

AUGUST 21, 2020

History Has its Eyes on Us



CASEY AKERS '21/PHOTO

A group of freshmen make their way to President Feller's Chapel Talk on Thursday. In accordance with social distancing measures the talk was held on the Mall.

STAFF EDITORIAL • It is quite a surreal feeling to know that you are living through a defining moment in history. For most of us, too young to remember the September 11 Attacks or the recall with great detail the Great Recession, this is the first time that we have felt the weight of the future on our shoulders. Without a doubt, we will all one day look back at this time as a defining shift in society, culture and our personal lives.

It seems like a lifetime ago when concern about the spread of COVID-19 first hit campus. The Chapel Talk held right before Spring Break marked the arrival of a widespread realization among the Wabash Community that the pandemic was no longer a simple matter of discussion, but a stark reality which had to be faced. Still in many ways, it is easy to envious of the subtle optimism that filled many of our conversations back then.

Much has changed in that short time. Concern turned to quickly panic for many. For others it shifted to doubt about the reality of the virus. For some, it turned to disdain not only for the new rules and measures in place designed to limit the spread of COVID-19, but for those who create and enforce those necessary policies.

All the while our country faced growing concern of an economic crisis on par with the Great Depression and a wave of social unrest following the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at the hands of police. For a brief time in June, it seemed we were closer to outright social collapse than anyone in this country had experienced in at least a generation.

The mood has eased somewhat since then, and yet most of us still go about our daily lives with a tense unease. There are times when this whole moment smacks of a Kafka novel or an

episode of Black Mirror. We cannot help but wonder "when will life begin to feel normal again?"

Life at The College, too, feels anything but usual. From classes in the Chapel to masked and socially distanced Coffee and Careers sessions, there is a weird ghost of the past that lingers over our daily activities. Students and faculty have so far coped with this reality in many different ways, some choosing to deny it as much as they can and try to live a normal life, others accepting the fate of this semester with a humble and accepting resolve.

But is this moment all about doom and gloom? President Feller has called this "our kneeling in the snow moment." Meaning, this is a time when this generation of the Wabash Community, stripped from many of the things that bring us together, must really consider those fundamental aspects which define who we are as a College.

There is no doubt about it: the void left by the many of the traditions that we know and love that must be cast aside for the time being is unfillable. Homecoming, The Monon Bell, Pledgeships: all of these time-honored milestones of Wabash life will either be absent this semester or altered

significantly. We long for the days when we can enjoy them again in their true, unpanemic form.

The return of these wonderful events is, of course, dependent on all of our participation in the guidelines of the Gentlemen's Compact. By now we have all heard of the unfortunate fates of Notre Dame and University of North Carolina. We must understand that a similar crisis for Wabash College, an educational institution built specifically with student-residency in mind, could spell disaster for many years to come in a way that larger colleges could more easily bounce back from. In short: failure to rise to the moment on our part could risk the very existence of our beloved College.

But there is a silver lining in these times. Though life on campus for the first time since time immemorial has shifted so radically, we still have one another. We still have those soul-enriching conversations. We still have those sparks of inspiration. We still have late night conversations with roommates and fraternity brothers. We still have our beautiful campus where we can feel the hallowed steps of past generations meeting face to face with ours. Yes, we are still Wabash.

A Message From the Healthy Campus Task Force

COOPER SMITH '23 | ONLINE EDITOR • This week, as we watched other campuses around the country send students home, conversations inevitably turned to Wabash. Can we stay residential during the Age of COVID? One of the campus organizations working tirelessly to make our residential hopes a reality is the Healthy Campus Task Force.

The HCTF met throughout the summer, examining and recommending policy changes to fight the spread of COVID-19 at Wabash. Ann Taylor, Chemistry Professor and Special Assistant to the President for COVID-19 Response and Planning, explained how the HCTF partnered with other organizations. "We consulted guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American College Health Association, Indiana State Department of Health, the Montgomery County Health Department and the Fairbanks School of Public Health. We have collaborated with the Great Lakes Colleges Association, Independent Colleges of Indiana, and other higher education institutions in Indiana to share ideas and make bulk purchases at lower prices." Dr. John Roberts, Campus Physician and Deputy Montgomery County Health Officer, also commented. Roberts said, "I think it's important for the student body to realize that thousands of hours of work went into preparation for residential learning at the college

this fall. Planning involved not only the HCTF members but scores of others on campus." The HCTF will meet throughout the semester to monitor and alleviate the pressures, anxiety, and safety of all students and members of the Wabash community.

The work was not, and is not, easy. Taylor said, "The biggest challenge is that every three weeks, the situation and recommendations seemed to change." Dr. Roberts explained the critical role Wabash students have in helping us stay residential. "Our biggest fear is what happens outside of the classroom - social gatherings, particularly with those from outside the Wabash community as well as travel off-campus to events, that can easily increase the viral burden on campus."

