

# Wabash Kickstarts Volleyball Program



LIAM GRENNON '24 /PHOTO

Ricky Sessions '24, an outside hitter, awaits a serve during the Wabash College Volleyball Team's first match against Adrian College.

# Mills '85 Delivers First US Vaccines



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Houston Mills '85 (front) delivering the first shipment of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines to the United States. At Wabash, Mills was a borther of Lambda Chi Alpha, a member of the Sphinx Club and a starting point guard for the basketball team.

LIAM GRENNON '24 | STAFF WRITER • On Sunday, December 13, 2020, a UPS Boeing 575 touched down at Muhammad Ali International Airport. On board that UPS flight were the very first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to reach American soil. In command of that flight was Vice President of Flight Operations for UPS and Wabash alumni, Houston Mills '85. Captain Mills, a Marine Corp veteran and former F-18 fighter pilot, was an English Major here at Wabash. A member of Lambda Chi Alpha, the Malcolm X Institute, Sphinx

Club, and the basketball team while at Wabash, Captain Mills often speaks highly of his time in Crawfordsville. Recruited to play basketball at the College, Mills found that Wabash satisfied both his athletic and academic ambitions. "While I was recruited to play basketball, I was particularly interested in finding a school which I could both play the sport I loved while providing a good undergraduate foundation to pursue a career in law," explains Mills. "During my recruitment trip, Coach Mac Petty and staff learned of my interest

in law and ensured I walked away with a full understanding of the athletic and academic benefits Wabash provided as well as the legacy it had for preparing young men for successful professional careers in the law, medicine, business, and a host of other areas. I was likewise drawn to the small student-teacher ratios and was struck by the sense of purpose and brotherhood those I met had. While I was a little apprehensive about being at an all-male school at first, I quickly learned there would be plenty of opportunities to engage with my female counterparts at nearby universities as well as campus visits. More importantly for me, Wabash provided me an environment where I could focus on my studies while still enjoying a full college experience." Despite not becoming a lawyer as he once aspired to, Captain Mills often credits Wabash for teaching him skills he would fall back upon during the rest of his career. Despite the renovations and additions to the campus since the 80s, Mills says, in many ways, Wabash has stayed the same. "...The campus has managed to retain the same academic and athletic excellence, small student-teacher ratios, beautiful campus nostalgia, and strong alumni base ( affectionately known as the Wabash Mafia) for students to connect to and become part of," says Mills. Mills recalls spending most of his time in the Lilly Library or the gym preparing for basketball season. His work ethic continued to propel him after Wabash. Within the Marine Corps, he originally served as an F-18 pilot. He has since served as an air combat tactics instructor and a forward air controller during both Operation Desert Shield and Storm. Captain Mills has over 100 aircraft carrier landings to his name. After leaving the Marine Corps, he found himself working for UPS as a DC-8 flight engineer. After being promoted into management, Mills continued to rise within UPS, eventually filling the role of Vice President of Flight Operations, a position he currently holds. Mills credits his father for instilling a strong work ethic within him. "My work ethic was a combination of watching my father, who was a blue-collar worker at Ford Motor Company, get up to go to work every day without fail or complaint and, as a result, working hard and hustling became ingrained in my DNA," says Mills. "As a young boy to make extra money, I would cut grass (with a push mower), rake leaves, shovel snow, and go to the grocery store for neighbors to have money in my pocket. I had two paper

routes at age ten with the Indy Morning Star, so I had a routine of starting my day off early. Athletically, as someone not blessed with height (a 5'9" point guard), I always made it a point to outwork those around me so my size would not predetermine the impact I had on a game or my teammates. I always made it a point to hustle and sacrifice free time by putting in the extra work. My work ethic, coupled with the academic foundation provided by Wabash, translated into me finishing at the top of my class in flight school and the opportunity to fly the F/A-18 for the United States Marine Corps. Throughout my professional career, I have learned that putting in the work helps to prepare for the known and the unexpected. As a dear mentor once told me 'Progress Demands Sacrifice'. I've found these words to be true and a good work ethic is interwoven with sacrifice." Now a member of Wabash's leading alumni network, Mills lends the following advice for current students. "I like to share my four P's of success and significance: Passion, Perseverance, Practice, and Purpose. Find your passion and you'll never work a day in your life. Dream big, audacious dreams and use your passion as your fuel. Know that no matter how smart or good you are setbacks are part of life, become a person who learns to fail fast and not be defined by setbacks but preserves through them. Put in the work... practice, practice, practice... you never know when opportunities will present themselves but know the work and sacrifice you put in now will prepare you to take advantage of them when they do show up. Live your life with purpose and you will find more than success: You will find significance. As a United States Marine I was proud to serve my country and today I am even prouder to serve my community and my teammates. My purpose is to make a difference in the things I have the ability to influence. To make things better than I found them. To help others find success. A service before self mindset helped me find my purpose and helped me take the spotlight off of myself and find true enjoyment by shining it on others. " Mills might not have been able to imagine flying a Boeing 575 with the first doses of a desperately needed vaccine when he first stepped on campus four decades ago. But through his work ethic and dedication in all facets of life, he found himself representing the Little Giants well nonetheless. Both a veteran and father, Houston Mills leads and embodies the life of a true Wabash man.



# College Updates COVID–19 Guidelines



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A student walks across the arboretum wearing a “Wabash Always Fights” mask. While the College has revised some COVID-19 guidelines, students and staff will still be required to wear masks on campus this semester.

KIHYUN KIM '24 | STAFF WRITER • We survived last semester’s total confusion. Though there were lockdowns and quarantines, we stayed on campus, unlike several other colleges where there were no in-person classes. However, it is also true that we did not live a normal college life. There were a lot of things we had to do to keep ourselves safe from the COVID-19 pandemic, such as 6-feet of physical distancing and wearing masks that were uncommon before-Covid-19 era Wabash. Then, what do we have to do this semester to keep the Wabash community safe from COVID-19? What are the major differences in the college’s COVID-19 policy between last semester and this semester? Although it is quite complicated, you do not have to worry about it; everything you need to know will be explained soon.

