

THE BACHELOR

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908



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STUDENTS EXPLORE, ASK QUESTIONS ON FIRST IMMERSION TRIP TO CUBA

PATRICK BRYANT '16 | OPINION EDITOR • Over Thanksgiving Break, 14 Wabash students took part in the College's first immersion trip to Cuba, returning enthused to discuss the future of Cuba's political system and speculate based on their experiences.

The group was comprised of sophomore, junior, and senior students from a multitude of academic majors and was led by Assistant Professor of Political Science Ethan Hollander, Associate Professor of Spanish Dan Rogers, and the President's Chief of Staff, Jim Amidon '87.

The trip was comprised of two parts; the first three days were spent in Havana, Cuba, and the second portion was in Miami Beach, FL. Despite the geographical proximity of the two

locations, the conflicting perspectives of the native Cubans and Cuban-Americans led the students to ask challenging questions, examine the bias, and use instances of their own research to speculate on the communist country's current political climate.

"[They're] going to be following Cuba in the back of their head for a very long time," Rogers said. "And that's a really cool effect to have from an immersion trip."

Of the many themes discussed in the class's first meeting since the trip, a discussion on instances of racism in the country came to the forefront. Over the course of three days spent in Havana, the majority of the trip and the group's time were subjected

to a program set by a tour company operated by the Cuban government. The guide, William Burrowes, was a retired professor from the University of Havana.

The first night of the program was spent at the Plaza Hotel, built in 1909 and an example of the Spanish colonial architecture that can be found in Old Havana. The first day in Havana was devoted to exploring the two prongs of the cross-listed class on both the politics and culture of Cuba, now more than 50 years removed from the Cuban Revolution.

Students started the day with a talk on the history, current struggles, and policy changes of the Cuban economy with a retired university economics professor. With the same level of

curiosity, students had much to ask at a visit to the University of Havana, attempting to compare and contrast the academics, extracurricular, and trends between their higher-education institution and Wabash.

The afternoon was capped off with a visit to the U.S. Interests Section (a "light" version of a U.S. embassy for two countries that have no diplomatic relations), and providing a stark contrast to the night's event, a visit to a meeting of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. The CDR meetings that take place in Cuba are meant to be a neighborhood action committee of sorts, making sure

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

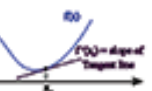
SPARKS RAPS ABOUT WABASH LIFE

Freshman Alex Sparks dropped a new song on Sound Cloud. It's titled "SO WABASH (Remix)." You can find it at the following link: soundcloud.com/alex-sparks-1/sparks-so-wabash-remix. Give it a listen, and if you think you can do better, maybe the College will see a rap-off in its future.



DERIVATIVE BEE CREATES MATH BUZZ

On Dec. 3, 63 calculus students participated in the Fall Derivative Bee. For those not fluent in DI language, a derivative is more or less a form of magic. After much spirited competition, winners emerged in three categories: MAT 010: Michael Herrmann, MAT 111: Dan Scofield & Logan Anglin, and in MAT 112: Zhipu Ye & Thanh Tran. The Math Club for fast work collecting and grading over 600 problems as they were completed. Look forward to the Integration Bee next semester.



SPHINX CLUB MAKES MARK IN COMMUNITY

As most students were on their way back to Wabash from Thanksgiving Break, a group of Sphinx Club members arrived early last Sunday to help marshal the annual Christmas Parade downtown. The event was a great success, and it is always great to have Wabash guys working with Crawfordsville citizens in the community.



WABASH CELEBRATED 180 ANNIVERSARY OF CLASSES

Wabash College celebrated 180 years of classes Tuesday with a reception, display of historical items, and brief remarks from President Gregory Hess. Wabash College, under the direction of President Elihu Baldwin and Professor Caleb Mills, began classes in Forrest Hall 180 years ago. The small building housed a couple of classrooms, a few student rooms, and the College janitor's family. Look how far we have come.

WABASH MAKES BEST PROFESSOR LIST, AGAIN

According to Moneywatch and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, Wabash ranked in the top 25 institutions in the country for best professors. The data comes from ratemyprofessors.com, roughly 15 million student ratings at institutions across the country. Wabash was the only Indiana school to make the list. Liberal arts colleges, as a whole, dominated the list.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The class spent time in both Cuba and Miami studying the culture and politics.

FROM CUBA, P1

neighbors are abreast of news and attune to the happenings and aspirations of now-President Raúl Castro's-led government.

The students found themselves in awe of the "red carpet" that was rolled out for them. Greeted by the children of this small community with flowers and handshakes and given a nearly two-hour long performance of dance and singing, the students found themselves charmed by the sort of welcome.

The second and third nights of the stay, the group was based out of mobster Meyer Lansky's project, the Hotel Riviera, a 1950s mid-century modern hotel built in the era of Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship.

The students' final full-day spent in Havana included visits to the Museum of the Revolution, telling the story of the Castro brothers and Argentinian Ernesto "Che" Guevara, and their insurmountable task of overthrowing the Batista regime. Their triumphant entrance into Havana was well-documented too. In the afternoon, the group had its best opportunity to ask questions, many tough, pointed questions, in conversation with Leima Martinez, a representative of the Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, a diplomatic arm of the Cuban government. The day concluded with a walking tour of Old Havana. The walking tour gave a glimpse into the tourism that exists from Canadians and Europeans there, but also poverty and instances of Cubans looking to be entrepreneurs and make some money by selling souvenirs, caricatures, and even kisses, in the streets of Old Havana.

Moving to Miami Beach, home to many of the exiles from the 1959 revolution and in the years since, the tone

towards the Castro government and the embargo (known to the Cubans as "el bloqueo," the blockade) shifted drastically to one of resentment and insistence that the embargo be continued. This was most evident in the language of plaques found near the Calle Ocho (8th Street) thoroughfare of Miami's Little Havana.

That morning, the students met with Jaime Suchlicki at the University of Miami's Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies. Originally an employee of the Castro government, Suchlicki came to the United States in 1960 and in the decades since has been seen as one of the most decorated experts on U.S.-Cuban relations and a major proponent of the continuation of the embargo. His opinions on Cuba and the realities behind the stories of the "atrocities of the blockade" were eye-opening to the students, but like in Cuba, all was taken with a grain of salt and subject to heavy questioning.

That afternoon, the students met with Tim Padgett '84, a journalist with 25 years of experience covering Latin America who has worked for TIME and, now, The Miami Herald, conducted an interview of sorts with the students to get their takes and opinions on the trip. The conversation included the aesthetics of the island, the tourism industry, instances of racism seen towards Afro-Cubans, and the like. The students leaned on Padgett and learned plenty as the former editor-in-chief of The Bachelor shared stories and provided a chance



Ethan Hollander

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

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FROM CUBA, P2

for the group to debrief on their experience in Cuba.

Certainly a highlight for the students in their time spent in Miami Beach was the opportunity to have Thanksgiving dinner at Hollander's childhood home with his parents. In addition to having yet another opportunity to debrief and swap stories from Havana, the students had an opportunity

to celebrate the second night of Hanukkah with the Hollanders.

Once the students were back in the classroom in that first opportunity after break, Rogers said it was obvious that despite the hours and hours of work that they had put in prior to the trip, the understanding and application of the history, the many subplots and perspectives, have brought the experience full-circle.

"You're as passionately interested



and have something to say about every little thing we're talking about, and even before you go, but it's not quite the same," Rogers said. "You get back and, man, you can engage."

The experience is one that Hollander said he hopes to recreate in the next few years, and although the trip and its program will likely evolve, Isaac Taylor '15 said to the group that there's a lot of value in being the first group to represent the College in Cuba

and bring back those memories and stories.

