islands, Econ and Politics of the EU went to Belgium and Germany, German 202 visited Vienna, Austria, and Invertebrate Biology explored the

Amazon rainforest in Peru. Every experience, regardless of its goal, seems to have made a striking impact on the students’ understanding and appreciation of their respective studies.

One class journey for which the name “immersion trip” does not quite fit was that of BKT Assistant Professor of English Eric Freeze’s class on travel writing. According to senior English major Luke Blakeslee, the destination of choice actually had little to do with the class’s coursework so far, because the readings had not focused on any particular geographical area or any one culture. Instead, the trip served as a rich source of inspiration on which to draw—a springboard to launch students into their own travel writing during the remainder of the course.

“Everyone took something different from it,” Blakeslee said, “and there are going to

See, **IMMERSION**, Page 3

Honor Scholars Arrive

JOSH SAMPSON '14
STAFF WRITER

Many Wabash men attending classes today went through the same process that hundreds of high school seniors will undertake this weekend. According to Marc Welch, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, over 400 high school seniors will attend the events this weekend in an effort to earn scholarships and learn more about the Wabash experience. Out of these freshmen, 100 will stay in dorms while over 300 will rely on the hospitality of various fraternities on campus.

Senior Assistant Director of Admissions Jaime Watson stated that this weekend is extremely important for prospective students because, aside from the scholarship opportunities, the events allow students to

get another look at Wabash life. The high school seniors will have a chance to form relationships with other prospective freshmen and current students and to ask lingering questions about campus life. For many, this weekend may be the point at which they are finally sold on the Wabash experience.

Watson praised the Wabash student body for its generosity and hospitality in past years, and encouraged it to keep up the great work. Watson commented that she does not know of any student body, especially one the size of Wabash, which could handle so many freshmen with the grace that Wabash exhibits year after year. Many students will fly in for the event which kicks off Thursday night with the Fine Arts Scholarship Event and which ends with improvisational comedy group performance on Saturday evening.

Baseball Stadium Awaits First Action

GABE WATSON '13
NEWS EDITOR

This Saturday the Wabash baseball team will christen the newly completed stadium on the southwest side of the Allen Center. The Little Giants will face Wilmington College in their first home game of the season. After spending almost a year under construction the field is now ready for its debut.

For the past 52 years baseball games have taken place in Mud Hollow Field, and plans to improve the outdoor athletic facilities have been in motion since preliminary drawings were made four years ago. Economic decline stunted the progress of these plans until recent fiscal improvements.

With Wabash’s first rate indoor facilities, the need for equally outstanding outdoor facilities became apparent.

See, **STADIUM**, Page 3



JUSTIN VASQUEZ | WABASH '14

This Saturday, the Little Giants will take on Wilmington College for the first game in their new stadium. Slightly behind schedule, the field and dugouts are functional.

Haidari's Uncommon Journey

TIM TAN '14
STAFF WRITER

Though the Gentleman’s Rule reminds all who attend Wabash to constantly aspire to greatness, few Wabash men have come so far as Ashraf Haidari '01. Certainly none can trace a path in life that remotely resembles Haidari’s: a path that took him from his life as a teenage street vendor to an international diplomat, from the besieged streets of Kabul, Afghanistan to the park-lined avenues of Washington, D.C.

Haidari was on campus recently to meet students and old friends and to lead a series of discussions on the current state of U.S.-Afghan relations. As Chargé d’affaires for the Afghan diplomatic mission to the United States, Haidari brought his expertise and lived experience to bear on a range of topics—from the pressing security concerns in Afghanistan to the problems inherent in governmental and non-governmental intervention to the responsibilities of global citizenship.

Growing up in Kabul, Haidari knew from an early age that the only way he could begin to make a way in life for him and his family was to get out. Back in 1993, the Hezb-e-Islami had begun a three-year campaign of Soviet resistance, shelling the city and prompting Haidari and his family to flee northwest to M a z a r - i - S h a r i f , Afghanistan’s fourth largest city.

He started learning English from an English-Persian Oxford Dictionary, committing its contents to memory. He would track down U.N. personnel and attempt to get them to converse with him in English, annoying them to the point where they had no option but to give him a job working for them. It was while he was working with the U.N. that a colleague put him in contact with Dr. Whitney Azoy, a cultural anthropologist at Lawrenceville School in New Jersey who had had one of his students, Waseel Azizi '95, graduate from Wabash.

While a great idea on paper, as a stateless person – the United States did not recognize Afghan citizens at that time – Haidari all but considered his college prospects a pipe dream. Deciding that hanging out in Pakistan would increase the likelihood of getting a visa, he left his family and

See, **HAIDARI**, Page 3

In This Issue:



Bon Appétit's Options
News, 2



Cook-on-Fashion
Cavellife, 6



Track Competes for NCAA Title
Sports, 7

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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 300 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.

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Announcements

Monday, March 21

John F. Charles
Lecture by David
Romano 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22

IT Services Tech Talk
Baxter Hall 114
12:10 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22

Student Senate
Meeting 7 p.m.
Goodrich Room

Thursday, March 24

Chapel Talk
Tom Campbell
11:10 a.m. Chapel

Friday, March 25

Wabash Stand Up
Comedy Show
Ball Theater 8 p.m.

Sustainable Practices: *Sparks Staff Caters to Students*

SAM BENNETT '14
STAFF WRITER

Those who dine in the Great Hall of the Sparks Center seldom get a chance to notice the inner workings of the Bon Appétit food service, but a lot happens behind the serving line frequented by students each day. Each week, managers, staff, and chefs create a menu, prepare fresh, local food from scratch before each meal, and complete many other tasks to ensure that Sparks' food is healthy and nutritious.

The workdays for many of Bon Appétit's employees begin rather early. "I get to work at 6 a.m. every morning, Monday through Friday and leave at 2 p.m.," Logan Kemp, one of the cooks most well known by the students, said. The shifts differ, however, as some employees work during

breakfast and lunch, while others work for the duration of dinner. Weekend shifts also differ.

As soon as they begin for the day, the staff maintains a frenetic pace. "Meals are continuously being prepped from the time we open until close. Our morning staff is prepping for lunch as breakfast is being served; production sheets incorporate dinner items that need pulled and prepped as lunch is being served; throw in four to six catering events per day, and this makes for a very busy kitchen," Mary Jo Arthur, General Manager of Bon Appétit explained.

The menus are composed in weekly increments—that is to say that the all of the meals that will be served for an entire week are decided at least one week prior to the actual serving of the meals. The Head Chef, Jordan Hall, and the Sous Chef, Jason Stacey, synthesize the menu themselves in a very uncommon manner. "Our kitchen principles incorporate a menu-writing style that allows for the creativity of the chef, seasonal availability, regional flavors, and guest preferences," Arthur said. "Uniquely, the menus are not written down or from a collection. We do rely on recipes, as needed, but the chef and his team have a vast knowledge of food preparation and the essential tools for creating each dish."

The food served comes from local farms. Bon Appétit's "Farm to Fork" program seeks to emphasize fresh and sustainable dietary options. "Much of our produce, eggs, pork, beef, and



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12

Bon Appétit staff members and chefs begin menu preparations at 6 a.m. and continue throughout the day. As breakfast service wraps up, preparations for lunch are just beginning. Menus are planned one week in advance.

dairy products come from within 150 miles of our account," Arthur explained.