Before explaining the college’s policy on several things, you should understand the “color code system” which will be adapted next week. There are four color levels, from red through orange and yellow to blue. On a weekly basis, the color will be determined by several factors, including the positivity rate from surveillance testing, distribution of cases across campus, and community spread in

Montgomery County. The color code system will determine what you can do and what you can’t do. For example, if the level is red, events on campus need the approval of the President. On the other hand, if the level is blue, approval for events is not needed. Knowing the color code system is crucial to understand the college’s policy on COVID-19 this semester.

## 1. Mask

Last semester, wearing a mask was required on campus. How about this semester, then? To state the obvious, everyone should still be masked up. However, according to Marc Welch, Associate Dean of Students, there can be some exceptions to masking while working out, such as “especially high-intensity cardio.”

## 2. COVID-19 Symptom Check-In

Like the last semester, submitting a COVID-19 Symptom Check-In is still required. You will not want to forget it because the COVID Pass completion percentage will be used to predict future disease prevalence.

## 3. Sign-up system to the Allen Center

You still need to use the sign-up system if you want to use facilities in the Allen Center. Furthermore, there is some possibility that the sign-up system will be maintained even post-

COVID. On the possibility of continuing the sign up system post-covid, Dean Welch said, “This has been discussed for facilities beyond the Allen Center. I could imagine such systems in place even post-COVID—especially if they provide increased benefits and opportunities to students, faculty, and staff.”

## 4. Physical distancing

“Certainly one of the best and most effective ways to prevent spread on campus.” Dean Welch’s thought on physical distancing obviously shows that physical distancing is still required on campus.

## 5. Guest Policy

“Students really want to be able to have guests on campus.” As stated in ‘COVID Debrief Memo 12-17-20,’ many students have hoped to have guests on campus. In this semester, the guest policy will be determined based on the color code system. If that week’s color is red, then no guests would be allowed. If it is orange, visiting between units and outdoor only visits would be allowed. However, if the color of the week you hope to have a guest is orange or blue, though there are several restrictions such as registering every guest and no-overnight-guests, it is possible to have a guest on campus. However,

details about the guest policy such as “how do you do registration or how do we make sure guest leave campus when they are supposed to every week” are not yet finalized, according to Ann Taylor, Professor of Chemistry and Special Assistant to the President for Covid Planning and Response.

## 6. Off-Campus Travel

Although off-campus travel was not encouraged by the college, the real prohibition on off-campus travel last year was visiting other college campuses. This semester, although traveling off-campus is allowed, there is a possibility that traveling off-campus could burst Wabash’s bubble. So, you have to be careful when you travel off-campus and who you spend your time with. Keep in mind the following sentence written by Dean Welch, “While it seems innocent and harmless to be with loved ones at home, it’s risky.”

## 7. Punishment

The ‘Gentleman’s Rule’ is our only rule of conduct. If one breaks any college rule on COVID-19, then “there needs to be additional education or consequences,” according to Dean Welch. For example, if a certain living unit breaks the guest policy, then “they might lose the privilege,” Dr. Taylor said.

## Staff Editorial: Let’s Stop Pretending Everything is Normal

It has now been over a year since the first recorded case of COVID-19 in the United States on January 20, 2020. Those 12 months have proven to be at once the most strange, terrifying, and important stretch of time in recent cultural memory. We often denote this phenomenon we are all living through by referring to its proximate cause: “the pandemic,” “corona,” “the virus.” Yet there’s a certain absurdity in this that we’re all aware of. Something much more profound, much more impactful is happening than simply the infection of human bodies with a respiratory disease.

This “phenomenon” has so far culminated in the frustrating and tragic events at the US Capitol on January 6. As supporters of President Trump stormed the seat of American democracy, an overarching sense set in that something was seriously broken about our politics and our society. If the past four years have shown us just how divided the culture wars of the late 20th and early 21st centuries have left us, then these past few months demonstrate that there is a not-insignificant number of Americans who wish to seriously turn up the temperature of those conflicts. It feels as though we are living in a

cultural fever dream where our worst dystopian nightmares collide head on with a willing divorce from reality. The drama of American politics, which has been on an uncompromising track towards division for the better part of a generation, has led to a zero-sum brinkmanship which has prompted so many to sacrifice their relationships, their notion of truth, and even their faith in humanity.

Just yesterday, the Democratic-led House of Representatives voted to strip Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene from her committee assignments. Since her election in November, Greene has become a household name in American politics on par with the Democratic Socialist phenom from New York, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Yet unlike her colleagues on the left, Greene does not simply advocate for policies once considered far afield from American political orthodoxy. Rather, the Representative of Georgia’s 14th District openly and repeatedly traffics in conspiracy theories.

These theories, many of them staples of America’s far-right fringe, range from accusations that many school shootings were staged to the QAnon hoax. The

latter, which claims that an anonymous person (dubbed ‘Q’) is releasing classified information which details Donald Trump’s plan to overthrow a kabal of Hollywood and political elites operating a global pedophile ring, is deserving of special attention. It is a conspiracy movement that originated in 2017 in the far reaches of the internet and spread exponentially in the past year to become a widely popular perspective among Trump Supporters. Many of the individuals arrested for their roles at the Capitol Riot, including Jake Angeli (the “Q Shaman”) have strong ties to the community.

What’s most disturbing about Marjorie Taylor Greene is not her radical beliefs per se. It’s the fact that she is far from alone in holding them. When defending her reputation on the House floor on Thursday, the Congresswoman noted that she is “a very regular American.” The truth of that statement should alarm us all.

One of the harshest facets of our contemporary era of self-fulfilling prophecies and short-circuiting media ecosystems is not knowing what version of reality those around us subscribe to. There are very few of us who don’t have a family member, a close friend,

or a fraternity brother we know who occupies the same space we do but lives in a separate universe.

Wabash is not immune to this division. There’s an unfortunate tendency at this College to ignore our divisions and fall back on the idea that our commitment to the Liberal Arts shields us from all negative cultural tides. But it does not take much inspection to see signs of the chaos of the outside world in Crawfordsville. You can see it when the class seizes up when any remotely political topic comes up. You can hear it as resentment grows among a portion of the student body. You can feel it when you avoid talking to someone who lives in your living unit when controversial news is too fresh.