"Hopefully in 30 years, when this class is still happening, [we'll see] how much it's changed, how much it's improved, and all of the cool things once Professor Hollander has this down to a science," Taylor said. "Those kids, at the same time, will never have gotten to experience the first trip like we did."

IAWM

The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men

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ELECTIONS 2013:

WHO WILL LEAD THE STUDENTS INTO A NEW ERA?

ADAM ALEXANDER '16 | COPY EDITOR • Wabash students will select a new President and Vice President of the Student Body next week. Voting will be held Wednesday through Friday. There are two tickets and two solo candidates in this year's election for President and Vice President. Patrick Bondi '15 and Clayton Lengerich '15 are running together for President and Vice President respectively, as are Zach Boston '15 and Carter Adams '15. Additionally, Patrick Rezek '15 is running for President, and Nick Freeman '15 is running for Vice President.

The Bondi/Lengerich Ticket

Bondi has served as Beta Theta Pi's senator in Student Senate. He also has been a part of the Senior Council since the Robbins administration of 2012. Bondi has also been a part of the Senior Council Activities Committee (SCAC), the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC), and the Sphinx Club. Lengerich has served as the Sigma Chi senator and the President Pro Tempore in Student Senate. He also just finished his term as President of Wabash's Sigma Chi chapter.

Why are you running for student body president/vice president?

Bondi: "I am running for Student Body President because Wabash deserves to have a leader who will stop at nothing to make Wabash the best it can be for every single student on campus."

Lengerich: "I want to help this college, our college, to continue to grow and prosper in the right directions. Honestly, I'm running because Bondi is definitely one of the greatest choices for President, and I believe I would thoroughly enjoy working alongside him making this College a great place."

What are your goals for the position if you win?

Bondi: "[I would institute a] Wally/Woodsie Dance Marathon modeled after Purdue and IU's. This event would literally bus girls here (for the first time in a long time) and benefit Riley's Children Hospital. [Another event would be] Wallystock, [which] would be a music festival held at Wabash featuring several small acts of rising musicians seen at Lollapalooza, Bonnaroo, Coachella, and Tomorrowland. As a member of



the SCAC, I have seen first-hand the obstacles that make the planning of National Act difficult. I believe it's time to take a 'money ball' approach to it and rebrand National Act as an event with great music and performers...I also want to have smaller low-budget events like the Belly Flop Bash and the Monon Mustache Competition that utilize the different talents of individuals on campus and that boost the morale here at Wabash to bring a more cohesive unity and atmosphere to this campus."

Lengerich: "I want to be the moderator of discussion in the chambers and keep things civilized and calm

- because that's the only way actual progress on certain items will be made."

Is there anything else you want to tell the student body?

Bondi: "I will dive in belly first for Wabash College."

Lengerich: "I encourage anyone to come and find me on campus during these coming weeks and just pick my brain. I'd love to hear different outlooks and opinions on what needs to be changed or improved upon throughout campus."



PHOTO BY COREY EGLER '15

Top Left: Patrick Bondi '15, Clayton Lengerich '15

Top Right: Patrick Rezek '15

Bottom Left: Carter Adams '15, Zach Boston '15

Next Page: Nick Freeman '15

The Boston/Adams Ticket

Boston has served as Theta Delta Chi's senator in the Student Senate since his freshman year. He has been Theta Delta Chi's philanthropy chairman for four semesters and its treasurer for two semesters. He has also joined the AFC for the December 2013. Adams was the College Hall senator his freshman year, and then became a Class of 2015 representative in 2012. He was also chairman of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Review Committee.

Why are you running for student body president/vice president?

Boston: "I came to Wabash with aspirations to run for President, so this is kind of a good deal for me."

Adams: "It's definitely something I've been interested in for a long time. I love Wabash, and I really believe in what Wabash is right now and what Wabash can be."

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What are your goals for the position if you win?

Boston: "Would you rather have a bunch of little smaller events, that you could have more people at? The last good National Act I've heard of was Lupe, and that was before our freshman year. Even then, that wasn't crazy big. I think the money spent on one event takes money away from other clubs. I think at the end of the day; it comes down to getting the most bang for your buck. Having a large event where we don't even meet the person to money-spent quota is just unacceptable. We have a large problem of people leaving on the weekends, either Greek or independent. Past alumni have said that they never went home on the weekends because there was always something going on. I think addressing that is one of our critical ideas going forward."

Adams: "One thing we've talked about is having more cross-club activities on campus. We want to encourage clubs to reach out to other clubs so that they can reach out and get more students doing things on campus. I wouldn't say that we want to get rid of National Act, but we should look into a wiser investment - something that would bring out more students."

Another thing we've talked about is having more philanthropic events on campus and adding philanthropic elements to some things we already do."

Is there anything else you want to tell the student body?

Boston: "Right now is an extremely important time [in the College's life]. The campus is just about 50-50 independent/Greek. I think that bridging that divide is becoming increasingly important to bringing this campus together."

Adams: "Boston and Adams - the right choice for Wabash College. We're not going to promise impractical ideas that are going to be financially irresponsible. We want to be realistic about what we think we can do."

Patrick Rezek

Rezek has been a part of the Senior Council since his first semester at Wabash, where he has previously served as the SCAC Chairman. He continues to serve on the SCAC and Senior Council.

Why are you running for student body president?

Rezek: "I am running for President because I want more students to feel that they are a part of Wabash whether

that be through more active participation in all-campus functions, or having a greater voice the day-to-day actions of the college. I want each and every student to get the most out of his 4 years at Wabash."

What are your goals for the position if you win?

Rezek: "I have several goals that I would like to accomplish as President, but three major goals that I will spend a great deal of efforts focusing on are fun competition, student-administration communication, and student interaction. I want there to be more fun and effective all-campus functions here on campus that all students can participate in. I want a more engaged line of communication between the student body and the administration on important facets of the college. And finally, I want more personal student interactions through increased coalition efforts of clubs on all-campus functions."

Anything else you want to tell folks?

Rezek: "Want more... Fun Competition? Student-Administration Communication? Personal Student Interactions? Let's do more. Let us do more together to make our time at Wabash more rewarding. Elect Patrick Rezek for Wabash College Student



Body President. Who doesn't want MORE?"

Nick Freeman

Freeman, a candidate for Vice President, did not respond for comment.



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OVER THESE NEXT THREE WEEKS: MAINTAIN BALANCE, SENSIBILITY

STAFF EDITORIAL

This time of the academic year is tough. We are teased with a week of relaxation and spending time with family and friends over Thanksgiving, only to be brought back for three intensive weeks which make up the home stretch of the semester. And all of us are thinking about Christmas vacation.

The myth that is dead week is next week, and everyone is stressing over final papers and final tests which are right around the corner. During these weeks it can be really easy to feel overwhelmed and stressed. Each of us has something big coming up no matter how easy our personal schedule might be.

The biggest thing to remember during these busy times is finding time to relax and maintain some semblance of normalcy. So many of us look at these next two weeks as

the end of the world as we know it.

Yes, the workload will be heavy, but it is not impossible to manage and does not realistically take every waking moment of our days to accomplish. So many Wabash guys, and college students in general, look at their workload and think there is no time for anything else – even essentials like eating and sleeping.

Make sure to maintain normal eating and sleeping habits over these next two weeks. Eating and sleeping are two of the biggest keys to success. It is possible to get good grades on those papers or tests by pulling all-nighters, but those take a heavy toll on your body, and balancing your daily schedule to work or study over a period of time will keep you healthier and lead to positive results.