Bon Appétit also works to respond to the needs of certain students who cannot consume certain foods or who require other dietary supplements. "Our goal is to meet the need of every student," Arthur said.

When eating at the Sparks Center, the customer is suited according to his individual needs and desired. Bon Appétit also allows menu suggestions. "We especially appreciate hearing from the students, even if it's just to talk about their personal preferences or menu suggestions. It takes the guesswork out of choosing what the students may or may not like. Menu suggestions are welcome any time," Arthur said.

The Bon Appétit staff is very community-oriented. Serving produce and food from local areas helps to support local farms and organizations by keeping the local farming community

thriving. But the Bon Appétit staff is also a community in and of itself. "It's a team effort. Without their help I would never have my stuff done on time," Kemp said.



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12

Bon Appétit's "Farm to Fork" initiative emphasizes using ingredients from local farms to emphasize freshness and sustainable practices.



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12

In addition to what is on the serving lines, Bon Appétit offers individualized menu options for students who need them.

CampServ. Springs Forward

SEAN HILDEBRAND '14
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, students dragged themselves to classes for the final stretch before summer vacation. Much of their energy seemed completely depleted, partially due to the fact that we all lost an hour of sleep from Daylight Savings on Saturday night. While the sleep-deprived student body appeared unprepared for the time change, the College was ready for it.



GRANT MCCLOSKEY | WABASH '12

Clocks around campus offer an inside look at Campus Services as time zones "spring forward" into the new season. Most clocks were changed in time for the resumption of classes on Monday as students returned from Spring Break.

We often overlook what happens behind the scenes of our daily lives. Probably very few students or professors consider who changes all the clocks around campus. It's the group we rarely see, the group that takes care of our campus when we aren't watching – Campus Services.

"It is not our responsibility to change every clock around campus, but we do take charge in making sure all the clocks are pushed forward," Director of Campus Services Dave Morgan said. "We change the clocks in the high, hard-to-reach places, in classrooms and hallways as well. Most professors change the clocks in their own offices, but other than that we take care of them."

If you take a walk around campus or wander through the academic buildings, you will see that almost all of the clocks are set at the right time (except the grandfather clock on the wall by the Registrar's Office, but that one is about six hours ahead of time anyway). Every clock in Lilly Library, Sparks Center, and even the clock in the kitchen of the MXI building are correct. Only a few clocks had yet to be switched: the four clocks in the weight room, the two clocks in Knowling Fieldhouse, and the prominent Milligan clock in the Arboretum took longer to be changed.

The clocks in the weight room and the Fieldhouse are tough to switch due to their hectic locations, but why hasn't the Milligan clock been changed yet? "The Milligan clock is actually regulated by the government," Morgan said. "Campus Services doesn't change that clock." This explains why it is still set back one hour, and why it took nearly two weeks for it to be set at the correct time last year.

The Milligan Clock may still be behind, but the



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Immersion

From Page 1

be some really great essays from this trip. I'm excited."

While the islands themselves filled the young authors' heads with salient images from which to write, the lectures and exercises throughout the week impressed upon students the necessity in travel writing of "getting past yourself," and focusing more on specific and powerful descriptions of place than a self-centered recap of experiences and sites visited. "It's hard work getting away from that," Blakeslee explained," stressing that this week was "not a paid vacation. It was nice that it was on a tropical island, but with lectures and required writing time, it was a really valuable experience for the particular subject of travel writing."

While Freeze's students tried to capture the essence of sea turtles and jaw-dropping tropical views, Assistant Professor of Biology and Biology Department Chair Eric Wetzel's Invertebrate Biology class investigated the invertebrate wildlife and ecosystems of the Peruvian rainforest. This journey similarly served not only to surround students with their objects of study, but to provide fodder for further discussion and inquiry during the remainder of its associated course. Junior Bio major Andrew Goodman said he was at first skeptical.

"How are we going to understand what's going on around us when we only have a loose, general understanding of these four phyla?" At the end of the trip, however, it was easy to see how their experiences would guide the rest of the class. "Now we have that mental image in our minds so we can resurrect those images when we discuss new concepts in class,"

Goodman explained. These images won't likely be hard to resurrect, either. "The diversity of invertebrates there is just ridiculous... You could focus on a one-inch unit of the jungle and find things going on there. One drop of water [examined under microscope] had on average twelve nematodes [a type of parasite] in it. It was just overwhelming. No matter what you look at, you'll never see everything that's going on. It's kind of humbling in a way."

On the other side of the pond, German students, led by Assistant Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures Greg Redding and Visiting Professor of Music Larry Bennett, immersed themselves in the German-speaking culture of Vienna, Austria. The class, which focused on German history and culture this semester, experienced art museums, opera performances and awe-inspiring architecture.

Freshman Zach Churney recalled their journey to the top of the famous Stefanskirche (St. Stefan's Church): "We climbed to the top of the tower (that was NOT easy) and got to see an awesome view of Vienna. I think I had one of those 'Whoa!' moments when I realized that I was standing in a church that was built almost 400 years before America was even founded," Churney said.

Of course, exposure to Austrian daily life and language was a huge part of the learning experience as well. "I think of myself as somewhat of a German fanatic, so I spoke [German] a lot. . . . On the first day I sat across from a woman on the train and began to speak to her in German. When I realized I that I was actually communicating with her, I was pumped," Churney said.

Not far away, Assistant Professor of Political Science Ethan Hollander and Associate Professor of Economics Peter Mikek introduced their two respective co-classes—Economics and Politics of the European Union—to two integral hubs of EU activity: The EU Capitol in Brussels, Belgium (specifically the European Council and the European Commission), and the Deutschbank and European Bank in Frankfurt, Germany.

Senior Rhetoric major Stephen Kleitsch found this to be a classic immersion trip, and a very enlightening one at that.

"We went in knowledgeable enough to ask pertinent questions, and engaged in discussions [with EU representatives] on real and important events within the European Union," Kleitsch said.

Central to these discussions both in Belgium and Germany was the subject of integration. Kleitsch talked to both EU insiders and civilians such as university students in Frankfurt. The politicians, not surprisingly, gave very diplomatic answers, making everything "family-friendly," according to Kleitsch, but the civilians he engaged, especially the German students, were "intellectual and cultural" as well as "honest and hospitable."

From this combination of first-hand official answers and informal, personal commentary, Kleitsch got a strong sense of the prevalent attitudes toward integration. While workers within the EU were more concerned with the perceived failure of economic integration of new EU member states and the risk of further economic damage if candidate states such as Turkey and Kosovo are admitted, students and other citizens focused on social aspects.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Students in Assistant Professor of Political Science and Associate Professor of Economics Peter Mikek's Economics of the European Union course visited Brussels, Belgium and Frankfurt Germany for a Spring Break immersion trip. One prong of the Challenge of Excellence campaign is aimed at providing funding for trips like this one.

"There is a lot of fear about trying to integrate Islam and Christianity," Kleitsch said, referring to the impending conflict if states like the aforementioned gained EU membership.

There is hope for European integration, however. Kleitsch cited Brussels as a successful example. "You could walk six blocks and hear Pakistani, Hindi, and Chinese as well as every major European language."