Wabash has the potential to weather the COVID storm - but only with strong leadership and character from everyone. Taylor put it best: "I do think this is a really good example of what studying the liberal arts prepares you to do. This is a brand-new situation, but we can use thinking critically, acting responsibly, leading effectively and living humanely to come up with strategies that are tailored to Wabash and allow us to move forward. There are no perfect answers, but we are doing our best to balance the academic mission of the college with the physical and mental health needs of everyone on campus."



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FOOD IN WORLD HISTORY: STEAK CHIMICHURRI

PROF. RICHARD WARNER | GUEST CONTRIBUTOR • Greetings, Wabash! This is the first in a series of articles I will be offering in the Bachelor this semester about food in history. We all have faced challenges in this “viral” period, which has forced us to draw back from many aspects of our everyday life. For me this has meant not being able to cook for other people, or host them at our house, which we affectionately refer to as “the 308.” To fill that void, I will be telling some stories about particular dishes and some of their history, and encourage you (when you have access to a kitchen) to try your hand at creating these.

Today’s dish is called Steak Chimichurri. It hails from South America, specifically the nation of Buenos Aires. Believe it or not, Argentines are more attached to eating beef than we Americans are! (and that is saying something....) When I traveled there during my last sabbatical in 2016, I literally ate steak seven days in a row. The portions were outrageously large at restaurants, and the beef was as tender as any I have tried, save for Japanese Kobe meat. (I’m pretty sure that Kobe cattle are fawned over with back rubs and belly massages, creating the most tender meat you can imagine...)

In many ways there are two Argentinas: Buenos Aires and the rest of the country. The rural areas have long been quite productive agriculturally. Since the time of Spanish colonization the huge area of plains, called the Pampas, has produced more than its share of commodities. In the nineteenth century British investors established numerous ranches that raised wheat and beef for export. With the rise of rail travel and, more importantly, the advent of refrigerated cars, Argentine beef became available the world over. At

home, consumption remained high. Until recently Argentines consumed more beef per capita than any other people... but in recent years their neighbor Uruguay has captured that honor. In this matter at least, Uruguay is “their DePauw.”

The Argentine countryside is home to the “gaucho,” a larger-than-life persona who dominates the plains culturally and at times politically. If you are my age, you remember the Marlboro man in cigarette commercials. These rugged individuals have been the backbone of rural Argentine society, herding the cattle that are headed to the world’s markets. And of course, you can imagine what the had for dinner. As another commercial once said: “beef, it’s what’s for dinner.”

On the other hand, Buenos Aires has grown to be a very cosmopolitan urban space over the past couple of centuries. Many Europeans, in particular Italians, immigrated there beginning in the late nineteenth century. In the early years Latin American leaders were looking to improve their societies by attracting more European immigrants, though they were somewhat chagrined that fewer came from northern Europe. The Italians brought with them some serious working class politics, including a tendency toward anarchist ideology in some cases.

Culturally, these immigrants were the source of the now famous national dance called Tango. Like Rock and Roll, this dance was first viewed with disdain by “civilized” classes, and now of course it’s a favorite pastime of the rich.

the Italians brought new food technologies to Argentina as well. In particular, they of course introduced pasta, which today ranks as the second most important food in Argentina to beef (though I might argue that it is a distant second!). There is plenty of homemade



COURTESY OF THE BACHELOR ARCHIVES

In addition to being an historian, Prof. Warner is a professionally trained chef.

pasta to be found in Buenos Aires and elsewhere in Argentina as a result of this import. Besides pasta, another classic Argentine dish is empanadas, a delicious beef pastry eaten as a snack or main meal. We can probably thank the French for the influence on that crust.

Today’s dish reveals the impact of Italian immigration, combined with the strength of Argentine beef culture. Beef Chimichurri can be readily found in many corners of the Argentine Republic. I hope

that you have a chance to make this dish, particularly the sauce. Most immediately you will notice the similarity to a classic Italian sauce: pesto. The method is the same, as the basil and pine nuts of pesto are simply substituted by Italian Parsley and cilantro. Use whatever cut of steak you prefer.... At my age and income bracket I do prefer filet mignon but have enjoyed the dish with marinated flank as well. If you must use ribeye.... Well just don’t tell me!

Chimichurri Sauce

- 1/2 cup cilantro
- 1/2 cup Italian parsley
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon or less minced jalapeño or other chile
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Salt to taste

Place first four ingredients into food processor or blender. Slowly drizzle in oil with the motor running. Season to taste with salt Can be thickened with the addition of fresh parmesan cheese, or by refrigerating for an hour.

Spoon over steak... ¡salud!

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President Feller rang in his first class of Wabash men with gusto.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The incoming class of freshmen is one of the larger classes in Wabash history at over 250 students.