Take a half hour out of your day for your meals. This is a good time to unwind a bit and relax with

friends. We all need to take our minds off of stresses at some point. Also sleep at least four or five hours. Six to eight hours is optimal, but at least give your mind and body some serious recharge time.

In addition to eating and sleeping, save a little time each day to relax. This may seem impossible, but really, all of us can spare at least a half hour a day to kick back and relax. Working all day long is hard on the brain, and it has been shown that studying or working nonstop past a certain point produces worse results than scheduling breaks and giving the brain a break.

Relaxing with friends or fraternity brothers will not only maintain your sanity, but will probably produce better results. Just be disciplined enough to work when it is time to work and relax when it is time to relax. Hardly any of us work all day long. At some point we all get dis-

tracted or take time to check our twitter feeds or text a friend.

Instead of interspersing these activities throughout the time you work, just give yourself time for them in which you completely step away from working or studying. This will be more fair to any friends you may be communicating with and will also probably produce better results for you.

These tips are simple and everyone has heard them before, but so few of us take them seriously. If you are feeling like the weight of the world is on your shoulders over the next few weeks, give these a try. A clear mind is the best thing to have at this time of the year so delegate specific time for activities and maintain some normalcy. It can't hurt.

Don't like what we say? Let us know at jsmorris14@wabash.edu or on Twitter @WabcoBachelor.

RESPONSIBLY 'EARNING YOUR BREAK'

The worst/best time of the semester is here: the end is in sight, but we still have work to do. Wallies have only two to three weeks before winter break begins, and I think I speak for a majority of the student body when I say that I can almost feel the freedom of a full month break.

That being said, Wabash men face the same dilemma that college students everywhere are facing: there is a temptation to ease up and coast for the next three weeks. In fact, social media is starting to take off with posts and updates about how much we all want to procrastinate, which gives us all the opportunity to procrastinate further by reading through each other's procrastination updates.

But let's move past that for a moment. Let's assume that we've already made up our minds to study, and study hard. We're ready to study all night and plug our ears to the outside world. We hop in, and



Ryan Horner '15

Reply to this editorial at rmhorner15@wabash.edu.

for an hour or two we are exceptional students, two different highlighters in hand.

Next comes the second temptation: a temptation that receives much less attention than procrastination. We've been studying hard for a while, and we get the urge to take a break. Breaks are necessary and helpful, but there are wrong and right ways to take them.

I'd like to take a few tips for study breaks and lay them out before the student body, based on my personal experience. Whether or not you

choose to adopt these ideas (Lord knows I'll probably ignore them at times), good luck with all of your studying efforts. For professional advice with studying techniques, seek help at the Academic Support Office in the Armory.

Start sweating. One of the easiest ways to get myself out of a mindless rut of reading notes without comprehending them is to do something physical, like a quick ab workout or sets of pushups and sit-ups. Get your heart rate up, and then take a quick shower. Voila! You're ready to work again.

Make a call home. This certainly isn't feasible if you're up studying until the wee hours of the morning, but one easy way that I motivate myself to get back to the books is to talk on the phone with a friend or family member from home. Hearing my mother's voice and participating in small talk for a few minutes seems to break up the monotony and remind me why I need to do

well on finals.

Take a walk. As corny or clichéd as that sounds, get away from your desk and take a few laps through the halls. Let your brain wander for a moment before you force it back to the books.

Remember, these ideas are merely personal suggestions that have worked for me in the past. For professional help, contact Ms. Rosenberg in the Academic Support Office in the Armory.

When it comes down to it, the next three weeks likely won't determine your success or failure at Wabash (and if it will, Godspeed to you, friend). Keep the big picture in mind when the espresso shots start coming.

However, that doesn't mean you have a mandate to slack over the next few weeks. You've invested in this semester so far, and now is not the time to coast in; as Coach Morgan says to the track team, "You have to earn your break."

SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

OR, WHY I THINK THERE ARE NINE CANDLES ON THE MENORAH AND FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT.

While Andy Williams wants us to think of November and December as “the most wonderful time of the year,” I’m not fooled. I prefer “the most stressful time of the year” or “the most sleep-deprived time of the year,” and I suspect many other students agree with me. For a multitude of reasons, we cram every last minute of every last day in this season so full that we don’t even have time to breathe. And all of this in the time of year when we throw around words like “family” and “holiday” and, God forbid, “peace.”

I admit that some of this we simply cannot avoid. We are college students, and have essays to write, final exams to study for, and presentations to prepare. Seniors are gearing up for Comprehensive Examinations (yikes)!

But holiday stress goes far beyond college campuses. In fact, we may be spared more than our parents and working friends. This attitude of more, more, more pervades every corner of our society. And nothing about it reflects peace or family, although it certainly masquerades as those at times. What we need in this fast-paced season is less, less, less. Stillness. Reflection. If we can’t achieve this, I’m afraid we’ll continue to devolve into bloodthirsty Black Friday shoppers pushing and shoving our way to those coveted game consoles, or find that there is no white space



Samuel Vaught '16

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left on our calendars to visit with a friend or sit and sip hot cocoa.

Okay, let me get off my soapbox and tell you where I’m coming from. I believe the world’s great religions give us the “less” perspective, not the “more.” I’m going to focus on Judaism and Christianity, because Hanukkah and Advent/Christmas are two of the most visible religious holidays in America today.

These two traditions give us seasons of anticipation and waiting. Advent is in fact, a solemn season. The liturgical color hanging from altars in Christian churches right now is purple, the same as the springtime penitential season of Lent. This is no coincidence.

Advent is a time of reflection, silence, and stillness as the Church prepares to welcome the birth of Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God in vulnerable human flesh. Through the lens of Advent, this is not a time for excess or hectic schedules, although it often becomes just that. The Eastern Orthodox tradition gives us the Nativity Fast, arguably more somber, more Lenten, than Advent. It began three weeks ago. Advent began this past Sunday, and will continue until Christmas Day. These four weeks are intentional reminders of the slowness Christians should take in waiting for Christmas.

This is also the time of year for Hanukkah. This year, we all heard about “Thanksgivukkah,” named for the overlapping of the two holidays. Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem following Judas Maccabeus’ revolt against the Seleucid invaders (see the books of Maccabees). The rededication was said to have taken place over eight days, which gives Hanukkah the same length. Important to the Jewish observance of Hanukkah is the lighting of candles on the Menorah, a candelabrum in nine parts: eight for the days of Hanukkah and the one elevated Shamash. I see something related to the anticipation of Advent in this observance. Instead of a one-time celebration, Jewish families return to

the Menorah for eight evenings to remember the “Festival of Lights,” as Josephus calls it in his *Antiquitates Judaicae*, or *Antiquities of the Jews*. The patient pace of the holiday rubs against the grain of our instant gratification-obsessed culture. It requires commitment in an increasingly non-committal society. I find this not only comforting but also beautifully divine.

Points of order: The Classics minor in me wants to remind you that our English word Advent comes from the Latin verb *advenio*, *advenire*, *adveni*: to arrive or come to. Also, if there’s a “War on Christmas,” it’s not what Sarah Palin wants you to think it is. Because her book publicity contributes just as much to it as any other commercialism you’ll find during this season.

To wrap things up (see what I did there?), while experienced theologians and clergymen/women can give you better explanations for why things happen the way they do during Hanukkah and Advent, I prefer to focus simply on their length. The nine candles of the Menorah and the four weeks of Advent are perfect reminders of how we should be structuring our holiday season. May yours be filled with peace, charity, and enough quiet moments to keep you sane.