Based on the consensus view among EU insiders, Belgium's rel-

ative financial stability can be largely attributed to this integration.

"From a US perspective, integration should be easy, almost a non-issue. But there are educational differences, cultural differences, and language barriers, and this trip really highlighted those differences," Kleitsch said.

Whether highlighting, inspiring, overwhelming, or all of the above, the variety of effects on students these trips can have is as wide as the variety of their destinations.

Haidari

From Page 1

his job with the U.N.—a leap into the unknown that he knew would be risky. He eventually got his visa, albeit two weeks after classes started, with the help of people like Joan Kudlaty, then Assistant Director of Admissions at the College.

Looking back at his time at Wabash, Haidari credits Professor of Religion David Blix and Professor of Political Science Melissa Butler for being steadfast partners in his education. Having only a limited high school education, college-level work was at first a struggle for Haidari. Yet he persevered. He was the guy to go to if you wanted to unload your extra ESH hours – this was back in the day there was no cap on hours – and Haidari remembers how

he managed to balance the responsibilities of school and having to earn enough to be able to send money to his family.

Haidari was and still is not your typical Wabash son. From Crawfordsville, Indiana, Haidari went on to Geneva, and eventually to the reopened Afghan Embassy where he works today. In an article he wrote for the G20 summit last year, Haidari called for an emphasis on human security over an exclusive focus on physical security, if only because more deaths result from infant and maternal mortality than civilian combat casualties each year. At a reception before he left for Afghanistan for his next posting, Haidari reflected on the lessons he has picked up over the course of his diplomatic career. "I can be critical about everything and be asked to leave," Haidari said, "or I can pick my battles and remain able to make a difference."

Stadium

From Page 1

As Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Larry Griffith explained, "they just didn't match with the quality of the rest of the place."

The recent addition of turf in Byron P. Hollett Little Giant Stadium was the first of three phases to upgrade the outdoor facilities. The baseball field followed, with upgrades to the soccer fields in Mud Hollow to come.

While the new baseball stadium is slightly behind schedule, all functional aspects of the field and dugouts were completed ahead of schedule. The work has even remained under budget thanks to the donations of dedicated alumni. "Our goal is to raise all of the money that it costs to build these projects so it is all supported by gifts," Griffith said. "Alumni have been huge in the fundraising."

The features yet to be completed on the stadium include a viewing hill for fans. This will be a three-and-a-half foot wall with a grassy slope on which students can relax while they support the team.

This social area outside left field is to

replace what Griffith referred to as "the Lambda Chi experience." A comfortable atmosphere for students to grill out and enjoy themselves while being positive supporters of the baseball program.

Another unique feature of the stadium is the plaza behind the bleachers. The press box and restrooms will be located up above the up above the seats. The walk down to the stadium from the raised entrance creates an impressive visual aspect to the structure.

Also, traditional metal bleachers have been replaced by individual seats comparable to a professional ballpark. "These are really impressive features that are going to be different than what you'll find at most small colleges," Griffith said.

"Contractors are still working furiously on finishing the stands and plaza," he continued. The viewing hill still requires sod, which can probably not be laid until April and will need time to knit into the ground.

On budget and optimistic, the Wabash community looks forward to the completion of the baseball stadium and future progress to the soccer field in Mud Hollow.



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The baseball team is ready to head to bat, but contractors are still working to finish the new yet unnamed stadium's stands and plaza.

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A Weekend in the Wabash Life



Dear Prospective Students:

The *Bachelor* staff would like to welcome you and your parents to our college! This vibrant community serves as a home for its 850 men—each of whom, if you listen, will tell his own story of trials, triumphs and the memories in between.

Be warned, trials do exist—this is far from an easy school. Students cannot dodge their professors, neglect their readings, or squander their four years. A rigorous education is exactly that: rigorous. Forget aspirations of weekday partying and other such frivolities; if it isn't tied to some scholastic or extracurricular endeavor, students most likely forget it until the weekend. And as for the whole “no woman” thing, we'll be honest—no buses come around.

As the mission statement readily asserts, Wabash is an atypical liberal arts institution training men “to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.” During his tenure here, each student ponders the exact meaning of those terms and attempts, in his own way, to realize them.

As such, if one works hard and learns to persist, then triumphs do dot the horizon. The intimate classroom environment and collegial personal interaction serve as ade-

The Issue:

Honors Scholar Weekend 2011 is finally here!

Our Stance:

Prospects should take this time to discover Wabash and reflect on their upcoming decision.

quate preparation for the realities of the professional world. The social environment, while lacking the opposite sex mid-week, is remedied with a celebrity cast of professors and staff—many of whom engage in their student's lives on a daily basis (both inside and outside the classroom). Moreover, the Wabash name signifies a leg-up in the career world as many members of the class of 2011 have discovered over the last few months.

Consider these next few days as a busy and tiresome trial run. Your college decision will affect the rest of your life—your friends, family, and career. So take your time, enjoy it, and do the homework.

Buckle those bootstraps, boys, this is the place for men who will desire to work hard, sacrifice, and succeed. And once again, welcome to the 'Bash!

On Pres. Obama's Negligence

It has recently become difficult to be proud to be an American. Several tumultuous events have occurred in the last few weeks while the federal government continues to bury its head in the sand. Last weekend, as tens of thousands of Japanese were fighting for their lives after an 8.9 earthquake devastated their nation, our President remained noticeably absent after giving a generic “We're with you” statement. Worse than just being absent, Obama was caught golfing on Saturday afternoon.

As a Japanese nuclear reactor melted down and threatened a catastrophe of biblical proportions, CNN reported that Obama was otherwise engaged Saturday night, having a good time at Washington D.C.'s annual Grid-



TED PLUMMER '13
POLITICAL
COLUMNIST

iron Dinner. There is something quite shameful about watching our President attending a dress-up dinner, joking with journalists, as one of America's best allies struggles for life. This is embarrassing for Americans, as well as insulting to the Japanese. Obama should apologize for his brazen actions.

As the turmoil in Libya continues to escalate, Obama has yet to take any position of leader-

ship. It is none other than France— yes, France— that has filled the leadership void by proposing a no-fly zone over Libya. What is the President of the United States, the leader of the free world doing? The extent of Obama's involvement in the crisis in Libya was his approval of the UN no-fly zone over Libya. Obama called it an “important step,” and left it at that. Does Obama really believe that that is the extent of his obligations to the people of Libya while they continue to be pounded by Gaddafi's tanks? Instead of golfing, Obama should call a U.S. carrier battle group to enforce the no-fly zone, and to aid the Libyan rebels with supporting air strikes. Even these measures are minimal relative the United States' abilities, but they

are still much better than Obama's dithering.

It is shameful that, under Obama, America is becoming comfortable with following world events instead of shaping them. This recent trend is relieving Obama from making difficult decisions. Obama is shirking away from the presidential responsibilities that most of his predecessors embraced. Obama's actions, or lack thereof, signals America's weakness to the rest of the world. Contrary to what Obama may believe, this complacency does not appease America's enemies, it emboldens them.