A Message from the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies

Allen Johnson Jr. '23

Recent events in America have been historic for the pursuit of racial equality, but minorities still face discrimination. This is why race relations continue to affect our everyday lives. As an African American male from Indianapolis, Indiana, I live in a place where people have a variety of opinions about racism and racial discrimination. While many people go about their days and tell you, “I am not a racist” or “I don’t discriminate against anyone”, their actions may tell a different story. I have lived my entire life wondering how this will be fixed. Racial discrimination stems mostly from generational hate. Now, I want to be very clear that I don’t believe that all white people or people of other races have racial discrimination or prejudice in their hearts. Attending Wabash college has taught me that there are many people who will advocate for what is right, when it comes to equality and justice in America. Rather, I believe that any form of racial discrimination, big or small, is wrong. Recently in this

country, many people have experienced racial discrimination and have lost their lives or loved ones because of it. This not only saddens me but makes me wonder, “Will I be next?” So, as a student at Wabash, I have been blessed to have many doors opened for me with opportunities, not because I was a Black male, but because I was a Wabash Man. In the real world, I can’t say I’d have those same opportunities. Wabash is a place where we are open to each other and understand that racial discrimination is wrong. Now, sit and think, do we truly believe that? Now, racial discrimination is not only an issue outside this campus, but could be and has been an issue to many students here at Wabash. Students of different cultures, especially African Americans, have suffered from racial discrimination here at Wabash. An example of these actions occurred back in the 1960s, when African American students felt uncomfortable to sing the school song at Chapel Sing because of them being threatened to have W’s

shaved into their afros. This story has a bigger meaning and I challenge you as a reader to do some research and find out how the MXIBS came to be on campus. This will give you some more background to why not only this organization in particular, but other organizations on campus are against racial discrimination. Now this is not only a one-sided story, as there are other students/people of different races who have felt discriminated against. The goal for us is to become a better community and brotherhood, and to have no racial discrimination on campus. This should be a place where people don’t only feel comfortable to walk around and speak their minds, but a place of non-racism and peace. If we, as one Wabash, should choose to not do this, then we have not only failed the students who have come before us, but we have failed the principles laid out in our Wabash Mission Statement. You cannot think critically if you are not open to seeing different ideas from different races and genders. You cannot

act responsibly if you are spending your time here discriminating against other races, whether that be in our dorms, fraternity houses, classrooms, or anywhere else. You can’t lead effectively if you are not taking into account your own racial discrimination. Lastly, no Wabash man can truly live humanely if you are discriminating against another human being. These principles should not only stick in our minds every single day, but we should remember this next time we don’t welcome someone’s ideas to the table, invite someone to a get together or just see the bigger picture when thinking outside of Wabash. This is my goal: That Wabash becomes a better place not only because we are great men, but that no hate is in our hearts for our fellow brothers on and off campus.

Allen Johnson Jr. '23 is the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies Community Chair

Reply to this message at mxj@wabash.edu

Reflections on Race: Learning from my Mistakes

William Kelly '18

In the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder and in the midst of racial tension, Confederate symbols and Black Lives Matter protests, I write this letter to the entire Wabash Community with the particular aim of provoking racial reflection and reckoning amongst white Wabash men. My 24-year old white male, middle-class American profile represents a large swath of Wabash men. I offer two critical reflections about my time at Wabash, and I hope that reading them will hopefully spark your own. In October 2017, in wake of the Charlottesville tragedy, I organized a three-person panel to discuss removing the Confederate statues in the United States. I thought I had done everything in my power to assemble a well-informed, interdisciplinary panel. I even said in my introductory remarks that we had a “diverse” panel that night. But as soon as those words left my mouth, my eyes met the event’s only Black attendees. They looked at each other in disbelief. The panel I had assembled was not diverse where it mattered. All the panelists I assembled were white males. I did not purposefully choose only white men to be panelists, but doing so exposed my lack of racial awareness. I focused so much on interdisciplinary knowledge that I ignored the critical racial perspectives in a conversation that dealt with racism. That night was dedicated to debating whether or not to remove massive stone structures that memorialized rebels and enslavers of Black people, and I did not include a single person of color on the panel.