WEIGHING THE MERITS OF COMMON CORE

In an attempt to ensure equal educational opportunities across socioeconomic lines, Common Core was written in 2010. It was a state-led effort by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) to define nationwide standards for what students are expected to know, understand, and be able to do by the end of a given course year. They provide expectations for the knowledge and skills students should gain in Language Arts and Mathematics in order to be college- and career-ready when they graduate from high school (ex. by the end of 7th grade, a student needs to be able to do A, B, and C), and states that implementing Common Core are expected to base about 85% of their public school curriculum around these standards. The standards were designed to truly gauge “proficiency” across states; to inform teachers and parents on student learning objectives and achievements; and to create linkages between expectations from pre-K through college completion for what is being taught in the classroom. So far 45 states have adopted the Common Core standards.

What is so interesting about Common Core is that nobody seems to actually know anything factual about it. Due to the document’s size and recency, there is a lot of



Joseph Jackson '14

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uncertainty surrounding it. Most parties discussing it haven’t actually read it themselves, and Common Core itself has been approached with skepticism from both sides of the reform isle, because of the possibility that if properly understood it might not be politically useful to the side arguing against it. This skepticism has largely prevented Common Core from successfully doing what it was designed to do, because implementation has been blindly contested by opposition and because proponents are unwilling to admit the document might not yet be perfected. While the document as-is could use some reform to include clear expectations for more subjects, it is a tremendous foundation from which to build the idealistic public education system we all are striving for. Much like we saw with testing, the problem isn’t with common standards; it’s with

how the standards are used

Advocates of Common Core say education is desperately in need of more consistency from state to state; not to mention higher and clearer standards. It wasn’t that long ago when teachers made most of the decisions for what their students would learn in their classes. They wrote all of the lessons; they wrote the tests; and in order to graduate, students needed to meet the minimum requirements established by the individual teachers at their school. It is argued that this method is inherently subjective, and that this subjectivity aggregated across decades was one of the largest contributors in lowering of the quality of education we’re presently fighting to change.

Opponents of Common Core say it undermines states’ rights and local control. They say that it is too hard to decide who should be given ultimate authority to define the topics that should be covered in say a history or language arts course, and that it ignores unequal resources among schools and districts in dictating what to teach. They say Common Core limits teachers’ and school leaders’ autonomy in designing curriculum and lesson plans and that these limits stifle innovation; freeze into place the already unacceptable status quo; end local and state control of schooling; lack a legitimate legal basis; and impose a one-size-fits-all model

on American students. This is only partly true though, because educators are still encouraged to define 15% of their curriculum entirely on their own and because the standards don’t dictate how to teach; only what to teach.

A common misconception about Common Core is that it is just another top-down style of federal reform and that Washingtonians are not equipped to craft a curriculum that works well throughout a diverse nation. The reality though, is that Common Core was a consolidated effort from teachers, school leaders, and state officials, and that it wasn’t crafted by Washingtonians. The key to any successful reform in education depends on teamwork between educators and those that craft the policy that affects educators. Regardless of our particular feelings about Common Core, it is precisely the manner in which Common Core was crafted that we should strive for in all the education legislation we create.

Just as new teachers, increased teacher pay, or stricter testing requirements are not the single, quick fix to education, neither is a common set of standards. Coupled with these other avenues of reform though, Common Core—or at least common standards—has the potential to drastically overhaul the quality of public education and to do it in a way that helps teachers.

THE BAREFOOT BURGER WASHES UP DOWNTOWN

NEW BAR AND GRILL SET TO SOAK UP BUSINESS

DAVID R. MYLES '14 |
CAVELIFE EDITOR • Crawfordsville is in the middle of a revival. For years, Downtown Crawfordsville had numerous bars and restaurants, many of which are now nothing but faded memories. With the opening of The Bowery, The Joshua Cup, and other establishments, however, local entrepreneurs are reimagining Downtown as a destination for those 35 and under.

The newest addition to Crawfordsville's restaurant scene is The Barefoot Burger. Replacing The Iron Gate, The Barefoot Burger is the creation of owner Jim Petroski. The former General Manager of Creekside Bar and Grill, Petroski's goal is to bring the beach to Downtown Crawfordsville.

"First of all it's another place to go downtown, and hopefully bring more life to the downtown community," Petroski said. "My dream has always been to own a tiki bar in Belize. Being that I have a 7-year-old son, that's not going to be happening anytime soon, so I figured if I couldn't go to the beach, the beach was coming to me. And burgers, who doesn't like a good burger?"

Inside The Barefoot Burger, it is clear that there is nothing else like it in town. Long gone is the black and white motif of The Iron Gate, replaced by island décor, vibrant pastels, and Jack Johnson on the stereo, recalling one's own beach vacations, minus the \$10 margaritas. Petroski is not trying to substitute the fine dining of The Iron Gate with high-priced casual dishes either.

"There are very few similarities [to The Iron Gate] other than we both sell food and alcohol. Our menu is geared around a younger demographic, gourmet burgers, homemade soups, salads, and appetizers," he said. "And again I wanted it to be something that if you were at the beach...these are the types of things you'll see. You're going to see seafood nachos; you're going to see crab queso, and hand-cut fries. We're trying to do everything as fresh as we possibly can do it, down to the point that we're making our own salad dressings."

The issue of freshness is where The Barefoot Burger will be able to capitalize and distinguish itself. "Freshness is the focus. I want to get three deliveries a week, so when I sell you the West Coast Burger with avocados, those are fresh avocados," Petroski said. It may not be your typical fine dining establishment, but The Barefoot Burger has the potential to be the purveyor of the highest quality meals in town.



"We're trying to do everything as fresh as we possibly can do it..."

JIM PETROSKI, OWNER

"We'll be offering free-range, and again I just wanted to find the best burgers that I could find," Petroski said. "I'm using extremely high quality meat, and burgers will be seasoned very little because I don't want you to taste the seasoning; I want you to taste the burger. If you're using quality product, you shouldn't need anything more than salt and pepper."

While freshness may be the key to long-term success, Petroski realizes that appealing to the young people of Crawfordsville is the foundation upon which he must build his business. To him, Buffalo Wild Wings been the premier, and one of the only, decent sit down restaurants in Montgomery County geared toward a younger demographic for too long.

"When I look around town...downtown there used to be eight different bars you could go to, places you could hang out, and now there's nothing," he said. "It's these younger couples that have one or two kids that still want to go out, still want to have a beer, but can't afford to spend 80 bucks to go out."

In order to appeal to young couples,



PHOTOS BY COLIN THOMPSON '17

The Barefoot Burger, opening soon, is the newest restaurant in Crawfordsville. With warm colors, affordable dishes, and a fully stocked bar, make it your Saturday night destination.

families, and Wallies alike, The Barefoot Burger will be very musically focused. "It's not going to be a sports bar. The upstairs is very family friendly and the downstairs is adult friendly," Petroski said. "Down the road I plan on doing live music, but there will always be music playing."

As far as the name goes, Petroski wanted a name that would say it all.

"I had a lot of different name ideas, but I wanted the name to tell it all right now," Petroski said. "We specialize in gourmet burgers and you're supposed

to feel like you're at the beach. And when you're at the beach, you're barefoot."

The name, the atmosphere, and the prices all serve the same purpose: to foster a relaxing and enjoyable dining experience and destination.

"It's supposed to be a fun place to go," Petroski said.

Here's to hoping that it will be, and that more local entrepreneurs will follow Petroski's lead by investing in Downtown Crawfordsville in innovative ways.