Now is the time to resist our desire to take the easy way out. Like the country around us, we as a college are in a trench. We are not going to escape the forces which drive us apart by ignoring them. What we need now is conscious deliberation and concern for those around us. We cannot allow partisan divisions and intellectual clefts to get in the way of this. Only then can we live up to the ideals of the great men who founded this institution.

## Jim Burress ’01 Keeps ATL Informed

REED MATHIS ’22 & LIAM GRENNON ’24 | NEWS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER • The booming metropolitan city of Atlanta boasts one of the most diverse demographics of any major American city. For Jim Burress ’01, Georgia’s capital is the perfect place to be telling stories from. Burress tells those stories through his role as the local host and senior producer of All Things Considered Atlanta. Affectionately referred to as a “transplant city”, Atlanta’s flourishing economy and rich history has attracted people from all over, meaning there is no shortage of stories to tell.

In the last few months, those stories have largely pertained to the election cycle which garnered national attention after it became clear that the result of Georgia’s runoff races would determine the landscape of the senate. For Burress, the national attention meant finding the story within the story.

“When any of our local stuff airs, it airs right next to national reporting and national (NPR) was covering Atlanta and Georgia every day comprehensively, so we couldn’t even do the obvious stories,” says Burress. “It meant we would have to differentiate our coverage so it wasn’t redundant.” They spent time investigating disenfranchisement in Atlanta while examining the role people like Stacy Abrams played in delivering such a narrow margin democratic victory. Giving underrepresented people a platform and way for their stories to be heard is part of the reason Burress has stayed with WABE. As host of All Things Considered, Burress has been able to do what he loves.

Burress, who graduated Wabash with a

degree in English, always knew he wanted to work in Journalism. While still a student at the college, Burress would commute the ninety-minutes down to Terre Haute Indiana, where he worked part-time for WTWO. In pursuit of new endeavors outside of television, Burress went back to school at Murray State, where he earned his Masters in Mass Communications.

“While I was at Murray State they had a university licensed NPR station,” says Burress. “My advisor’s wife was the general manager, and he said that they are just looking for people to just pick up stories here and there which I started doing. I kind of fell back in love with reporting and had a really good experience there.” Burress would stay on there for another year and a half after graduating with his masters.

After starting a Ph.D. program at Georgia State, Burress got a call from the station he works for now in Atlanta. After applying two years prior, Burress was asked if he was still interested in working for the station. Having just completed his first year at Georgia State and being less than enthused about starting his second, Burress jumped at the opportunity and has stayed there for the last thirteen years. Joining the newsroom with just six others, Burress has been able to help build the station to what it is today.

To learn more about our talk with Jim Burress, go to our Twitter page @WabCoBachelor\_ to watch our whole interview. There, we talk more about Burress’ journey, the Georgia Senate Runoff Elections, and what Burress’ expects to happen next in his career.

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## Revisiting Edward Snowden in 2021: Why Whistleblowers Matter



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The NSA knows the porn you watch. They know your kinks, your sexual fantasies, and your relationship history. They know the pictures you sent over text or stored online (even your nudes). They know your political ideals and that weird thing you looked up on Google because you were too afraid to ask someone else. And the NSA knows much more. They can access this information after obtaining a “warrant,” which the FISA Court grants them over 99% of the time. They store all this information as raw metadata that they collect through several government programs, which congress installed through a law dubbed the “Patriot Act.” Both sides of the aisle championed the Patriot Act. They said it was an appropriate step to prevent terrorism in America. However, the act never revealed the full extent of the mass surveillance that the NSA was conducting. In 2013 Edward Snowden, an NSA contractor turned whistleblower, disclosed the shocking truths about our surveillance state to Glenn Greenwald, Laura Poitras, and Ewen MacAskilland. The two journalists (Greenwald and MacAskilland) and the filmmaker (Poitras) publicized that we live in a surveillance state where the government records our every move and thought. Since Snowden’s disclosures in 2013, the US government and news media have mistreated him and framed him as a traitor. They spread unfounded conspiracy theories, lies, and falsehoods about Snowden, claiming that he is a foreign agent who enabled terrorism and committed treason.

In reality, Snowden is the dictionary definition of “patriot.” If you suspect Snowden of engaging in foul play, you are simply misinformed and misguided. What Snowden did in 2013 was an action of patriotic courage and resolve. I will debunk the leading theories that our surveillance state has created to discredit him. Edward Snowden is the ultimate whistleblower, and it is essential that we protect and encourage future whistleblowers for generations to come.

The most irksome argument circulated about Snowden is that he assisted our advisares, enabled terrorism, and damaged national security. The truth is he actually revealed that we live in an authoritarian surveillance state where the federal government collects evidence on every one of its citizens, and our government can pull this evidence at any time to indict us of a crime that we

may or may not have committed. We are always being watched. Whether Snowden’s disclosures damaged national security should not be a primary concern, because our government is breaking its constitution by surveilling our lives. But the second truth is that Snowden’s disclosures did not threaten national security and have not shown to enable terrorism in any way. If we consider our nation to be made of the citizens who vest the power to rule in the government, it is a major threat to the nation’s security when her citizens are being actively spied on.

The argument that Snowden assisted our advisories holds some water. For example, he disclosed that the United States tapped the phone of several of our allies’ leaders - most notably, Angela Merkel. But the NSA and CIA’s biggest complaint is not that these countries know about their spying methods. Snowden admits himself, the NSA would rather have had him sell this information to a foreign government than release it to the public. Why? Because now everyone knows about the government’s crime, ally or foe. But if his intent was to support other nations, he would have handed the documents directly over to another government like Russia or China with little concern for the public, and gotten paid for it.

Moreover, the argument that the Snowden disclosures enabled terrorism is as laughable as it is preposterous, but to understand why this argument is frauguent, we need to rewind history. Congress passed the Patriot Act in October 2001, on the coattails of the September 11 attacks, to help prevent terrorism. President George W. Bush signed the act. The offical name of the act is “Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism” or “USA PATRIOT.” The NSA and CIA jumped at the chance to use a national tragedy to grab power. They got permission to spy on every American with the excuse of obstructing terrorism. But what does that mean? Who are the terrorists? It would seem that it is us, the American Citizens. Since September 11, 2002, we haven’t seen any evidence that the Patriot Act does anything to obstruct terrorism, foreign or domestic. Mass shootings still happen at home and interventionist wars still kill innocent American soldiers in the Middle East. Also, it would seem that the goal of these NSA programs is to root out home-grown Muslim terrorists. According to Dr. Risa A. Brooks, Professor of Political Science at Marquette University, concludes in her study “Muslim Homegrown Terrorism in the United States” that “the threat posed by Muslim homegrown terrorism is not particularly serious, and it does not appear to be growing, especially in its most lethal incarnation—deadly attacks within the United States.” Every branch of the government lies to the American Public when they say surveilling us will protect us.