It is embarrassing that America's president has chosen to balk on every major issue that has presented itself during his tenure. He refuses to accept any respon-

sibility for America's troubled economy. He refuses to commit himself to causes of Egypt, Libya or Japan. It seems that Obama will do nothing but the minimum in order to stay neutral on as many issues as he can to avoid upsetting any voters. But his negligence will do more than anything to disconcert American voters.

Just as many state Democrats are AWOL, President Obama has become AWOL as well. This laxity of duty should not be tolerated. Americans deserve vigilant leadership. Americans have long been proud of their place as “a shining city on a hill” as one great president put it. It is clear that during Obama's presidency, America will never live up that vision.

The Promise of Praxis: A NoLa Spring Break Reflection

TIM TAN '14
STAFF WRITER

“The mystery of life isn't a problem to solve, but a reality to experience.”
- Frank Herbert, *Dune*

I spent my first spring break Stateside in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the nation, working with a team of Wabash men and faculty on a service project in the Lower Ninth Ward of the city of New Orleans. We set out to work on a home that belonged to one Pastor Washington, a tireless community leader who had refused to let his house be worked on until the rest of his parish had roofs over their heads. Not only did he invite us into his neighborhood with open arms, we were fortunate enough to be treated to some of the Crescent City's finest jambalaya and fried chicken. It was truly inspiring to meet a man of his 84 years who was fully invested in his vision for his community. Where many in his position would understandably have chosen to look at how the rest of the country had turned their backs on them and given up hope, here he was, his responsibility to his parishioners undiminished by all that had happened to him and his loved ones.

One of the highlights of the trip was spending an evening with our local partners at Westside Christian, where we were put up, bonding over conversation and some great eats courtesy of our traveling chef Dr Warner. We then observed an Ash Wednesday service where we read a passage from Isaiah 58, a meditation on the true purpose of Lent. Far from being a season merely to fast and scrutinize our own salvation, we

were called upon to seek out injustice around us and to ‘break every yoke.’

It made me think that even as we try to study the etiologies of poverty in an economics class, or ponder the politics of social justice in a government class, there is still no substitute for the power of coming face to face with issues in society that seem to be discouraging and intractable. For if being liberally educated is to mean anything, it has to compel us to seek answers to these difficult questions by actually confronting them in person and in praxis. If faith without action is dead, so is knowledge without understanding.

The day before we left, I was at the front of the worksite when I saw a UPS truck roll by and wondered aloud, “Who gets deliveries here?”: unaware that I was reflecting my own limited idea of where this community was and buying into yet another socioeconomic stereotype. I bring this up not to imply that we should then be lulled into an uncritical optimism, but to emphasize how too often what we suffer is a lack of imagination and not resources. Certainly there is much to be done in the Lower Ninth Ward and other communities. From Katrina to Rita to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the people of New Orleans just can't seem to catch a break. Yet, though it may very well have been illusory, for a brief time this week there was a feeling that as a community they had finally turned a corner.

Looking back now upon the past week of service in New Orleans, all there remains to do is marvel at how far we have come, individually and as a team. I am grateful to the city of New Orleans and the residents of the Lower Ninth Ward for their generosity of spirit, for somehow managing to make us feel like kings but at the same time just like one of their own.

Wabash Expectations, Observations and Reflections

“Your professors are there to help you and *want* to see you succeed. Talk to them!”

Mark Osnowitz '12

“I underestimated how spirited the school is...there's a lot of genuine care for the College, and that's contagious too.”

Edward Evans '13

“This place is kicking my butt, so my expectations have been met.”

Trevor Young '14

“The things that surprised me are all things that I've appreciated—things like small class sizes and one-on-one attention.”

Greg Huey '12

“The weekends have gotten significantly better over the last year.”

Michael Mondovics '13

“I expected there would have been women on the weekends. Go figure.”

Ben Muensterman '12

Speak Up For Education



PROF. STEPHEN
WEBB, '83
GUEST
COLUMNIST

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Everyone who knows me knows that I am hard of hearing. It is a disability that gets no respect. Most people are quite willing to accommodate most disabilities. People will open a door or offer a hand to someone who is blind or in a wheelchair, for example, because disability usually elicits our sympathy. This is not true for the hard of hearing, however; they are simply annoying. The hearing-challenged have to lean in close to hear what someone is saying. They thus violate the other person's personal space! The hearing-challenged are always asking others to speak up. How intrusive! The hearing-challenged often speak loudly themselves. What loud mouths! Sound in general and human speech in particular are so much a part of who we are—such intimate expres-

sions of our personal identity—that nobody should mess with our sense of what the volume controls should be. The near-deaf are like your toddler cousins who come for a visit and end up pressing all the buttons on your audio system. If you can't yell at them, at least you can't wait for them to leave.

I cannot begin to tell you all of the insensitive, rude, and ignorant encounters I have had with people over my disability. One of the myths of deafness is that hearing aids should correct the problem, but they don't. Hearing aids are not like eye glasses, because hearing is not like seeing. There are so many environmental factors that go into hearing, and aids can only do so much. Most

turns out, is absolutely crucial for a good education, and it isn't happening. Studies estimate that about 15 percent of grade school children have some level of hearing loss, but more alarmingly, many studies document that even mild hearing challenges can have an adverse impact on learning. A Vanderbilt University study found that 37 percent of students with mild hearing loss failed at least one grade, compared to a 3 percent failure rate for students with normal hearing.

Not only does poor hearing lead to poor academic performance, but better amplification can elevate everyone's education. A three-year study of the impact of an amplification system in grade schools in Florida found that 96 percent of teachers reported significant improvement in the attentiveness and comprehension of their students. A Wisconsin school district that used a voice amplification system reported, in 2001, a 40-percent drop in the number of special education referrals. Indeed, some studies indicate that 70 percent of special education kids have significant hearing loss. Students who are not learning are frequently just not hearing.

Less research has been conducted on college-level students, but there is no reason to think that the results would be any different. The better you hear, the better you perform. Good acoustics are crucial for a good education.

What does this mean for Wabash? First, we need a sound audit. We need to know how good (or how bad) the acoustic conditions are in our classrooms. Second, we need better amplification in all large class-

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rooms.

Third, low speakers need to speak up—and not just for me, but for everybody. Most people with mild hearing loss just smile and pretend like they are hearing everything, even when they are not. We need to keep that in mind when we speak to each other. In fact, low speaking lowers the volume for everyone, because it makes everybody overly-conscious of the sounds of their own voices. It has the opposite effect of a low bet in poker. Low bets in poker often incite the other players to place their bet a bit higher. A low speaker in a discussion or conversation makes other speakers lower their voices, since they must become quiet just to hear the low speaker. Indeed, people have to bend toward the low speaker, which means they are not looking at each other. If low speakers would raise their voices even just a little bit, that would be an important first step toward making education more sound at Wabash College.

On Authorial Intent Racial Romeo/Juliet?

Before attending the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Romeo & Juliet* on March 5th, I never saw this classic Shakespeare play from a racial lens. I always imagined both the Montague and Capulet families as rich, privileged families in late medieval/Renaissance Verona, Italy, essentially leading to the conclusion that the families and all those around them were white.

Race wasn't the issue at the time; religious and local political struggles dominate the time period, and unlike *The Tempest*, the text of *Romeo & Juliet* gives very few hints as to the existence of a colonial mindset in Verona.