I never learned a lesson so quickly. These Black Wabash men were my brothers, and I had let them down. Immediately after I realized this, I went to their table to apologize and pleaded with them to discuss their stories and perspectives. But a simple apology did not and cannot correct the implicit racism that already took place. I often reflect on this particular episode in my life. The embarrassment of facing my Black Wabash brothers after excluding them from a racial dialogue reminds me that my whiteness needs to be constantly self-checked; that I, as a white person, need to advocate for voices of color in all spaces; that I need to stop taking for granted the value of their thoughts and life experiences. I made an inexcusable mistake that night – but I will never make that mistake again. That night I made a personal vow that I would work to be racially aware and accountable for my whiteness, so that I never ignore the voices and viewpoints of people of color again. A more general Wabash – and human – experience I often reflect upon is deciding whether or not to confront racism in our social circles. On multiple occasions at the College, I found myself in a group of Wabash men where one peer cracked a racist or sexist joke. In the moment, I recognized the joke as wrong; something that shouldn’t be said or even thought. It was not harmless banter. But I did nothing. I did nothing nearly every single time I heard or saw a similar joke or remark in GroupMe messages, at parties, on Snapchat,

or in the car. Why? Because I was uncomfortable confronting my white friend about his racism or sexism. I felt it would have ruined a friendship if I intervened and called out the racist dialogue, or had the joker explain his so-called “joke.” Instead, I chose to keep my mouth shut to ward off any potential disruptions to our friendship. I was complicit in that racism. Presumably, many of my white Wabash brethren have either found themselves in similar positions, or have been the ones who spewed the “joke.” But when it happened, did you decide to intervene? Will you intervene the next time it happens? There will be a next time. This strain of racism might manifest again as a joke, or gossip, or a text, or a social media post, or an off-the-cuff remark. Will you continually call it out for the racism that it is? I was complicit before, but I will never be complicit in racism again. As a Wabash man, a gentleman, and a global citizen, I know I am better than that, and I know you are, too. Engage, as I have, with the moments of your life where you took your whiteness for granted. Join me in reckoning with the times when you allowed racism room to breathe in your presence without calling it out and striking it down. Vow alongside me to become anti-racist, to learn from your mistakes, and to hold each other accountable for hateful behavior and ignorance. Since Wabash, I have embarked on a career studying the history of slavery in the United States. My scholarly interest in the topic is secondary to the

role this history plays in keeping me – and my whiteness – grounded in racial reality. When I examine one of the millions of bills of sale that document the transfer of human flesh from one enslaver to another, I remember that the United States has largely been, and continues to be, built on the backs of people of color to benefit white people. I remember that I, as well as white people throughout the ages, reap the benefits of that oppression, directly and indirectly, every day. This is not a political statement. The evidence for this history comes from primary sources, as well as bodily and psychological scars inflicted upon generations of people of color. I attempt to reckon with this reality every day to become a more racially aware Wabash man. Indeed, Wabash men never stop improving. We have ingrained within us a lifelong desire to educate ourselves about the life at our fingertips. But, I fear too many of my white Wabash brethren have skimped on continually educating ourselves about our whiteness and about race. If we truly want to make the world a better place, we have to emerge from our white comfort zone and challenge our preconceived notions, to strengthen our own humanity. There has rarely been a more pressing time for us to begin such an endeavor.

Wabash Always Fights,
William Kelly '18
Lincoln, NE

Reflections on Race: Becoming Aware of my White Privilege

Nicholas Weaver '20

As a white man, I will never be able to feel the full array of emotions that black people are feeling at this moment after George Floyd’s murder. I have been complacent in addressing these topics in years past, but, thanks to the professors that challenged my beliefs during my four years at Wabash, along with the conversations I was able to have with my fellow Wabash men from similar and different cultural backgrounds, I do know one thing: I must do better. We all must do better. We can do better in many ways, but I believe the easiest one is learning and unlearning. As a Junior, I had the chance to take a course over the history of hip-hop. I learned how hip-hop started, why it started, how it was used as a tool

to push back against racial inequality within our country, and the never-ending cycle of mass incarceration victimizing Black communities every single year. The class had an immersion component to Chicago, with one of our stops at a local hip-hop studio. As a class, we were put into groups to create and perform our own rap songs. For those who do not know me, I have no sense of rhythm, so it was a pretty scary experience to say the least. But moments like these help change our worldviews. While I felt extremely uncomfortable, the entire experience of the class allowed me to better understand the challenges Black Americans face within our country, which I will never fully understand due to my privilege as a

white man. White privilege allows white Americans, such as myself, who grew up in an Indianapolis suburban town, to be separated from real-world issues plaguing Black communities, and to never feel the need to disrupt these racist systems. Only by exposing ourselves to different perspectives, while also challenging our own, can we truly grow, whether by gaining knowledge that supports our beliefs, or shifting our perspective because it makes sense. Fellow Wabash brothers, I urge you to challenge yourselves: have uncomfortable conversations about race, take courses that challenge your perspective, surround yourself with people who have different views from yours, but who can try to understand

your viewpoint just as you try to do the same for them. Most importantly, understand that we are all human. I have been a hypocrite in the past, and I have done the exact opposite of everything I just urged you all to do. But that is okay. What matters is that we reflect on these mistakes and push ourselves to be better. This is what Wabash is all about, thinking critically, making ourselves uncomfortable, and acknowledging that mistakes will be made. Men of Wabash, we can all do better, and, when we do, our world will be changed for the better.