An argument that we often hear from government officials, politicians, and the media concerning Snowden is that it was irresponsible for him to disclose documents to the public. He

should have used legal means if he saw something wrong with the NSA. And they often discredit him as “only a contractor.” However, “legal means” would not have come to fruition. To prove this, let’s look at how the executive branch is constructed. The NSA and CIA place technologists (like Snowden) at the very bottom of the totem pole. They do this because they have overheard limits set by congress, preventing them from having beyond a certain number of employees. But they have a near limitless budget that congress grants them in the name of “national security.” Thus, they use these funds to hire contractors that work as NSA employees. For example, Snowden worked as a Dell contractor for the NSA. But, in reality, he was an employee of the NSA, off the government’s direct payroll. Despite Snowden’s lowly rank (contractor), he had access to nearly every NSA and CIA-stored file. Once he discovered proof that the NSA was breaking the restrictions set on the surveillance of American citizens, he had no real way of challenging the NSA internally. If he wanted to do it “legally” and “follow the chain of command,” he would have gotten nowhere and would have been fired. His superior at Dell would have done nothing out of fear of losing their precious government contract. Even if his manager decided to do something about it, the chain of command would have eventually fizzled out once it reaches someone complicit in the crimes that the NSA committed against the American people every single day. He could have followed ever more legal means. He could have reported it to the Attorney General or to the Secretary of labor as a federal worker dispute. But those were the options. This point illustrates itself. Snowden became determined to reveal these truths to the public after he saw James Clapper, the Director of National Security, commit perjury when he lied under oath to congress about the extent of the mass surveillance programs. This was and is a real conspiracy that had no chance of being “legally” brought to the public.

Similarly, many criticize Snowden’s delivery of classified documents to journalists. While this is the only illegal thing he did, they do not criticize him for the element of illegality. To clarify their claims, they mean “he should not have done it at all.” Or they just say that he was reckless. However, what he did was highly responsible. After being sure that he wanted to disclose this information, he took cautious and appropriate steps. He made sure that the documents were encrypted and secured, and he did not do the stupidest thing he could have done, which is dumping the files on WikiLeaks. Snowden went to Greenwald and MacAskilland to be a filter for him, and they acted as true journalists to ensure that Snowden was not releasing information that should be a national secret. Snowden was following the precedent of the Watergate whistleblower Mark Felt who disclosed information to Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein.

One of the worst criticisms of Snowden is that he is unwilling to stand trial for the crimes he

has committed. But the fact is, he simply would not face a fair trial. In summary, he fled to Hong Kong to disclose the information to journalists. In an attempt to get to Ecuador (a whistleblower refuge) he got stuck during a layover in Moscow when then Vice President Joe Biden suspended his passport. He is therefore unable to leave Russia until the United States revalidates his passport (ironically many criticize him for “fleeing to Russia” when then Vice President Biden intentionally trapped him there). Then, the DOJ charged him under the Espionage Act of 1917. The law is an archaic statute that the United States used to charge spies in both World Wars and Soviet spies. But in the last few decades, the DOJ has used to charge whistleblowers and journalists. A notable example is when the US charged Julian Assange with seeking classified information. But Assange is not a US citizen and is a journalist. And the DOJ attempted to extradite him for the “crime” of his journalistic duty.

The most notable feature of this act is that it makes no distinction between a whistleblower, a journalist, a leaker, and a spy. To the government they are all the same. But to the nation - the people - they are very different. So, why would he face a trial where he would be rightfully convicted under an unjust law? He has the right to a fair trial, and he would never get that.

And why does any of this matter? I think about this sometimes too. But I know why it does whenever I hear someone say, “I don’t have anything to hide, so it doesn’t bother me anyway.” Well, that is the point! You could have nothing to hide, and go about your life in a peaceful way. But if the government decides to target you, or wants you silenced for any reason, they have a file with your name waiting for them. Ask any cop. They can pull you over as long as they follow you long enough. It is the same with the surveillance state that we live in. Although we may have nothing to hide, we have everything to lose when the Feds come knocking.

But the most important reason this matters is because we need to protect whistleblowers and the service they provide to our nation. My blood boils every time I think about the fact that Edward Snowden, a Patriot, has to live in Moscow. He did the right thing, and that is what matters. Politicians must champion whistleblowers and officials should protect them. And leave no doubt about it, President Biden should correct the mistake he made in 2013 and pardon Snowden. Then we need to add an amendment to the constitution that protects whistleblowers who disclose evidence that the United States Federal Government is breaking its constitution. We also need to dismantle the dystopian surveillance state that we live in that would shock the likes of George Orwell and Yevgeny Zamyatin. All government programs related to the Patriot act must be abolished and anyone who was complicit and did nothing should be charged with treason. It is time that American once again becomes a nation that values privacy and the civil liberties of citizens.

## Reflecting on Uncomfortable Truths



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Whether it’s about climate change, racial inequality, or election results, Fox News, as well as other media outlets, perpetrate false narratives that function to cloud the truth and manipulate people. These false narratives are largely responsible for increasing political division. Human involvement in climate

change has just as much scientific evidence as cigarette smoking causing lung cancer. African Americans are four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white Americans despite similar usage. Trump continues to spread the narrative of a stolen election despite there being zero evidence of widespread voter fraud. Why do so many of us reject evidence that supports a narrative other than our own? The simple answer: It’s comfortable.