The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Romeo & Juliet* took Shakespeare's text, dormant of race considerations, and brought such considerations to the forefront of my mind. Every Capulet servant without lines were of dark complexion, modeled in dress after the most active household servant in the play, the Nurse of Juliet. Also, the most passive member of the Montague family in the play, Lady Montague, was also of dark complexion.

Two characters of dark complexion spoke many lines and served more prominent roles in the play: the Nurse, and the Prince. Yet each of these characters furthers the idea of As the most influential and visible non-Caucasian character, the Nurse furthered many stereotypes of those with dark complexion. She spoke with a strong and almost exaggerated Jamaican accent, and her role of the servant draws immediate comparisons to the role Jamaica played in the triangular slave trade in colonial times: a subjugated island nation used to base the shipment of African slaves to various locations in the Americas. This recognizable accent reaffirms the idea that the Nurse is ultimately powerless to convince Juliet to marry her suitor Paris.

On the contrary, the Prince is a modern man without a real accent; he is the law-enforcer without a lean to either family in speech, dress, or accent. He demands respect and is initially given that respect in the opening scene's Montague and Capulet fight. Yet this independent character is powerless to stop the bloodshed that leads to the play's truly tragic ending.

Various scenes gain meaning and dra-



KENNY FARRIS '12
ABROAD
COLUMNIST

matic extravagance through this racial lens, the most interesting of which is the dinner party at the Capulet house in Act I. An almost African ritualistic dance is substituted for waltzing or other Tudor-era "courtly" dances, clearly drawing out the sensuality of Juliet and the bodily desires of Romeo to the audience. In a wholly Caucasian context, such a dance would pose inaccuracies to the idea of an aristocratic medieval family. In a more diverse racial context, this dance can be rationalized as at least fitting.

With a self-described reputation as a company that believes in "taking risks and pushing boundaries", it is obvious that these casting choices by the Royal Shakespeare Company were anything but unconscious. It is not just textualism at issue but also a potentially racist undertone brought about through the casting.

This racial dimension to *Romeo & Juliet* brings up a fundamental question involving dramatic interpretation of Shakespeare's plays into the spotlight: should a production stay true to the text and historical context of a play, or do companies have a right as creative persons to extend the text beyond original intent? Such a question is tricky, as original intent is often a clouded question with clouded answers. Shakespeare completely rewrote the historical events in many of his history plays, and what evidence speaks of *Romeo & Juliet* as historical truth? On the flipside, the invoking of racial considerations should never be viewed lightly, as stereotyping by those highly-respected can undoubtedly have an impact on our subconscious views of race. For a performance worthy of the Queen's attendance, the company's reputation should be more conscious of this impact.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
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Lupe’s *Lasers* Beams Brightly

Fiasco’s follow-up features fantastic freestyle and choruses

JOEL BUSTAMANTE ‘11
CAVELIFE EDITOR

It seems that Wabash College has finally done National Act correctly.

Lupe Fiasco, the 29-year-old Chicago native with a knack for hip-hop, will arrive into the hallowed halls of Chadwick Court for what seems to be an already eagerly anticipated event

More importantly, however, Fiasco’s latest album dropped two weeks ago. Not only does he represent modern day relevancy, he is also coming off of a highly anticipated record release.

After several release delays and a fan petitioning for the album to see the light of day, Fiasco has finally released the cornerstone to the career he started nearly seven years ago.

With this in mind, his newest album, *Lasers*, is a little tricky. It tastes a little like Fiasco’s *Food & Liquor*, but infuses icy lyrics more in line with his previous effort, *The Cool*. The sporadic synchronization is still there, and the rise-to-arms equality mandate rings more powerfully than ever, but *Lasers* occasionally seems to shine on a dull surface.

Like practically all of his previous hits, Fiasco mixes melodic and memorable hooks amidst intensely soulful metaphors. Fiasco’s dependency on catchy hooks, however, proves to be this album’s downfall. Too often, his provocative paraphrases pirouette around a guest vocalist’s chiming chorus. It’s as if every track is supposed to be marketed towards radio play; this simply isn’t Fiasco’s style.

Most tracks, however, do erupt without a hitch. The lead single, “The Show Goes On,” heralds the return of the Fiasco we all know and love. A tastefully tweaked Modest Mouse sample becomes perfectly personalized, complete with the incredible wordplay Fiasco so constantly employs.

His powerful lyrics sometimes push towards the radical; “Words I Never Said” begins with, “I really think the war on terror is a bunch of bulls**t.” Of course, given Fiasco’s phenomenal tenure with wordplay, his true meaning remains slyly ambiguous. Other tracks go back to the more radio-friendly playability, such as “Out of My Head.” These tracks don’t lessen Fiasco’s message, but they do dampen the flow of the more “legitimate” songs. So too does “All Black Everything” push the barrier between pop and poetry, ultimately succeeding in the long run.

For Wabash, *Lasers* is more of a preview of the upcoming concert. Fiasco’s signature sounds are from samples, which may be a little tricky to pull off in a live situation. Those who remember the Three 6 Mafia debacle know what can happen when one of the members isn’t there.

This shouldn’t be as big of an issue for Fiasco, however, because the actual verses of the majority of his songs are



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIASCOFANS.ORG

Lupe Fiasco stands poised and prepared to perform at any time.

strictly sung by the man himself. Furthermore, the choruses are usually so prominent that the crowd should be able to back him up anyway.

Overall, Fiasco’s latest effort works well even with a few hiccups. The simply synthetic choruses are as smooth as ever, and the words wrestle with prominent topics in today’s hectic world. Obama, racism, war, and the ever-present task of just living all mesh into a musical matrix branded by the signature Fiasco flair.

Who knows, with any luck, Lupe Fiasco could be the “big break” Wabash College has been looking for.

Fiasco’s Fiery Album History

Food & Liquor
(2006)

Winner for “Best Urban Song” in 2008 for the single “Daydreamin’ feat. Jill Scott.” Features food as good and liquor as evil, setting the stage for future success.

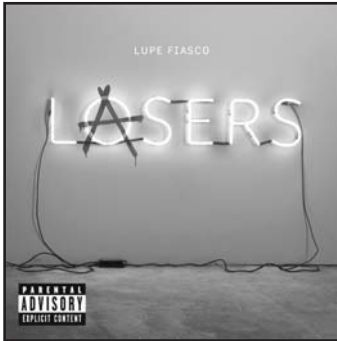


The Cool (2007)

The singer’s sophomore album brought four nominations for the 2009 Grammy Awards, including one for “Best Rap Album.”

Lasers (2011)

Fiasco’s third entry focuses primarily on the current state of modern inequality, occasionally going off on more pop-fused beats.



“Cook”-ing Up Character Clothing

The eccentric professor shares some styling tips

MICHAEL CARPER ‘13
CULTURE COLUMNIST

Because Dr. Cook is somewhat of a sartorial legend (or is circus a better word?), I had to take advantage of his presence on campus and maybe help him impart his wisdom to my small but hardy band of readers. If you would like to someday possess such a wardrobe, heed his words. However, first, a myth dispelled. He’s not color-blind.