Best,
Nicholas Weaver '20

Remember your International Brothers



Alex Rotaru '22

Reply to this editorial at arotaru22@wabash.edu

Many college and university campuses switched to fully online teaching after just one week of classes because of surges in COVID-19 cases. The list includes the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Notre Dame. Many of those surges have been linked to parties where students broke health

and safety protocols just to have fun for one night. This opinion piece, however, is not about them. It’s about those of us who are still thinking about or are already planning to do something similar. We’re college students, so the next party is a “when,” rather than an “if,” even during a pandemic. So, before you do something similar, I want you to think about those of us who cannot simply drive for a couple of hours to get home, and who will be likely stranded on campus for the next 6 months, should Wabash go fully virtual. Yes, international students likely have no way of getting home right now. Last summer, I was pretty much stranded on campus for 4 months. Thanks to the Dean’s Office and Career Services, I was fortunate to find opportunities for the Summer,

but having little to no proper social interaction for that long was miserable. If campus were to close, we, international students, have literally two options. On the one hand, we can stay on campus and endure another 6 months of isolation. On the other hand, we can risk going home. However, even if we can find a flight to begin with, it might get cancelled, and we can get stranded in a place we don’t know. Or, our routes can have layovers upon layovers, sometimes 20 hours long. Worst case scenario would be to cross any sort of border by land or by sea, using an international bus, train, or ferry. And even if we get home, we still need to quarantine for 14 days. Then, we also have to deal with time zone differences, which can go all the way up to 12 hours for Chinese, Taiwanese,

Malay, and Mongolian students. And then there’s the question of getting back to the United States for the next semester or the Comprehensive Exams. As you can see, not all of us have the privilege of having just a quick drive to our parents’ house. I, for one, don’t even have a driver’s license, so I would likely be stuck in Crawfordsville for 6 long months. This is why we need to keep this campus open - if not for ourselves, then at least for our international brothers. I know not having parties and close contact is hard, but not having classes in person is even worse, so I urge all of us to think about our international brothers next time we plan a party, or intend to engage in any sort of risky behavior. This pandemic is not about us, but about our brothers, and it’s about time we started acting like it.

A Q&A WITH PRESIDENT SCOTT FELLER

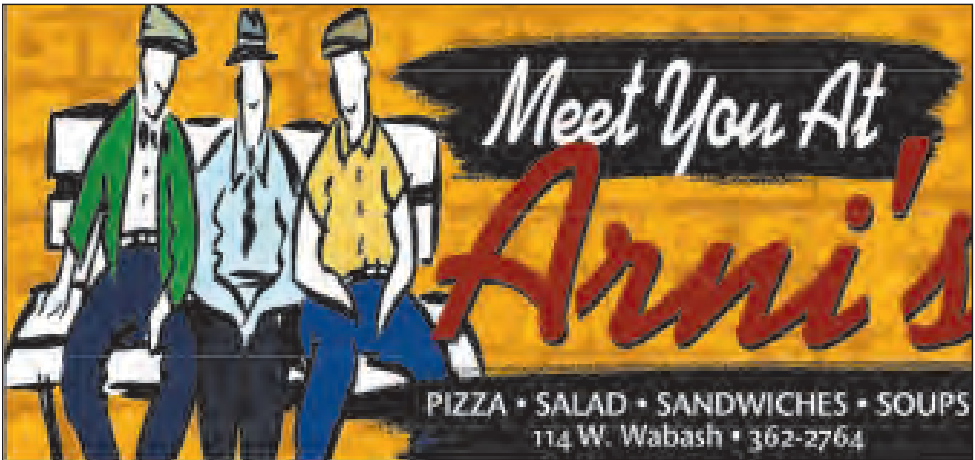


CASEY AKERS '21/PHOTO

President Feller delivering this week’s Chapel Talk. Before taking the top job at The College, Feller served as Dean of the College from 2014-2020. He also served as a faculty member in the Chemistry Department starting in 1998.