Accepting that our system, our society, our selves are in some way flawed is a difficult conclusion to reach. It means we have to do something different than what we’re currently doing. It’s easier for us to say it’s someone else’s fault, not ours. It’s easier for us to reject the impact of implicit bias, or policy that was rooted in racism. It’s easier for us to believe, if something didn’t go our way, that we were wronged. It’s hard to acknowledge our faults, our atrocities, and our losses. It’s even harder to work towards being

better. But, it’s a reality we must come to. We cannot continue to deny large bodies of evidence that make us uncomfortable within our own reality. But accepting these faults does not make for popular news.

Tucker Carlson and Fox News would rather have their viewers believe that they are the victims and BLM is trying to control our country and take away free speech, than have their viewers believe that BLM is a movement attempting to address racial inequality in law enforcement and the judicial system. Black defendants receive much longer prisons sentences and more often receive the death penalty than their white counterparts. They are also punished harsher if the victim is white.

Fox News would rather its viewers believe that climate change doesn’t affect the likelihood and extent of continued devastating wildfires despite rising temperatures and decreasing precipitation in California doubling the amount of days in which extreme conditions (that result in wildfires) exist.

This argument absolves any responsibility of America to address climate change.

The purpose of this article is not to tell you that CNN is better than Fox News (although there are studies showing Fox viewers to be the least informed), but to enlighten those who are unaware of the diverging narratives. The rejection of facts and scientific evidence can be seen on both sides of the aisle, and in all media outlets. However, I implore you to consider what evidence you are rejecting to maintain a state of comfort. Self-reflection is a deceivingly hard task for most people, and I am not without bias and fault. But I hope for the sake of my life, the sake of our community, and the sake of our country, that we seek out uncomfortable truths. I hope we accept our own role in a flawed system. I hope we question the narratives that make us feel comfortable, and may be helping to maintain a system of oppression. I hope that more of us can begin to take the road less travelled.

## There Must Be Accountability



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I was planning on writing an opinion about how American democracy is strong because our institutions withstood the greatest

attack on American democracy since the British burnt down the White House in 1814. And while I believe all of those things, I believe there is a more pressing matter in our politics today.

President Biden ran on reuniting the nation and bringing us together from our hyper-radicalized political culture. Little did he know that on the day that he was to be officially recognized as the next president, more than one-hundred and fifty of his political opponents, including our own Sen. Mike Braun ’76, would attempt to overturn the election, and more than a thousand of President Trump’s supporters would storm the Capital, take the floors of the House and Senate, and fly, among others, the Confederate flag.

Since that day, there has been an ongoing

discussion about unity and what President Biden must do to bring the country together. The right is calling for bipartisanship while the left uses the same rhetoric that “Elections have consequences”. Since his inauguration, President Biden has signed dozens of executive orders overturning many of President Trump’s policies, prompting the right to call him an autocrat who doesn’t care about bringing the United States together.

But I must be honest with you and say that I find these arguments disingenuous and flat-out stupid. A little under a month ago, thousands of domestic terrorists united by the President’s calls to “fight like hell” and “be strong” sieged the Capital in an attempt to intimidate Congress into overturning the election of Joe Biden. Are we supposed to

forget about that? Are we to ignore the greatest test of American Democracy in more than 200 years and just move on?

We cannot. We cannot overlook President Trump’s words and his attempts to destroy the institutions and norms that have governed our nation for more than 200 years. We cannot overlook the fact that there are members of our government who have bought in to conspiracy theories like QAnon, that center around Trump.

We cannot and we should not move forward until President Trump, everyone who fomented the insurrection, and those that would wish to destroy American democracy are held to account for their role in the destruction of the systems and norms that have governed for more than 200 years.

## Capitalism’s Fatal Flaw

economic system.

In each case, the question presents itself: Is capitalism sustainable without infinite economic growth? It is impossible to decouple capitalism from endless growth, and it is unsustainable precisely because the system itself is defined by perpetual growth. Firstly, there is a tendency to equate capitalism with the existence of markets and private property, but this is incorrect. Both markets and private property existed before Adam Smith and the Scottish Enlightenment. Markets preexisted capitalism. What separates capitalism from previous economic systems is the dominance of an investor class. In a capitalist society, the financial elite control the surplus of capital, which it reinvests to turn a profit. Though a bit reductionist, capitalism is quite simply the dominance of capital, money that is used to create value perpetually. Think about the relentless, expansionary drives of modern corporations. Many would argue that this results from greed, though I disagree. The reality is that these firms, including the magnates who run them, are themselves subject to a structural imperative for growth. The only way to generate enough surplus for investor return is to generate more profit each year than the year before. When assessing a firm’s health, investors don’t examine net profits, but rather how much their earnings have increased from the previous year. Investors must embark on this journey of searching for

endless growth because when capital sits still, it loses value through depreciation and inflation. This coercive law of competition applies to every level of a capitalist economy. If entrepreneurs do not expand and out-compete their competitors, they will eventually go out of business. To be a capitalist, one must expand or die. But the coercive law of competition doesn’t just apply to companies but nations themselves.

The expectations of democracy create their own law of coercive competition. It isn’t viable for a party to win in an election promising economic decline. To paraphrase the historian Charles Coudombe, elections in democracies are essentially treated as auctions. Political parties try to buy support with the promise of better social services, lowered taxes, and increased living standards. On a larger scale, states must also compete to attract multinational corporations to bolster their tax base while at the same time employing their subjects. Often ignored is the geopolitical implications of the political economy. A nation voluntarily shrinking its economy would never happen because that would mean voluntarily weakening its relative power on the world stage. This logic is best exemplified by Matthew Yglesias and his work titled “One Billion Americans.” Yglesias advocates for massive immigration into the United States to perpetuate American hegemony. In the fall of 2020, the notorious “conservative” commentator Glenn Beck and the ultra-liberal Matthew Yglesias agreed on the

necessity of mass immigration to sustain economic hegemony.

The tendency towards infinite growth in a capitalist society is simply that the state becomes a tool of capital. Capitalism, perhaps more accurately proto-capitalism, was created when the wealthy, political elite rebelled against the Catholic Church and its authority, particularly against the guild based economic system she sponsored. The Reformation gave newly Protestantized statesmen an unprecedented amount of control in their local economies. In a capitalist society, money is power. Hence the elites of first world countries are not religious or military figures but financial elites who generally lack political loyalty to anything beyond their economic interests. The push towards green energy, labor rights, or other anti-capitalist policies, despite having widespread support, is unlikely to be effective as capital will always use these policies to benefit themselves. This is why things like public spending programs often benefit a select few special interest groups.