1.) Like Dr. Cook, start early. Your mom’s bad decisions are a great place to start. Dr. Cook donned plaid pants in 1958, back when no one did. He received snide remarks. But, “since I was doomed to wear them, I could either figure out a way to enjoy it, or I could be miserable and cynical all my life.” This is an important exercise in confidence for all you beginners out there: ugly is relative, so unless you can wear something that’s ugly with the same pride as you would Ermenegildo Zegna, build your inner wardrobe first.

2.) Give your clothes meaning. “I just like wacky, colorful things, and for many many years, it’s been mostly a collection of things I get when I travel, and I like the idea of putting together strange things because when I wear them, they provide me with memories of things I’ve done. I’ve got a shirt of Kenya on today. I can remember buying these shoes in the market in Siena. I bought the socks in Paris, so I can relive my life when I get dressed.” You may not be able to connect your clothes to the numerous countries you’ve traveled in, but a perfect place to start are those roadtrips you take. I don’t mean the ugly ‘SB ’11’ t-shirts, but the genuine western wear you browse in a small town’s clothing store as you drive to the coast.”

3.) If you don’t care about clothes, don’t kid yourself. “I’ve got about, I don’t know, three or four hundred ties. We all have our excesses. I don’t have a fancy car. I haven’t remodeled my house in 25 years. We only have a certain amount of disposable income. But I do like collecting shirts and ties espe-



cially.” Spending a lifetime collecting clothes is not everyone’s cup of tea.

4.) If one wishes to follow the example of Dr. Cook, one must ignore the advice I would dispense, which is to slowly build up a wardrobe of timeless, quality menswear. “I go to fairly upscale men stores. And I might say, ‘there’s a tie I really like.’...But by and large, the really upscale places—I mean Brooks Brothers and stuff—doesn’t sell stuff that’s interesting to me. So you’ve got to find this sort of offbeat. . . . I’ve probably—and I’m not much of an online buyer—but probably I’ve bought in the last five years more things online than in the United States.” Sticking to a conservative palette of navy, red, and gray is not going to get you anywhere. If you really want to have fun while picking our your clothes, (and it’s possible, I swear,) you need to go big or go home.

5.) Begin with a single inspiration, and “build an outfit around that. Tomorrow is yellow shirt day.” Once you’ve established which ridiculous piece of clothing you’ll be wearing that day, it’s a matter of finding clothes that don’t “match” in the conventional sense, but aren’t so mind-numbingly

clashing that you can’t stand to look at your reflection.

6.) Dwell on eBay. You’re probably unable to buy socks from Paris in Paris, but that doesn’t mean you can’t buy socks from Paris. eBay allows you to not only cross that distance gap, but turns buying clothes into a skill, much like the finer skill of actual bargaining. “The number one rule of bargaining, after all, is you have to be willing not to buy it. . . . Every now and then you’ll see something and say, ‘I want that.’ And you’ve got to do a really good acting job, so the merchant doesn’t know how much you want it.” No matter how much you want that awesome shirt on eBay, as I covered in my previous articles, you must place some limits and maintain control.

7.) You might be uncomfortable with it, but to emulate Dr. Cook, you’ll need to dress more formally. “I once tried to seriously convince students that I was a conservative dresser. And this was my argument: you can divide things into form and content. And in content, I’m a wacky dresser, but in form, I’m a very conservative dresser...I always wear a tie, I always wear a dress

shirt, I always wear socks, and I always wear shoes or leather sandals, and I never wear sneakers to class...How many professors at Wabash wear ties to class every day? I think you can count them on one hand.”

8.) Rules about fashion are not only irrelevant; they don’t exist. “It’s not that I reject [the rules of fashion], it’s that I don’t even want to know them. I don’t want to feel like a rebel but I also don’t want to conform to them.” If you think stripes are fitting for three different clothing items, go for it. However, don’t throw clothes on willy-nilly. You need pride.

9.) Get rid of your jeans. Maybe. “I don’t like jeans of any kind. . . . Real jeans are work clothes. If I’m out in the garden that’s fine. But if I go someplace to church or wherever, I don’t want to wear work clothes, because I don’t think that’s appropriate. And if jeans have become a fashion statement, that strikes me as dumb. You know, why do I want to wear \$200 sexy, tight-fighting slightly interestingly-colored jeans. . . . I don’t get turning jeans into fashion. If you’re going to wear jeans, go dig a hole in the earth or something.” As you clear from your mind the image of Dr. Cook wearing sexy, tight-fighting jeans, reflect on the relationship between function and form. Whether something makes the jump from practical uniform to fashionable clothing is your judgment call, and don’t be afraid to be wrong.

This guide hasn’t been a practical manual for dressing like Dr. Cook, because his wardrobe can be ascertained fairly easily by keeping an eye out for purple or green pants with bright socks and sandals, strolling across the Mall. What this guide does do is give you some insight of the philosophy of the collector of such a wide range of clothing. But the one lesson you must remember is that your interest must be genuine.

“I dress for me, and not for anybody else. I dress to entertain me. And it makes me happy. And if it makes you happy, or if you just get uproarious laughter, that’s ok too.”

Little Giants at Nationals

Waterman's Near-Miss



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Less than a second separated sophomore Jake Waterman from a national title in the 800.

KYLE BENDER '12

STAFF WRITER

Jake Waterman '13 made history with his performance in the 800-meter run at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field National Championships on March 12.

The Noblesville, Ind. native became the first Wabash Track & Field athlete to earn two-time indoor All-America honors. In the event in which he finished sixth last year, Waterman led this year's race and was on pace to set a new Capital University Fieldhouse record.

Until the last 5 meters, Waterman was edged at the finish line by Amherst junior Ben Scheetz, who won the national title with a record time of 1:51.26. Waterman came in at 1:51.32.

"When I thought about it, it hit me that Jake is just a sophomore. Sometimes we forget that because he's already done so much in his career."

Track Coach Clyde Morgan

"I followed the strategy the coaches and I talked about," Waterman said. "I just got too cocky on the last lap and kind of squandered everything that led up to that last lap.

"It's the same lesson we were taught in middle school. You run through the line until the race is done. Sometimes you have to learn the same lessons over again until they really set in."

Waterman, a sophomore who has many races left in his career, looks to learn from the experience and continue to build upon an already unprecedented career at Wabash.

"I'm always careful what I say to athletes right after their races," Head Coach Clyde Morgan. "After Jake's race, I had to take some time to think about what to say. He was so close to being a national champion and it was obvious we were all disappointed with the result."

"When I thought about it, it hit me that Jake is just a sophomore. Sometimes we forget that because he's already done so much in his career. He has so much potential and is only getting better. This race might be only the tip of the iceberg for him, as the hunger and desire from his disappointment will carry him to the next level."

Assistant Coach Roger Busch, who coaches Waterman during the fall cross country season, echoed Morgan's thoughts.

"This will propel him to the next level in terms of building his desire to win and to continue to develop the concentration to perform at a very high level in Division III and possibly beyond that," Busch said. "I think Jake Waterman will only continue to get better and better."

As the Little Giants move outside and begin their second portion of the season this weekend with the J. Owen Huntsman Relays, they can rely on the efforts of Jake Waterman and others who will work to take Wabash to the 'Next Level.'

Rhoads Wrestles His Way to Eighth Place

SETH HENSLEY '14

STAFF WRITER

For the first time all season, Greg Rhoads was on his own when he traveled to the national championship in Lacrosse, Wis. No teammates? No problem.