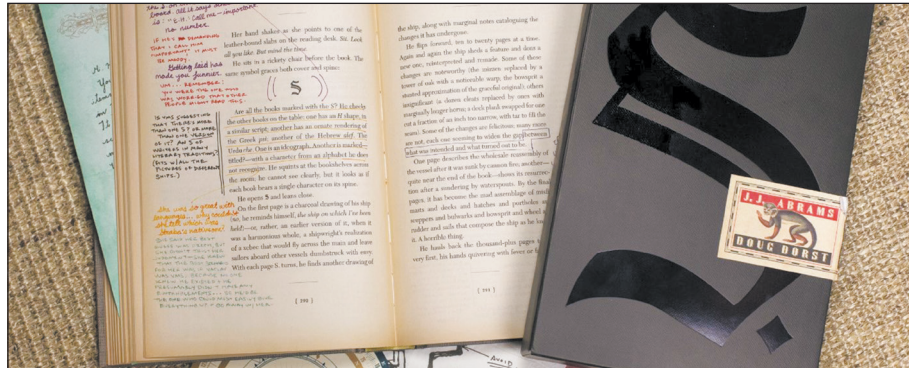
HOW TO OUT THINK YOUR SMALL WALLET

MICHAEL WITZACK '14 | ADVICE COLUMNIST • When I was a kid, families used to gather once a year to watch football and eat turkey together. But times have changed, and the modern man can no longer afford to waste precious hours eating family meals, at least not when there are some super great deals down at Target.

Thanksgiving becoming a pregame carbo-load for America's shopping holiday can only mean one thing: Christmas gift expectations have been raised. I'm sure most of us would have no problem spending some money to buy our loved ones nice gifts, but I am even surer that none of us have any money.

But, have no fear gentlemen. I used to have a girlfriend once, so I know all about how to pull off a quality gift on a small budget. The secret to a quality gift, you ask? Personalization. Avoid generic gifts that are tossed around at secret Santa gatherings, and find something that you know the people close to you will appreciate. To successfully pull this off, you will need to actually think about each person you're getting a gift for. I thought it might help if I got the ball rolling.

If somebody close to you is a serious book lover, then you've got it easy. The only trick is to try and pick a book that you know they will be interested in, which shouldn't be hard if they love books and you know them well. If you really want to make it a good gift, take it a step further. Get a copy for yourself and



The novel "S" by J.J. Abrams and Doug Dorst is a story inside of a separate book. To the right, Indianapolis' legendary steak house St. Elmo has perhaps the best steak in town. And definitely the best shrimp cocktail.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM AND MAMASWINERACK.COM

offer to buy a dinner to discuss the book once you've both finished. Here is one that caught my eye this season:

"S", by J.J. Abrams and Doug Dorst

J.J. Abrams, the man who will direct the new Star Wars movies, brings us a book within a book. Not only will you find yourself reading an old library book circa 1949, but also a second story is told through notes taken in the margins. The idea is that two people once read the book and communicated through the comments they wrote. You get to read their story as well as the actual book.

If there is one person you can't give a book this Christmas, it's your girlfriend. Going steady with a gal during the holiday seasons is tough. Money doesn't

grow on trees, but the price of nice jewelry sure makes a guy wish it did. Instead of trying to buy something fancy to give your significant other, try planning an extravagant date, the kind of date college couples don't often get to go on. Take her to Indianapolis for the night and buy dinner and a show. In my opinion, it's always fun to try and do something unique to the city you're in:

Murat Theater

Located on the north side of downtown Indy, the Murat hosts many of Indiana's worthwhile cultural events. The award winning, apparently hilarious, musical The Book of Mormon is coming this summer, which would be a great chance to have a nice night out.

St. Elmo Steak House

This is one of the best places to order a steak in the entire country, and it happens to be in Indianapolis. This type of steak does cost some money, but it's Christmas people. Do it right and take your girlfriend to a nice restaurant. Besides, nobody said you weren't allowed to enjoy the food too.

The truth is, giving a good gift boils down to putting forth a little effort. Think about what your little brother or big sister really cares about. Think about inside jokes you share with people, or passions you might have in common. A gift is a way of saying that you care about someone. It is a chance to give somebody a little bit of happiness, so why waste it?

SPEAKER DISCUSSES EGYPTIAN UPRISING

FREE KASHON '17 | STAFF WRITER • We go to class every day and try to learn about what is going on in our world. But what happens when you get to see a historic event unfold first hand? This is what Dr. Ann M. Lesch was able to provide for students on Tuesday here at Wabash; a firsthand account of what occurred when she visited Egypt during its 2011 revolution.

Dr. Lesch, who graduated from Swarthmore College and obtained her PhD from Columbia University, is recently retired and just finished her stint as Associate Professor of Political Science at American University in Cairo.

The revolutions that she witnessed involved the overthrowing of the Mubarak presidency and the instatement of a new president, which occurred during January and February of 2011. A second revolution occurred, which removed this new president, and a new president has once again been placed in power.

As Dr. Lesch spoke about these revolts, the attending students sat alert with interest as she gave overviews of the political and social climate of Egypt and the events that led to the Revolution of 2011. The recent history of Egypt was explored through an eye-

witnesses' perspective, and Dr. Lesch was able to tell stories of watching protests and students who took part in these important events.

Dr. Lesch's lecture brings the outside world to campus. Instead of professors teaching about what they received from other sources, Lesch was able to provide an aspect of reality and pertinence that is often lost in the classroom.

"It's a great opportunity when we can bring someone who is present and who has lived through these kind of situations to be able to come to Wabash and share their experiences versus me just telling my students about it, or watching a news story," BKT Assistant Professor of Political Science Michael Burch said. "It's always to have someone who has their own firsthand experience and opinions on a topic."

Dr. Lesch is just one example of how Wabash brings the outside world to the classroom and is able to get students to think outside of campus.

Professors were not the only ones impressed with Lesch's speech.

"It was very interesting to learn about how the revolutions occurred and to have a better understanding about remote countries," Murphy Sheets '17 said. This is an asset of the school, and



PHOTO BY COLIN THOMPSON '17

Dr. Lesch speaks to the Wabash community about witnessing the Egyptian revolution.

a large aspect of what it means to be a liberally educated man.

The ability of Wabash to have Dr. Lesch speak depicts an academic awareness of global issues and their implications on the rest of the world.

Her visit indicates an attitude of internationalism and a support for intercultural understanding. What one reads on the news may not seem important at the moment, but a visiting speaker may just tell you the opposite.

PS4 VS. XBOX ONE

THE INS, THE OUTS, AND THE FUTURISTIC

FREE KASHON '17 | STAFF WRITER

Even with all of the time Wabash men spend working here on campus, many of them still find time to relax and get away from the hustle and bustle of college life. For many this escape comes in the form of video games.

With the launches of the PlayStation 4 and the Xbox One, it is no surprise there has been chatter surrounding both systems on campus. From compliments to complaints, both Sony and Microsoft have been neck-and-neck in who has produced the better console.

With gaming sites and magazines like ign.com and Game Informer covering the systems on the nation-wide scale, it is no surprise that some comparisons have been made between the two consoles. Though both support online gameplay, have amazing graphics, and allow gamers to import their profiles from previous consoles, there are some major discrepancies one may want to look out for.

The PlayStation 4 boasts the capacity for Bluetooth, along with a free web browser and access to Netflix (though you still have to pay for your subscription). This is a serious win over the Xbox One, which requires an Xbox Gold Subscription for all Internet access, forcing customers to purchase access to the Internet that they have already paid for in the first place. When asked about this, Jacob Caddick '16 said that he would rather have a PlayStation because "there will be a ton of great games for it, and let's not forget the fact that the online is free."