As it becomes increasingly evident that infinite economic growth is not possible in a finite world, it is more necessary than ever to find an economic system capable of sustaining the diversity and flourishing of human life. What comes next will be disputed, but what cannot be disputed is the limits to a system reliant on infinite growth. To ensure future prosperity, perhaps we should look to the past.



## Devin Guard '21: Full-Time Student and Employee

DREW BLUETHMANN '22 | CAVE LIFE EDITOR • Sitting in class near the end of last semester, Devin Guard '21 got a life-changing call from his fraternity brother Hank Horner '18. Horner wanted Guard to speak with his career. A few minutes later, Guard got a call from that mentor. “He offered me a job on the spot, and he needed me now. He couldn’t wait,” Guard said.

Guard is a Financial Economics major on track to graduate in May. He is now a full-time student studying remote, while starting his career as a financial operations analyst at Neu Property Management in Carmel, Indiana. “I knew this wasn’t an opportunity that didn’t happen without a reason,” Guard said.

The job offer was in his field of study and his intended career. After looking at his course load for his last semester before graduation, he realized that he was only taking elective classes. Because of these factors, he saw an opportunity to work online for the rest of the year. Also, he knew that Wabash had been accommodating to those who choose to study off-campus for any reason this year.

His mentors on campus helped him make it work, and he accepted the soon after the call. The Registrar’s Office pushed back against his plan for logistical reasons. But after moving around his course load a couple of times this winter break, he is now a trailblazer. He is the first Wabash Man to study remotely while starting his career in another city.

Guard started this new job after the end of the fall semester. He has now worked at Neu Property Management for the last two months. “I work with the financial manager, and together we manage funds of several different markets across the US, like Nashville, Phoenix, and Indianapolis,” he said. He continued, “Neu Property



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Devin Guard cheers on the Wabash Football Team. The senior landed his first career job at Neu Property Management in Carmel this November.**

Management takes assets from investors and invests it for them in real estate while offering other services like property management.”

“Without COVID, I am not sure this would have worked [...] But as more companies are working remote,

I think more Wabash Men could find jobs or internships during the school year,” Guard said.

At Wabash, Guard is a Lambda Chi Alpha brother, Sphinx Club member, and studied abroad in Spain last spring. Most importantly, he is a

townie who finally found his way out of Crawfordsville.

Now in Carmel, he is juggling the commitment of being a full-time Wabash Man and full-time employee. He said, “I knew I would have to make sacrifices,” but he has no regrets.

## Beethoven: Joy In Crisis

IO MAEDA '24 | STAFF WRITER • Happy New Year! It is a miracle that we are able to welcome 2021 amid the pandemic. We hope that the vaccines will save us as soon as they arrive. There is one important thing related to classical music that I would like to share with you about last year. The year 2020 was Beethoven’s 250th birthday.

Beethoven was baptized (not exactly sure when he was born) on December 17th, 1770 in Bonn, Germany. He is not only known for composing many innovative masterpieces but also for having survived through a tough life. He was raised under a strict music education by his father, which could be considered child abuse nowadays.

The greatest challenge occurred when he became completely deaf (some scholars denies it) later in life, which implied the end of a music career. However, he miraculously overcame it. He focused on composing instead of performing the piano. His strong affection toward music saved his life.

It was unfortunate that many classical concerts were cancelled due to the pandemic last year, especially because Beethoven’s 250th anniversary was going to become a huge event for many classical music lovers. Celebrations disappeared as the increased siren of ambulances sounded across the world.

Japan was going to host the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, but it was postponed. Also, the pandemic resulted in the cancellation of one of Japan’s December traditions, performing Beethoven’s Symphony No.9 at the end of the year.

The first Japanese performance of the symphony was held at a prisoner of war camp in Tokushima prefecture played by the German captives during World War 1 on July 1st, 1918. The music symbolized love for humanity, which reflects the theme of the symphony, when Japanese and German were enemies.

It is unknown when playing the Ninth Symphony became a custom in Japan. According to one theory, the performance of musical students of Tokyo University of Arts to celebrate their departure for the front of World War II battlefields in 1943 is considered the beginning.

Even during unstable periods of life, we still play music. Some orchestras had managed to conduct under the rigid COVID-19 precaution last year. The Hanover Band from London performs the symphony in the “period instruments”. They used the actual instruments when Beethoven was alive.

Those appearance and timbre are different from the contemporary instruments. For example, there is no

chin rest for the violin, the woodwind instruments are literally “wood,” and there are few valves in the brass instruments. In general, the whole orchestral tone is softer because the instruments are almost naturally and simply made, instead of elaborated workmanship by the machine.

However, at the same time, the orchestra depended on the latest technology to overcome difficulties caused by the pandemic. For example, the singers wore headphones on one side of the ear. Social distance made it hard for them to hear each other, so wearing the special headphones made it easier for them to unite in one voice. Therefore, the orchestra symbolizes the unification of old and new elements by performing the music.

The first movement starts as if the universe was just born from nothing as the orchestra sounds quiet waves. The raindrop-like notes make us imagine the source of the universe accumulating.

Then, suddenly the gases collected together and stars are born with furious thunder and heat by entire striking sounds. The minor chords with harsh impact project that something tragic is going to happen. There comes a part that the wood instruments play a tender melody, but it is gradually corroded by the strings and completely drowned by the blow of the timpani and the brass.

The development is hard to grasp as it is vague because different instruments playing different melodies makes into complex counterpoint. There is no main melody, and the effect creates turmoil. The audience will have a hard time following the music without a clear guidance from the orchestra.

The recapitulation goes back to the beginning part, but it performs more harshly not just having thunder but also the blast to force us into submission. The timpani violently sounds like meteors hitting and destroying the surface of the star with a rumbling of the ground.

The soft melody played by the wood instruments and the violins that the audience can hear is a painful. Also, it is like a depressed sigh rather than a luscious consolation as it lacks hope to live in such circumstance. It ends with a tragic theme absorbing people in the black hole to be in eternal suffer.

The second movement starts with the short, intense crushing sound like a stone suddenly fell down before you. Then it continues with jumping melodies in staccato. Unlike imagining a delight view such as a rabbit hopping in the flower field, it makes the audience imagine that something ominous is approaching.