AUSTIN HOOD '21 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Q: We are in an existential moment in our College’s history. You have this “our kneeling in the snow moment.” Could you explain what you mean by that?
A: I don’t think that you are over-dramatizing it to say it is an existential crisis for The College. If an institution of higher education can operate under these conditions, it should be Wabash College. 100 percent of students live on campus. So we know where everyone is. We’re able to set up all the residential environments in a manner dictated by public health agencies. Everybody eats together in ways where we’ve set up safe practices. Everybody learns together in classrooms that are well-spaced. And in addition, we have a strong culture of personal responsibility and we are small. People know each other and I think they can understand their responsibility to others in a more meaningful way. So if we can’t get this done I think it will certainly make us reflect in serious ways about the extent that we are living out our mission.
Q: To what extent do you think that that reflection is already happening on campus?
A: So far, we’ve got about a week in. Everything I see suggests that we can do this. But certainly, when we moved from the abstract to the concrete and started to see exactly what it means to maintain your distance at all times, I think we’re having to adjust some. It went from the abstract to the concrete as far as making sacrifices as individuals for the greater good. Some of us are there. Some of us are getting there. And quite frankly a few of those are gonna come to realize or have to be told they’re not there. And they need to leave...and I know that sounds harsh but that is the reality of the moment.
Q: Does UNC concern you?
A: It of course concerns me. I also think that the very different size concerns me. I do get up a lot of days and think “how in the world would we be keeping track of these things if we had 20,000 people here instead of 800?” And so I think we’ve got similar challenges. We can be a little more agile. At a place as small as we are we’ve been making some pivots in real time that I suspect are just really hard if you’ve got many tens of thousands of students, the majority of whom don’t live in campus housing...It’s a grand challenge for large institutions just to incorporate all the data that comes in. That’s hard here, we’re struggling with that here. But its also the case that we’re small enough that we can make the list of people who we need to check on with ease. You can’t do that if there’s 40,00 students. It would just be impossible. We are putting a lot of labor into the process right now...I don’t think it scales. If this place was 50 times larger, we would need to find a thousand employees overnight to do the work. By my estimate we have twenty Wabash employees who’ve changed their jobs overnight to tackle this.
Q: You’ve been at Wabash for well over 20 years. I’m a senior, and you’ve been here for longer than I’ve been alive, so I think that would mean that you have been here for longer than most students have been alive. How have things changed? How has student life, campus culture changed?
A: It’s a good question. I’m struggling a little bit with the thought that you folks weren’t alive when I started as an assistant professor here...I’m afraid nobody has put in those terms yet. So what’s interesting

is that I’ve been here 20-some years, but I’ve actually had a lot of different roles. The majority of my time I was actually a faculty member...I’m learning a lot of different stuff as President that I never knew as Dean. I learned a lot of stuff as a Dean that I didn’t know as a faculty member and even I learned a lot of stuff as a senior faculty member that I didn’t know as a junior faculty member. So it’s hard for me to comment on the arc of 22 years because I’ve been changing more than the college has...In terms of things that I have noticed, I started late 90s and that was close enough to the coeducation decision of 1993 that it was still kind of lingering on campus. The question of the College’s identity had been debated at that time. I think now the identity of Wabash as a College for Men has firmly been established...and so we see faculty bringing in questions of masculinity and gender in a more concrete way than when I started. I think we’re more aware of our particular place in higher education... In terms of the student culture, there are much more similarities than differences. The things that I found unusual when I came, I find unusual now. The interactions between students, faculties, and staff has been very solid all along. So I really don’t see all that much change so much as there are strong traditions that play out in different ways.
Q: A common complaint of President Hess’ administration was that there was a lack of communication or relationship between his office and the student body. Do you have any plans or thoughts about how you might change that perception with your administration?
A: Communication is always going to be a challenge in an institution where so many people really deeply care about The College. So I come to it as seeing this also as a strength. The fact that the students care, the faculty and staff care, the alum care, and parents care, is quite amazing. I’ll start with thinking that’s a good thing, but I’ll freely admit that it’s a challenge...They’re really kind of distinct communication channels. While the students care about one thing, parents, faculty and staff, and alumni all care about something else...I’m not exactly sure how to get this done but I’m definitely committed to the challenge.
Q: On paper we are a tremendous college...but where are some places you see we could improve?
A: We’re starting from a strong spot. But I think one of the areas I’d like to see us work on this year is inclusivity, broadly defined. I’d like us to think about how everything from the curriculum to students clubs is addressing the need for us to make sure we’re the broadest, most welcoming organization we can... We need to welcome people historically underserved by higher education and that includes people historically underserved by Wabash College. I will say that over my twenty years, that our move into accepting and celebrating the LGBT community on our campus has really moved a long ways. When I came here it was very hard to be gay on campus. There are still challenges for sure, but we’ve made a lot of progress. We need to make that same progress to welcome people of different races, nationalities, geographies to our campus. It’s both the right thing to do and the thing we have to do to survive.



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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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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 500 words.

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CARE Team Takes Lead in Keeping Campus Healthy

ALEX ROTARU '22 | OPINION

EDITOR • Because of COVID-19, many institutions, like the University of California system and Harvard University, chose to cancel classes, or to hold them virtually. Others chose to create and enforce another few hundred rules just to ensure their campus can stay open. Not Wabash. As of right now, this is the only campus in the nation that has put complete trust in their students managing the crisis, through the CARE team.

“The CARE Team stands for COVID Action, Response, and Education,” Jill Rogers, CARE Team Coordinator, said. “The CARE Team is basically a group of students that helps promote healthy behaviors on campus,” Eric Lakomek '21, CARE Team Manager, said. Lakomek created the acronym while he was working with the Healthy Campus Taskforce, which planned and took all the measures necessary to ensure Wabash can hold in-person classes this Fall semester.