Rhoads entered the National Championship with a record of 38-14 and didn't disappoint, finishing 8th overall in Nationals while also receiving All-American honors for 2010-2011 season.

"Coming into Nationals I wasn't expecting to win it all, although I wasn't ruling anything out either," Rhoads said.

Rhoads, to be crowned National Champion, would have needed to win 4 consecutive matches, however his 2 wins in nationals were good enough for a top 8 finish.

"My main goal was to come back with a trophy and to be on the podium. My top eight finish accomplished that for me," Rhoads said.

In Rhoads' first match he faced Mitch Artist from LaCrosse College. After a hard-fought first match Rhoads ended up just short of a victory. Advancing to the second match Rhoads won in dominating fashion by pinning his opponent. Using that same momentum from match two, Rhoads wrestled a returning All-American. Just like in match two, Rhoads defeated the returning All-American 10-4 in his third match. That third round win propelled Rhoads to a grueling fourth match, but he came up just short in a 6-2 loss. That loss dropped him to the 7-versus-8-seed match, in which he finished in 8th place.

The loss in the first match automatically took Rhoads out of the running for the National Title.

"I lost but I still had work to do," Rhoads said. "I still had the opportunity to

win more matches. That is what I set out to do."

Finishing 8th in Nationals is no small accomplishment. A finish like that is definitely a testament to a strong work ethic with the mentality of always fighting.

"I was physical the whole time and I was always looking for points. I also stuck to my game plan, which was trying to get the first takedown and then keeping the pedal to medal," Rhoads said.

In a National tournament there is very little room for error. An opponent will take advantage of and capitalize on any little mistake made. Knowing this, it was even more important for Rhoads to stick to the game plan and to always look for points.

It was not only the physicality and always-running motor that earned Rhoads his top 8 finish. His attitude and mental state helped him when it mattered most.

"The coaches told me to just get it done and not to be content with just being there, I needed not to hold anything back," Rhoads said. "They also kept reminding me to make the most of this opportunity because another chance at Nationals isn't guaranteed next year."

After a long and successful season Rhoads is resting up, he says, but only for a few days. There is not much of an offseason at all for this tireless Little giant. He has two thumb injuries and is obviously generally sore. Nevertheless, he wants to heal and get back to 100% health. If he doesn't need any surgery he will be back and wrestling in 2 weeks.

As for next year, Rhoads is looking to improve on his feet.

"Getting better on my feet will help me in my takedowns. That is important because so many matches are won or lost by one point and getting that takedown when you need it is huge," Rhoads said.

In hindsight Rhoads has no regrets and is eager to start working towards his 2011-2012 National Title charge.



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Junior Greg Rhoads took home All-America honors with his eighth-place finish.

Track and Field Captures NCAC Indoor Title

Little Giants end Ohio Wesleyan's three-year run atop the North Coast.

KYLE BENDER '12

STAFF WRITER

With only three events left in the North Coast Athletic Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships held March 4 and 5, Wabash led perennial favorite Ohio Wesleyan by just one point.

The two teams had already separated themselves from the rest of the competition and it was clear the conference champion would be decided between the two from the results of the 800-, 3000-, and the 4x400-meter relay races.



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '11

Sophomore Billy Rosson in the 55 meter hurdle finals.

"I told the guys all week that it was going to be like a 12-round heavyweight fight," Head Coach Clyde Morgan said. "The score went back and forth all day, but our guys were prepared. Everyone was relaxed and I grabbed the 4x400 team at the end and told them to stay loose and treat it like another race."

Sophomore Jake Waterman and junior Kevin McCarthy went 1-2 in the 800, despite McCarthy battling the flu all weekend. Then, senior Seth Einterz added another all-NCAC performance to his long line of accomplishments with a second place finish in the 3000-meter run.

The 4x400 relay team of John Haley, Chet Riddle, Jimmy Kervan, and Jake Waterman simply needed to finish the race in the upper pack to clinch the conference title. They did that and more, missing a conference title in the event by less than a half-second to finish second behind Ohio Wesleyan.

The end results found the Little Giants atop the NCAC standings for the first time since joining the conference in 1999. Wabash had twenty-three athletes collect all-conference honors and senior Matt Scheller was named the Most Outstanding Field Athlete. Scheller won the shot put and weight throw, resetting his own school record in the shot put.

"I've talked to this team throughout the season about being who they are," Morgan said. "We've lost some guys from last year's team. We addressed those issues. I told them you have to come together and believe in each other. This weekend we came together. NBU [Nothing Breaks Us] can get you through adversity. They did that this weekend."

With the conclusion of the indoor season, it would be easy for the Little Giants to take a few weeks off and celebrate their conference title. But with Morgan at the helm, who was also recognized as the NCAC Indoor Coach of the Year, complacency will never become an issue.

"Our team motto all season has been 'Next Level.' This seems even more appropriate after this win because now we have to learn to train and compete as champions and try to do it again outdoors."

"We're excited for the outdoor season because we have several guys joining the team from other sports and some of our athletes simply perform better outside. We are just going to worry about ourselves and get ready for the big



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sophomore John Haley was one of 23 All-NCAC performers.

meets; we don't get caught up worrying about other teams."

Even though the championship is two weeks old and the Little Giants are already focused on new goals, the third-year head coach couldn't help but reflect upon the pride he has in his team.

"In all my years of coaching, I've never had a team come together the way this one has, especially after going through so much," he said. "It was an awesome experience to be a part of and I'm excited for the rest of the season."

The outdoor season kicks off with the J. Owen Huntsman Relays on Mar. 16 at 10 a.m.

Tennis Takes To the Courts of Puerto Rico

RYAN LUTZ '13
STAFF WRITER

While most students were off in Florida and other spring break destinations, the tennis team took a training trip to Puerto Rico.

On Friday morning the tennis team headed to the airport to begin their trip to Puerto Rico. During this trip all the players and the coach lived in one house. They did everything together—cleaned dishes, washed clothes, and made meals.

“I’m a firm believer that our spring break trip is a huge team-building week and everyone staying in one house helped that a lot,” Coach Hutchison said.

Not only did the team live in the same house but they also competed against some premier teams on their trip. Our Little Giants were actually the only Division III team in the pool of teams competing together. Connecticut, Sacred Heart, Minnesota State Mankato and local university Mayaguez are the teams they played. Going against two Division I teams and two Division II teams prepared our Little Giants for the second half of the season.

In each match, however, the team competed to the best of their ability. The Sacred Heart match is a prime example.

“The guys were ready to compete. We lost 7-0 (playing DI scoring) but the scores were not indicative to how the guys played. Every match was close and we definitely

gave them a scare,” Hutchison said. “It is what you would call a good loss; we definitely learned from it.”

Heading into this trip the goal was never to knock off these Division I powers, it was to challenge the team and prepare them for the grind to the postseason.

The team did have a few surprises during this trip though, as they beat Minnesota State Mankato, 7-2.

“It was a good win for us and we got to play on courts that professionals have played on” Hutchison said.

When it came to playing UConn and Mayaguez, the outcome was a little different but the competitiveness was still there.

“They were very competitive matches and they were a great help in preparing us for Kenyon and Denison,” Hutchison said.