Controllers are a very important

factor for a game system as well.

Though both controllers look similar, it is the little details that separate them. The PS4 controller has been reconfigured to match the Xbox lineage more closely, with Microsoft holding onto their classic design.

With this improvement, it is no surprise that Robert Yoder '15 says that the new PlayStation controller is "the best one I've ever used." Ergonomics are key, especially for anyone who plans to spend multiple hours at a time gaming, so it is no surprise that both companies have gone with what they know works best.

Console features and controllers aren't everything though, for what is a video game system without its games? The Xbox One has many exclusives lined up that will surely leave fans wanting more. With titles like Fable Legends and Halo 5 lined up fans of both series will surely buy these systems just to keep up with their favorite characters.

Sony and the PlayStation are not slacking however, and titles such as Final Fantasy XIV and Infamous Second Son sure to draw their own crowd as well. With both systems supporting fantastic graphics and processors, one should expect great things from either system.

Whether you're a Microsoft fan or a Sony loyalist, make sure to look into both systems before you buy. Both companies have made noticeable improvements to their aging hardware and the new consoles should be worth every penny that is spent on them. The Xbox One is available for \$499.99 and the PlayStation 4 can be purchased for \$399.99



PHOTO BY SHANE XUAN '17

Many Wabash students spend their downtime playing video games. With such distinct technological upgrades, the PS4 and Xbox One will make this experience even more immersive.



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ART WORKSHOPS DIVERSIFY CAMPUS

NOAH EPPLER '16 | STAFF WRITER •

This past semester, the Fine and Performing Arts Departments here at Wabash have been stepping up their game by hosting art workshops intended to educate our community about various aspects of their respective fields. From figure-drawing to face-painting and playwriting to puppets, these workshops have been introducing the new and exciting features of the contemporary artistic world to both the artists and lay members of our community alike.

Essentially, these art workshops are part of an effort to create a more consistent presence of the arts on-campus, as well as provide Wabash faculty and students who do not normally participate in the arts the opportunity to do so.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater Jessie Mills has been spearheading much of the workshops of the performing arts side. She hosted an improvisational theater workshop at the very beginning of the year, and recently co-hosted a Halloween Zombie makeup tutorial with Wabash's resident costume designer Andrea Bear.

Professor Mills expressed her enthusiasm for hosting the theater workshops, "The ability to collaborate with others and to work off of impulse are both important skills for everyone to have," Mills said. Here, we can see the utility of these workshops in not only exposing students and faculty to facets of the arts that otherwise would have remained unknown, but also their ability to allow students to develop necessary and life-long skills.

Faculty members are not the only ones leading these workshops. Two professional playwrights have hosted workshops for the Wabash community. The first one was led by Will Snider, the playwright for *The Undeclared Benedict Boys* and *The Big Family War Play*, entitled "Winning the Scene," and essentially consisted of Snider's theory of how to read a play and succeed in auditions.

The second one, led by Chicago-based professional playwright, columnist and English Professor Jason Sebacher, was entitled "Spite: Bringing Out Your Inner George Costanza." Works from both of these playwrights were featured in this year's series of One-Acts, which were held in the Experimental Theater two weeks ago.

On the Fine Arts side, Visiting Professor of Art Stefani Rossi has been sponsoring several workshops on figure drawing. The workshops have been held every Tuesday from 7-10PM in Room A133 in the Fine Arts Center, a regularity that has certainly been beneficial by allowing students and faculty members who have been unable to attend in the past receive multiple chances to come.

"I think it's great, and that it's good that both art students and non-art students have the opportunity to do this," Art major German Padilla '15 said regarding his sentiments toward the figure-drawing workshops. "It's something that should have started happening a long time ago." All in all, it is excellent to watch both of these Departments demonstrate a stronger presence on-campus.



PHOTO BY COREY EGLER '15

Josh Lutton '14 receives a zipper eye during the Halloween makeup workshop.

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SWIMMING HITS CHECKPOINT

SWIM TEAM RESTING IN PREPARATION FOR CALVIN COLLEGE INVITATIONAL

BEN SHANK '16 | STAFF WRITER

The Calvin Winter Invitational presents an opportunity for the swim team to post some of its fastest times of the year. The meet serves as not only an assessment for where the team fits in the national picture, but also as a gauge of the team's training progress up to this point in the year.

"We hit the ground running with training and have put in work on a lot of specific things," Coach Brent Noble said. "We've made a lot of progress and we've had good swims. But we have not had the chance to show a lot of things off that we have been working on. We've been swimming tired and in the middle of training and this weekend is an opportunity to be a little bit faster and see more of the development."

In terms of goals, the team feels that the work it puts in now will pay off later rather than sooner. "The season's focus is always going to be the Conference and National meets, but this is a really good checkpoint for us," Noble said. "We want to put up times that will qualify us for the national meet. The work has been done and now it's time to rest and prepare in order to get up on the blocks and swim fast."

Given the rather unique nature of a sport without a specific 10-20 game season, Noble explained the typical preparation cycle used in swimming.

"The college swimming season is really long; for Division III, we start in September and we finish up in late March," he said. "We spend most of our time training and preparing for February and March. Most college teams have a checkpoint in the middle so they will rest up in the middle of the year. Instead of training and beating up the guys all year, we'll rest up in order to put up fast times midseason as a checkpoint. It's not a full rest."

In addition to the rest, also known as tapering, the swimmers typically will shave their legs and wear fast suits for the important meets. Whereas Wabash's early opponents were shaved and in fast suits in the earlier meets, the team has been holding off peaking too early by putting in the necessary training now with the goal of posting its fastest times in the crucial later months. The Calvin meet serves as a midseason checkpoint in which the team will rest

for about one week. Conference and National meets receive as much two to three weeks of rest.

Elliot Johns '16 is excited for the meet as he hopes to see his training pay off, as he will be able to race fresh after this week's tapering. "This week we are backing off the yardage and intensity so we all feel fresh going into the meet," Johns said. "There are school records in several events that we want to break this weekend, including the 800 free-style relay and 400 medley relay. I would also like to go for school records in some of my own individual events."

Posting qualifying times for Nationals is another crucial goal for the Calvin meet. "Myself and some other guys on the team are going for NCAA cuts," Johns said. "We are going all out into this meet, even though like I said this isn't the fastest we are going to go this season we don't want to be thinking what if I had gone faster."

Zechariah Banks '16 attributes his high expectations for nationals to a shift in mindset. "We are starting to develop that championship, winning attitude," Banks said. "Last year the team had a complacent mindset, which affected us negatively. You can see this change in our meet results. Our goal is to send eight guys to the NCAA National meet and place top 10 this year."

Wabash will face Valparaiso (DI), Grand Valley State (DII), Tiffin (DII), Findlay (DII) and Calvin (DIII) are the other teams in the meet.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

12/6

Swim @ Calvin College Invitational - 10 a.m.

12/7

Wrestling vs. Indiana Little State Invite - 9 a.m.
Swim @ Calvin College Invitational - 10 a.m.
Indoor Track @ U of Indy Invitational - 12 p.m.
Basketball @ Oberlin - 1 p.m.



PHOTO BY COREY EGLER '15

Arturo Granados '16 (lane seven) finished fourth in the 1650-freestyle race before break.

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WABASH OFFENSE SLUGGISH IN LOSS

JOCELYN HOPKINSON '15

STAFF WRITER • Wabash shot a season-low 29.6 percent from the field Wednesday night in a 60-46 loss to Wittenberg. Cold shooting marred the Little Giants' NCAC opener — the field-goal percentage and point total were season lows.