However, since the melody does not sound dull or heavy because it is not

suffocating. It sounds like dance music, but it is impossible for people to dance due to its complexity.

When all the instruments play the one melody, the “lightness” is gone, showing Beethoven’s punch in music. Then in the middle part, the delightful and pastoral melody begins in the oboe. Other instruments, strings and brass, continue playing the same melody.

When some instruments, like the violins, plays the main melody, the other instruments, except the violins, follow by supporting the main melody or keeping the rhythm. The music follows like a stream without any stagnant pool but consistently flowing out the water.

Then it returns to hopping-like-melody music again. The music repeats almost as before. At the end, it makes the audience expect that this music will end peacefully with the pastoral melody appearing again. However, Beethoven completely deceives the audience by bringing out the chasing melody.

The third movement has peaceful music like angels coming aside to comfort the brave who is tired from surviving harsh experiences. The angels land on the earth on a cloud carried by a gentle wind, unlike a thunder that goes through the earth ferociously.

There is a conversation between the wood and string instruments. While one speaks, the other listens. Also, the instrument changes naturally as the melody goes on. When the melody stops with short rest in one instrument, others pick it up.

It is very unprecedented music having a calm and slow music in the third movement. Usually, the music should be dance music (although the second movement we heard is not dance music). However, Beethoven completely ignores the rule of composing a symphony following classical form.

Rather than the entire orchestra performing, Beethoven focuses on each instrument playing each unique melody, which makes the music have different tunes in each section. Although most of the part is played in piano, soft and pastoral texture, there is a fanfare in forte two times in which the brass instruments dominate. The music goes back to the luscious music and it ends like the sky gets dark to prepare for time to sleep.

The fourth movement begins with the most drastic tragic curtain opening with the entire orchestra rumbling. There comes a section where the wood and the brass have a debate with the cello and the contrabass. When the wood and the brass play the melodies from the first, the second, and the third movements three times respectively, the cello and

the contrabass refutes by playing the countermelody.

Then the wood instrument plays a melody from the fourth movement. Induced by that, the cello and the contrabass finally play the main melody of this movement as if the dispute between them has ended.

It continues with the viola playing the main melody while the bassoons wrap around it by playing the sub-melody. This part is the most significant section for the bassoons, playing elegantly in the whole symphony.

Then the violin plays the main melody. The music progresses by having the flow from lower sound to higher sound. Also, there is a crescendo, which is the increase of the volume from piano to forte.

After the entire orchestra plays the main melody grandly followed by the brass’s triumph march, it transitions to each instrument playing each part, creating a sense of turmoil.

Then, after the beginning rattle sounds are played again, the bass singer starts to sing the cello and contrabass’ countermelody.

He claims, “O friends, no more of these sounds! Let us sing more cheerful songs. More songs full of joy!”. He represents the cello and the contrabass’s performance in words. These lyrics were written by Beethoven himself.

Then, the music enters Schiller’s famous poem “Ode to Joy”. After the choir and the solos sing their parts alternatively, the poem enters to marching music playing a transformation of the main melody. It is not a militaristic parade but rather sounds like a childlike play as the drum, cymbal, and triangle create a delight and cheerful atmosphere.

After the turmoil appears again, the famous part is sung having a strong unification of orchestra and the choir to celebrate love for humanity. There is no need to explain why this part is loved and often performed. It is no exaggeration to say that this short part enriches this whole symphony.

The music still continues after the first climax. The music is generally quiet as the excitement calms down. However, as the music approaches the ending, it gradually becomes energetic again by having complex counterpoint.

At the end, the music explodes its happiness by reaching the final climax as if the fireworks go up with festival mood. Like the music cheers hugely at last, we hope that there will be one day that people can overcome the pandemic by cooperating together with love and praise ourselves. Also, we cannot wait that this music will be played in normal condition as soon as possible.



# Online Oral Comps A Success

JOHN WITCZAK '21 | COPY EDITOR• Like nearly everything at Wabash College this year, Wabash College altered the oral comprehensive exams format to ensure student and faculty safety from COVID. Oral Comps used to be a formal, intimate, and in-person conversation between a student and three faculty members. The topics discussed could range from knowledge acquired at Wabash to life's biggest questions. And while circumstance demanded that the conversation was on Zoom, and convenience demanded that students wear formal clothing only above the waist, the unique nature of oral comps seems to have been preserved.

Faculty were unsure of what to expect from an online oral comps experience. Associate Professor of Philosophy Matthew Carlson remarked that "Oral Comps over Zoom were, all things considered, a pleasant surprise. There was a connection problem less than ten minutes into my first exam, which didn't bode well, but it was quickly resolved. Despite the apparent ill omens, that turned out to be the only technical problem that I encountered all week."

On a similar note, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Department Chair Laura Wysocki said, "This year, oral comps exceeded my expectations. The seniors were put into a very difficult situation and the conversations I had were

genuine and thoughtful, despite the digital divide and unusual format." Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science Colin McKinney said, "Honestly, [being on Zoom] sucked less than I expected. In general, the conversations flowed much like they would have in person."

While the overall oral comps experience seems to have gone well, certain aspects of the in-person experience that Zoom cannot replicate. Dr. Wysocki explained that "Zoom can make it more difficult to have a natural conversation because we're limited to the nonverbal cues that fit in a small square on our screens. It seems impossible to look someone in their eyes during a conversation! I'm someone who likes to use pictures to demonstrate difficult concepts, so I missed having the chalkboard nearby or being able to share a piece of scratch paper mid-conversation." Dr. Carlson also brought up the lack of a chalkboard, saying, "The only real difference was that it was more difficult for students to do the equivalent of solving problems on the board. But I saw real creativity and facility with technology, from both students and faculty, and this made the overall discussion experience not much different from what it would have been in person." Similarly, Dr. McKinney remarked, "In person, I always have [Math and Computer

Science] students sketching things on the board. Screen sharing wasn't a perfect replacement for it." While Professors may have missed the ability to ask a student to write an answer in front of them, it is safe to say that many Seniors were content with the change.