Also Peter Gunderman played his best match of the year, even in the loss.

Even though the win and loss column did not turn out favorable for the team, they came out of the trip a stronger and more unified team.

“The guys really got to know each other on a whole new level during this trip” Hutchison said. This is a good thing with the toughest part of their season starting soon. I definitely think we are ready to compete in our conference. Every game is going to be tight,” Hutchison said. “We have to come ready to play and fight to win Conference.”

The way the Little Giants competed during their spring break could be a positive sign as postseason play nears.

Beating a Division II team and staying competitive



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Coach Jason Hutchison and senior Ricky Ritter chat during a break in competition off a Puerto Rican coast this past week

with other Division I teams will get them ready for the post-season push and their shot at winning conference.

After returning to the states, the tennis team is back in action Friday. The Little Giants will travel to face Elmhurst before visiting Lake Forest on Saturday in a pair of regional matches.

Win Over DePauw Remedies Bad Week

BRANDAN ALFORD '12
SPORTS EDITOR

Exactly what the doctor ordered.

After limping through an eight-game spring break trip that resulted in an eight-game losing streak, the Wabash baseball team needed momentum, and needed it in a hurry.

With Wednesday’s matchup against arch-rival DePauw, the Little Giants had the chance to do just that in Greencastle.

After four one-run games went the wrong way in Los Angeles, the Little Giants (3-10) were able to exorcise those demons at least a little bit with a 7-5, come-from-behind victory over the Tigers on the road.

Coach Cory Stevens’ bunch had struggled in the field and at the dish throughout their west coast trip. Those offensive issues, particularly in the clutch, were remedied, if only for a day.

“This was a huge win for us since we are basically starting the second half of our season,” Stevens said. “We just finished what we consider to be our spring training with our trip to California. Now we come back and get a big win against a rival.”

After falling behind 5-2, the Little Giants began a methodical comeback capped by a two-run ninth inning. Sparked by sophomore Montana Timmons’ leadoff double, the rally was finished off by senior Tanner Coggins’ two-out RBI single which produced the game’s final run.

Starter Luke Zinsmaster lasted 3 1/3 innings in his first start of the season, allowing four earned runs on eight hits. But as has been a recurring theme early in the 2011 campaign, errors in the field did the Little Giant pitching staff no favors. For the game, Wabash committed four errors, three in the first inning when DePauw put two runs on the board.

However, after Nate Adams came on to finish off the fourth inning, three Wabash pitchers came on in relief to hold the Tigers hitless over the game’s final five innings, setting the stage for the exciting finish.

The Little Giants finished with ten hits, with Brian Lares and Joe Johnson collecting a pair of hits apiece.

Chris Widup (1-3) earned his first win of the season, coming on for two innings of relief. Junior Andrew Swart



COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sophomore Montana Timmons’ leadoff double in the ninth inning led to the game-winning run over DePauw on Wed.

closed out the ninth for the Little Giants, earning his first save of the season. Swart retired three of the four Tiger batters he faced in the ninth.

As Stevens intimated, this game begins the most integral portion of the season, with the conference slate quickly approaching.

On the heels of a difficult spring trip, there were still positives that Stevens took from his team’s time in California, including the performance of several freshmen.

“Nate Adams and J.T. Miller showed some promise on the mound in relief,” Stevens said. “Casey Shipley showed that he can be an asset in a few different ways.”

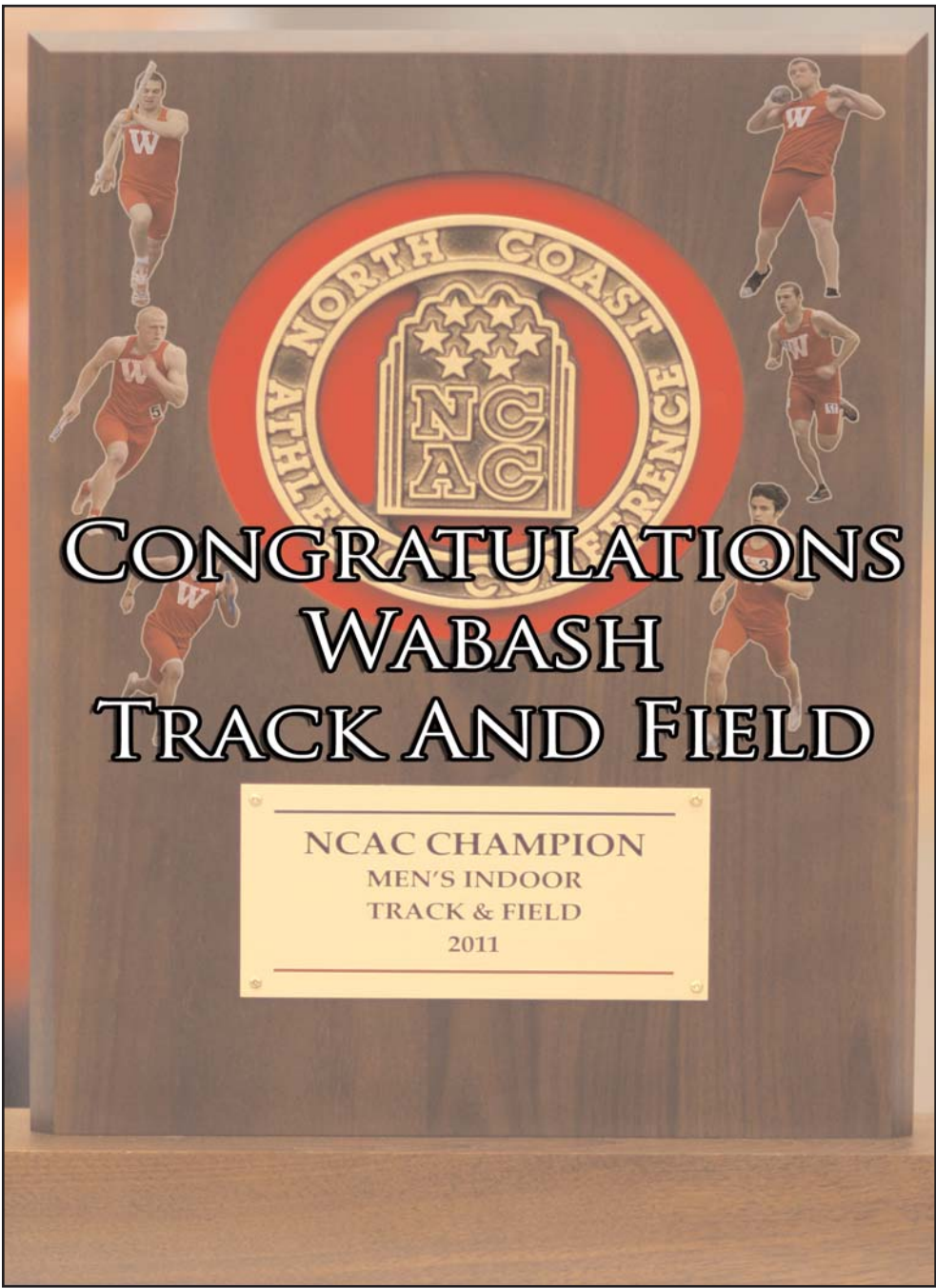


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