"I think this game came down to hitting shots," Coach Antoine Carpenter said. "We were getting the shots that we wanted, but you have to really zero in and mentally be prepared to knock the shot down and shoot with confidence — I don't think we were shooting with confidence tonight."

Low scoring against the Tigers (5-1, 2-0 NCAC) is nothing new. Wednesday's game was the third time in a row Wabash (0-6, 0-1 NCAC) failed to eclipse 50 points against the 16th-ranked team. The Little Giants scored 45 and 47 points in losses to the Tigers last year.

"They were solid at boxing us out," Daniel Scofield '17 said. "We were getting one shot attempt every time. I think we shied away from some of our strengths this game and settled with what they gave us which was jump shots."

WABASH: 46

WITTENBERG: 60

NEXT UP: OBERLIN

Wabash held its ground early in the first half. However, with the score tied at 13, senior center Pete Nicksic '14 committed his third foul and remained on the bench for the remaining nine minutes. Wittenberg instantly went on a 9-0 run, led by big men Scott Masin and Cole Bond.

"Bond and Masin do a great job of posting pretty hard and creating foul opportunities," Carpenter said. "We have to move our feet and a couple of times we didn't."

Masin scored a game-high 17 points and grabbed 9 boards. Bond had 6 points and hauled in 10 rebounds.

With Nicksic and backup center Marcus Kammrath '16 in foul trouble, Scofield answered the challenge inside. He drew fouls and snagged a couple of offensive rebounds to help keep the Tigers within five points.

"It's nice going up against Pete in practice because he's similar to the big guys for Witt," Scofield said. "I've had

experience in practice and I mentally prepared myself. I knew the competition was going to be tough, but I was ready to take on the challenge."

Despite his success, Scofield could not escape the fouls either — he committed 4 in the first half.

"It's tough because they had a lot of solid big guys on their team as well," he said. "Fouls are up to the referees at the end of the day, so you do your best to get good position and they call what they call. Personally, I know I had a few I shouldn't have committed."

Scofield scored 6 points and had 3 rebounds in 17 minutes of action.

After a Ross Sponsler '16 free throw cut the lead to five, Wittenberg closed the half on an 8-1 run to a 33-22 lead.

The Tigers methodically extended the lead to 17 in the second half as the Little Giants continued their poor shooting.

Daniel Purvlicis led Wabash with 8 points on 3-of-4 shooting. Andy Walsh '14 matched Scofield's 6 points with two three pointers.

Sam Collins added 15 points for the Tigers.

Wabash will play Saturday at Oberlin with a scheduled 1 p.m. tip.



PHOTO BY COREY EGLER '15

Sponsler '16 and his teammates struggled to find any rhythm Wednesday evening.

BANKS '16 SETTLES IN LITTLE GIANT POOL

DEREK ANDRE '16 | STAFF WRITER

Zechariah Banks '16 took a detour through a pool in Bloomington, IN en route to Wabash. He spent his first semester on the Indiana University swim team before joining the Little Giants.

Banks quickly realized that the Division one lifestyle was not for him. He soon decided to transfer to Wabash, where he has seen a great deal of success both in and out of the pool.

Banks began his swimming career at Carmel High School, but was not heavily recruited for much of his prep career. That changed when he won a race at the state meet his senior year. This victory opened the door for Banks at IU, where he swam as a member of the IU team. But things just never did settle for Banks in Bloomington.

"I just felt like the program wasn't the program for me," Banks said. "Nothing against the program at IU, it's a great program. They have a lot of great history there. But I just felt like it wasn't the program for me."

After deciding that IU was not the place for him, Banks recalled his second choice during his college recruitment. That choice was Wabash. Banks recalled his visit to Wabash as a senior

in high school and knew that he wanted to transfer and become a Little Giant.

"Wabash was one of the colleges I visited," he said. "It was my second choice, behind IU. It was pretty natural that when IU didn't work out I come to Wabash. I wanted to keep swimming so I wanted to come here and swim. Steve Barnes did a really good job with introducing me to the school and got me up here and the academics here are great. I knew a lot of people who went here and liked it, so that drew me here."

For many transfer students, there is a period of culture shock where you have to adapt to a new school and a new way of doing things. According to Banks, however, he hasn't had these same troubles. Many of the differences that he has encountered moving from IU to Wabash have actually suited him well.

"I've got a lot of friends here from high school, so that helped," Banks said. "Academics-wise there was never a problem. With swimming of course there was going to be different, going from division three to division one. It's a little bit smaller team. The team's closer than it was at IU so we're a lot more family oriented. But over all the



PHOTO BY IAN BAUMGARDNER '14

Banks '16 has found a comfort zone at Wabash after spending his first semester at Indiana.

strokes are still the same."

Banks has seen his fair share of success while competing for Wabash. Just this year he has taken first place in the 200-breast stroke and the 100 breast-stroke. He has been described as "really fast" by one of his fellow teammates. The praise for Banks even extends to the coaching staff.

"Zach is a very talented swimmer,

but he's also very driven," Head Coach Brent Noble said. "Zach sets very big goals, and he is committed to achieving them. He leads by example, and his ability helps to raise the bar on our team and what our swimmers expect of themselves."

Banks and his teammates dive in water this weekend at the Calvin Invitational.

OPPORTUNITY FOR REDEMPTION

BASKETBALL CAN FORGET 0-5 START WITH STRONG PLAY VERSUS NCAC TEAMS

JUSTIN MILLER '17 | STAFF

WRITER • Early season losses are not easy to take. Thankfully, they do not inhibit success later on and can provide valuable lessons for later on in the season.

The Little Giant basketball team, despite a 0-5 start, sees no reason it can't find success and rise to the top of the North Coast Athletic Conference. It starts by playing well throughout a game.

"At times we've had great spurts in games, and we have yet to complete a whole basketball game," Head Basketball Coach Antoine Carpenter said. "[Conference play] is a great opportunity for us to put a whole basketball game together."

Don't be fooled by the winless record, the Little Giants have played quality teams in close games.

"Although we're 0-5, we're still a pretty good basketball team," Coach Carpenter said. "We've played high

quality Division III basketball squads for our first five games."

The team is going to have to get used to facing such competition. Currently, there are three nationally ranked teams (#3 Wooster, #16 Wittenberg, and #24 DePauw) in the NCAC alongside many other highly competitive teams.

"Historically, the NCAC is one of the strongest conferences in the country," Coach Carpenter said. "Everybody competes in the conference. That's why we play a very tough non-conference schedule, to prepare for conference."

"The conference itself is going to be a challenge, and we have to take it game by game to get ready to win each game."

Andrew Walsh '14 agrees that conference games must be taken one at a time with full preparation if the team is to find success.

"The past few years have shown that anyone can win in our conference," he said. "If we just focus on practice, doing our own thing, working hard, preparing for other teams,



PHOTO BY COREY EGLER '15

Wabash earned conference home wins late last season over DePauw and #8 Wooster.

SEE **BASKETBALL**, P. 15

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FROM **BASKETBALL**, P. 14

and focusing on the details—how to attack other teams' weaknesses, we'll be in a position to win."

The Little Giants believe their blend of experience and talent will make them competitive. But finding a rhythm, especially with some of the team recently returning from football, of play will be key.

"We have a pretty strong basketball team with core guys that came back, and we're still playing some younger guys," Coach Carpenter said. "With the addition of the football guys, we're just combining all the pieces and getting ready to play."

Walsh, himself a football player, concurred that transitioning players from football to basketball is difficult.