“There are 44 Team Leaders and 4 Team Managers that make up the CARE Team,” Rogers said. These 48 students are leaders on campus, and had faculty recommend them for the position. “Each CARE Team Leader has around 20 students they are charged with looking after,” Rogers said. “We wanted them equally divided up across campus so that each living unit and each floor has a CARE Team leader.” Every CARE Team leader will work with his students to educate them on safe behaviors during COVID-19 and to troubleshoot anything that comes their way, from restocking sanitizing supplies to communicating concerns and cases to the CARE Team Coordinators. This is only possible because “Wabash is a very student-driven institution,” Football Coach Olmy Olmstead '04, CARE Team Coordinator, said. “It takes an army to [ensure the safety of our campus],” Adam Berg '22, CARE Team Manager, said.

Every CARE Team Leader and Manager attended a two-day training on “COVID-19, how it is affecting the Crawfordsville community, and most safe and least safe practices,” Rogers said. They also had a chance to learn more about effective communication from the Dean of Students' Office and the Counseling Center. “One of our main goals is to educate students,” Lakomek said. “This includes spreading messages from the administration and making sure that people are getting those messages.”

COVID-19 also brings along some indirect effects that Wabash will need to mitigate in order to thrive during the pandemic. “It's interesting to see all of public health coming together,” Lakomek said. “[For instance,] vaping is largely tied to the spread of COVID-19. Then, there's also just a lot of other public health measures that are involved with COVID-19, like contact tracing.” Other concerns stem from the loneliness that comes with quarantining and social distancing and from the anxiety originating from the rigors of Wabash. “We are known for our go-go-go mentality, and, after a stressful day in the classroom and going around fulfilling all these different responsibilities we have, the last thing we want to do is go back to our rooms and be constantly thinking about distancing, and masks, and [the like],” Berg said. “Mental health is going to be a very important challenge [this semester].”

There are naturally many trade-offs that come with COVID-19, and which both the CARE Team Leaders and the students need to manage. “Everything we do is fragile,” Olmstead said. This is why the CARE Team must enforce the rules. “Obviously, everybody wants to be on campus, and everybody wants to have fun,” Malcolm Lang '21, CARE Team Manager, said. “Wabash is already a tough place when it comes to curriculum and professional development, so we don't want to marginalize the Wabash atmosphere, but, at the same time, we want to ensure that it's a healthy, safe space. [...] In order for this to work, we're going to have to make a lot of sacrifices.” One of said sacrifices will be calling out the people who do not respect the health and safety guidelines, which is why “it takes a compartmentalized approach to succeed in such a role,” Berg said.

Ensuring a residential campus where people will not risk getting sick will take everyone respecting the advice coming from the CARE Team, the college physicians, and the administration. Everyone must follow the 3 W's and avoid the 3 C's outlined in Dr. John Roberts '83's Chapel Talk from July. Everyone must wear masks, wash their hands, keep their distance, and follow the Gentleman's Compact. While this pandemic has brought changes at Wabash, classes can continue in person so long as everyone stands TALL.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

SIG CHI FRESHMEN GET THE BOOT

Low-Five to the Sigma Chi freshmen class for getting sent home before their first week of classes for failing to social distance during a pandemic. On the bright side, the Crawfordsville Wal-Mart will have glue in stock for once.

SEMESTER SWAN SONG?

Hi-Five to today possibly being the last day of the (residential) semester because random COVID testing is starting. Soak it up while you can boys!

THOM WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

Low-Five to Red's Play-by-Play announcer Thom Brennamen for using a homophobic slur mid-broadcast this week.

SERIOUSLY MAN, WHAT THE HELL?

Even Lower-Five to Thom Brennamen for calling a homerun in the middle of his on-air apology. Just like that ball we think your career is going, going, gone!

WELL PLAYED, COUCH POTATOES

Hi-Five to all the students who spent most of their time in their rooms before this semester. On a campus full of busy bodies, you played the long-game and now you're thriving while the rest of us are suffering.

SPORTS

The Month of May in... August

JAKE VERMEULEN '21 | MANAGING EDITOR •

For the first time ever, drivers will take the green flag to start the Indianapolis 500 outside of the month of May this weekend. Sunday's 104th Running of the Greatest Spectacle in Racing was delayed nearly three months due to the coronavirus pandemic, but finally it comes, at long last. Despite the extraordinary circumstances, this year's race will be filled with storylines from the front of the grid to the back.