"One thing we [football players] struggle with is getting into basketball shape because it's a whole different game," he said. "Now that we've had some games under our belt, we [the team] are starting to play well together, mesh well, and understand each other's tendencies."

**Coach Carpenter**

The process of creating a team rhythm, Coach Carpenter noted, will not be easy.

"We are still trying to find ourselves," he said. "I know that it's going to take some time, but all of our guys have bought in, are going to stay the course, and are going to continue to compete."

Walsh feels that the additions of the competitiveness and success from the football season are major advantages that few other teams have.

"Especially coming from a successful football team, we know how to win," he said. "We have leaders from the football team who can bring that winning mentality over to the basketball court."

"Other teams who don't have those football guys or other people who know how to win struggle and can't overcome the barrier that is being in close games and not coming out on top."

Now, with the whole team together, the Little Giants look to rise to the top of the conference.

"Our current guys are getting in rhythm and getting ready to play," Coach Carpenter said. "We look forward to the rest of the season. It should be exciting."

The team, after starting conference play on Wednesday at home against Wittenberg, will travel to NCAC-foe Oberlin on Saturday. Tip-off is scheduled for 1 p.m.

FROM **NICKSIC**, P. 16

came to fruition in his four years he has played."

Carpenter and Wabash fans have noticed more than just Nicksic's vocal leadership this season. Over the off-season, Nicksic shed 40 pounds and worked on becoming a more complete basketball player. "As soon as the last game ended I sat down with my dad and talked about what I was bad at and what I was good at," Nicksic said.

After that conversation, Nicksic went to a trainer in Valparaiso, IN who trained the Michigan basketball team, Robbie Hummell, and a couple of other pros for the NBA combine. The two focused a lot on typical body fat percentages for centers at the Division I level. "He gave me a really useful workout regiment and diet that I try to follow, because I am not naturally very athletic," Nicksic said. "I pretty much have to work for it, so it gave me something to work towards and helped."

Instead of focusing on one specialized shot or area, Nicksic also worked on all aspects of his game. "I just tried to work at what I was bad at, which was dribbling and passing, and becoming lighter and quicker," Nicksic said. "Not just offensively, but I feel like I have become a more well-rounded basketball player. I am not just the center now. I am able to play basketball, which is a lot more fun."

Carpenter believes Nicksic's hard work has produced visible results on the court this season. "He has done a great job of scoring on the block, hitting the mid range jumper, and rebounding," Carpenter said.

The Little Giants have gotten off to a tough start this season, but Nicksic is helping his younger teammates stay the course. "The effort level then picked up and now we are playing hard and together," Nicksic said. "We are just working on details, ironing stuff out, and getting the x's and o's down and figuring out how we can get not just two guys to play well but four or five guys to play well and we are able to put together an entire forty minute game to get a W."

No matter what happens over the rest of the season, Nicksic's work ethic and attitude are traits that will help him on and off of the court.

"Not only have I been impressed with Pete's leadership on the basketball court, I've been more impressed with his leadership in the classroom and on campus," Carpenter said. "He is a scholar-athlete, and he embodies the tradition of all Wabash Men that have come before him."

**Nicksic '14**

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LITTLE GIANTS' 'SINGLE PARENT'

NICKSIC '14 EMBRACES
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SCOTT MORRISON '14 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Life is full of bumps and bruises, and sports are often a microcosm of the unpredictability and roadblocks in life. Senior Pete Nicksic has seen his fair share of ups and down in his Wabash career, but he has grown into the vocal leader on this year's young squad.

"Pete's leadership has been invaluable since the first day he arrived back on campus, because he has invested his entire career as apart of the basketball program," Head Coach Antoine Carpenter said. "It's his responsibility to make sure the team understands the expectations and hard work needed to be successful."

Nicksic is in a unique position this season since he is only one of two seniors on a team laden with youth, and he is the only player to have been on the team all four seasons. "Every single time I have been on a winning team here there has been a committee of leaders and seniors which everyone can look to for advice," Nicksic said. "For example, when you get told you are doing something wrong by one person every time, then you are able to say that person doesn't know what they are talking

"When it is leadership by committee, it means a lot more [to teammates] so being a single parent kind of sucks."

PETE NICKSIC '14

about or that person is kind of mean. But when it is leadership by committee, it means a lot more so just being the single parent kind of sucks."

However, Nicksic has embraced the ownership his role has provided him, and notes how quickly the younger guys have come along. "The team has been awesome as far as being receptive," Nicksic said. "There has never been a time where I feel like they don't respect me as a leader because I am just one person."

Nicksic carries a fire and passion for playing that has helped him be the vocal leader on the team. It is not uncommon to see his disappointment when a sub goes to the scorer's table for him. He credits his fiery style of play to playing ball in "The Region" growing up.

"It is how we do it up there, and it

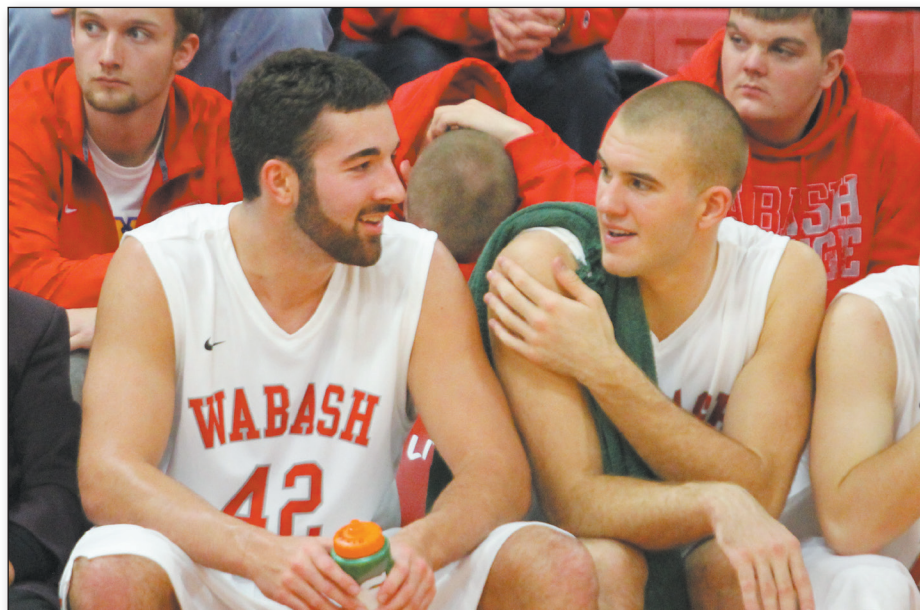


PHOTO BY COREY EGLER '15

Pete Nicksic '14 has assumed a major leadership role with this year's Little Giant basketball team. He has tried to impart knowledge to younger players like Daniel Scofield (42) that he received as a freshman.

is not nice," Nicksic said. "It's scrappy and all heart. It is not just who can but who is willing to do so you have to always have the mindset of being aggressive and you should be disappointed when you get pulled out of a game but I trust coach's decisions and his rotations. You just have to be willing to get back in there and take care of business."

These were all characteristics that former Little Giant head basketball coach Mac Petty saw when he recruited Nicksic.

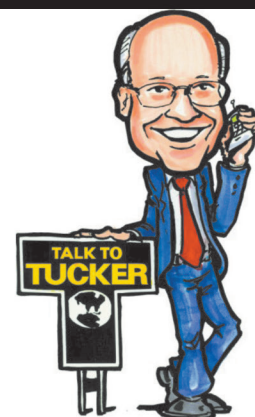
"When I met him I saw two characteristics that stood out," Petty said. "He had great character and what I call competitive greatness of which



SEE NICKSIC, P. 15

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