Leading the field to the starting line will be polesitter Marco Andretti for Andretti Autosport. The 33-year-old driver is making his 15th start at Indianapolis, and he captured the first pole for an Andretti at Indianapolis since his grandfather, auto racing legend and 1969 Indianapolis 500 champion Mario Andretti, led the race to the start in 1987. Marco has had a turbulent career since finishing second to Sam Hornish in 2006 in one of the closest finishes in the race's history. Marco has not won a race in nine years, and has not stood on a podium since 2015, but none of that mattered last Saturday. In the face of 18 mph gusts of wind, he put together the best four laps of his life to pip Scott Dixon to the pole by a margin of 0.017 mph.

Andretti has been fast in every session, finishing no lower than 3rd in any session, and he will look to finally break the Andretti Curse at the Brickyard which has kept the family out of victory lane since 1969 when Mario Andretti one his only Indy 500, despite more than 70 total starts by five members of the family. Marco has had his share of heartbreak. Aside from finishing second in his rookie year, Marco has finished in third 3 other times, but has never won. While the Indianapolis 500 always has particular significance for the Andretti family, the race holds special significance this year. Marco's uncle, John Andretti – who started 12 Indianapolis 500s – died earlier this year after a prolonged bout with colon cancer.

Andretti's biggest competition on race day will likely be the man starting right next to him. Five-time IndyCar

Series Champion and 2008 Indianapolis 500 winner Scott Dixon has been on a tear to start the season and will be looking to add a second Indy 500 win to one of the most impressive resumes in the history of open wheel racing. The New Zealander won the first 3 races of this season in dominating fashion and currently leads the NTT IndyCar Series Championship by 49 points. A victory on Sunday would likely put the championship all but out of reach and allow Dixon to further cement his standing as the greatest driver of a generation.

The front three rows also include a pair of representatives of the next generation. 19-year-old Dutch driver Rinus Veekay drove his Ed Carpenter Racing car to the 4th starting position on the inside of row two, the highest starting position for any Chevrolet-powered car. One row behind him in 7th, 23-year-old Spanish racer Alex Palou turned the fastest lap of qualifying at 231.901 mph for Dale Coyne Racing before an issue with his in-car adjustment tools caused his speed to fall over the final three laps. Both rookies have already notched top-five finishes in their short careers, and they will look to become the first rookie winner at the Brickyard since Alexander Rossi in 2017.

Some of the field's biggest names had disappointing qualifying runs which will have them starting further down the grid than normal. The back of the field will likely be full of action as some of these drivers work to make their way to the front of the field. Three-time Indy 500 champion Helio Castroneves will start way back in 28th as he seeks to join Rick Mears, Al Unser, and AJ Foyt as the only four-time champions in the history of the race. Defending champion Simon Pagenaud had a similarly disappointing qualifying session. The Frenchman will start 25th, right next to two-time Formula One World Driver's Champion Fernando Alonso, who will start his second Indianapolis 500. Alonso is on a quest to become only the second driver to ever complete the Motorsport Triple Crown, by winning the

Indianapolis 500, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, and the Monaco Grand Prix. 1966 Indianapolis 500 winner, and two-time Formula One World Driver's Champion Graham Hill is the only driver to successfully achieve this feat to date.

Fan favorite and 2011 Indianapolis 500 winner Tony Kanaan is also starting toward the back. He will roll off the grid in 23rd this year. Kanaan will likely be making the final start of his illustrious career at the Indianapolis 500.

This year's Indianapolis 500 will look different in a lot of ways. For one thing, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway will not temporarily be the second largest city in Indiana as they pack nearly 300,000 fans into the famed speedway. The roar of the 2.2 L twin-turbo V6 engines will not be met by the cheers of eager fans. Instead, they will echo off thousands of metal bleachers. Fans will not get an up-close look at the improvements IMS's new owner Roger Penske has made since purchasing the track at the beginning of the year. The cars will also look a little bit different thanks to the addition of the new aeroscreen developed by IndyCar to improve driver safety. But one thing will remain the same. The race on Sunday will add itself to a history longer than any other auto race in the world. Its winner will still be spoken of in the same breath as Harroun and Foyt and Unser and Vukovich and Meyer and Mears.

If you are looking for a prediction from this article, here it is: after a titanic battle with Scott Dixon, Marco Andretti will win the 104th running of the Indianapolis 500. Dixon and Andretti have been the fastest cars throughout practice and qualifying, but something feels different for Marco this year. After the race, Marco, his father Michael, and his grandfather Mario will all have the greatest drink of milk of their lives. A curse more than fifty years in the making will be broken, and it will be glorious even though we will not be there in person. But then again, predictions at Indianapolis are usually a fool's errand. At this race, more than any other, the Speedway picks the winner. We just get to see how it unfolds.



COURTESY OF FOX NEWS

Marco Andretti enters his 15th Indianapolis 500 on the pole as he seeks to snap the Andretti Curse.



COURTESY OF INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

Scott Dixon will look to add to his already impressive IndyCar resume with a second Indianapolis 500 victory this weekend. Dixon won the 2008 race from pole.