Seniors, of course, never quite know what to expect from Oral Comps, and the new online format compounded this uncertainty. Jake Page '21, when asked if he would have preferred the traditional oral comps experience, replied that, "I think I am indifferent. The positive of the online format was that it felt like a much more relaxed environment opposed to standing in front of the three professors as if I was being judged for a show or something. On the other side of things, traditionally, oral comps are after written comps, not a full 7-9 days before. I would have preferred having the written exams first like normal because the nature of studying for oral comps is very different and had I been fresh off my written exams then I would have felt much more confident and well-rounded, I think on topics in my major." Jeff Inman '21 would have rather had the traditional oral comps experience, but said, "The virtual format was handled very well, given the circumstances." On how the Zoomified nature of comps altered his own performance, Inman said, "I personally feel as though being on

Zoom for oral comps did not have too great an effect on my experience. To be fair, my performance and experience may be different from others as I spent the Fall semester applying and interviewing for jobs virtually, so I was well-practiced in the "art" of Zoom professionalism and public speaking at that point." Given that Covid doesn't seem to be going anywhere in a hurry, online Oral Comps may well have provided the Seniors with invaluable experience in high-stakes internet interviewing.

While everyone at Wabash is looking forward to a return to normalcy, it is safe to say that both Professors and Seniors got the most out of the online oral comps. Jake Page '21 said, "Given the circumstances with Covid, I feel like I had the full Wabash College comprehensive exam experience." Jeff Inman '21 agreed, remarking that, "Overall, I think the oral comps experience was a rewarding one." Dr. Wysocki also believed they went well, commenting that, "This senior class has persevered through significant challenges and oral comps this year has demonstrated that they can adapt and perform under pressure. They truly make me proud." Dr. McKinney may very well have spoken for everyone, though, when he ended his positive evaluation of online oral comps by saying, "That said, I hope we never have to do this sort of thing again!"

# Chocolate Review

ALEX ROTARU '22 | OPINION EDITOR • Chocolate: the thing you go get when a 24-ounce coffee from The Brew with four shots of espresso stops working, but you're not quite desperate enough to get a Nitro Brew. Chocolate has been around for centuries, starting as a drink in Latin America. Today, there is so much variety that it can be hard to choose what to go for. We, at The Bachelor, decided to review some chocolate flavors, and here's what we came up with.

**72% Cocoa**  
This is the tried and true option. It's got a lot less sugar than milk chocolate, but it's not so dark that it's bitter. This is the benchmark to which the article compares all the other kinds of chocolate.

**95% Cocoa**  
For some, this may be too much, but for others, it may be just the thing, as it has little to no sugar in it, and it is very healthy. However, for whatever reason, I feel a vinegar-like after-taste whenever I eat it; reminds me of how pure glucose has a bitter after-taste. Overall, a solid choice for anyone studying late into the night or wanting to enjoy a healthy snack.

**Lemon and Pepper**  
I love chocolate, so I never thought I'd bump into a kind of chocolate that I wouldn't like. Then, I bought this one. The pepper ruins the flavor, much like raisins in a cake. However, take that away, and the lemon's tangy aroma beautifully contrasts the sugary feel of the chocolate. I may very well be in the minority here, but I genuinely feel like nuts in chocolate are like

raisins in cake: they're there to ruin an otherwise perfect desert. Still, there's some nut nuts out there, so feel free to disagree with me. The one exception I will make is anything with hazelnuts: they don't have as potent of an aroma as other kinds of nuts, so they are quite a bit more manageable to eat.

**Cherries**  
The only issue I have with this kind of chocolate is the bits of dried cherries inside. They taste as sweet as dried figs, which skews the balance I am looking for in a good chocolate.

**Dark Blueberries**  
If I were to go for a chocolate with bits of dried fruit in it, this would be the one, as the blueberries are not as sweet as the cherries.

**Cherries and Cayenne**  
This is a good one for you if you love your spicy things - and you'll love it if you're the kind of guy that puts Sriracha on everything. But, if you're like me, and can't handle anything spicier than garlic, I'd suggest having a glass of water ready. (Note to self: make sure to look up what a Cayenne is before buying).

**Dark Salted Caramel**  
I have one word for this kind of chocolate: perfection. The sweetness of chocolate meets the salty tones of the sea and the velvety feel of caramel. The greater the cocoa concentration the better, as the caramel can get a little too sweet at times.

**Marzipan (Ritter Sport)**  
This is a tried and true European flavor that I absolutely love, and I'm



COURTESY OF JESSICA LOAIZA

Chocolate is an international cuisine which we all can enjoy. Alex Rotaru '22 shares his favorite forms of the candy.

not disappointed by its American counterpart. Though I did find its insane sugar content to interfere with the flavor somewhat, all in all, it closely resembles the taste I know and enjoy.

So, there you have it, my review of various chocolate flavors. If there

is one I missed that you absolutely love, feel free to let me know, or even write an opinion piece about it. I am always on the lookout for new and exciting chocolate flavors, and I will, perhaps, revisit this topic in the future if I stumble upon some exciting obscure flavors.

# From The Ramsay Archives:

SECOND WONDER-FIVE RUNS WILD IN GAME  
AGAINST BOILER-MAKERS TUESDAY NIGHT

SCARLET TOSSERS SMOTHER PURDUE BY 42 TO 22  
SCORE IN CONTEST BEFORE CAPACITY  
CROWD AT LAFAYETTE

TEAM-WORK OF LITTLE GIANTS RUNS WITHOUT HITCH

Purdue Fights Hard but Wabash is Unstoppable—Losers get  
Only Thirty-four Shots to Winner's Eighty-seven

*From The Bachelor of 100 years ago - 01/12/1921 p.1.*



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# Moot Court holds Kick-Off Meeting

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | STAFF WRITER • On Monday, Acting Dean of the College Todd McDorman, Professor Scott Himsel '85 and his wife Jane Ann Himsel met with a group of more than 30 students (excluding those who had to attend Student Senate) to discuss the upcoming 27th annual Moot Court competition. This begins the month long process of students studying the case, practicing arguments, and preparing to argue before they go before panels of alumni judges and lawyers for three challenging rounds.

Wabash's Moot Court is a competition that asks pairs of students to study a somewhat theoretical case that resembles one currently at the Supreme Court or, like this year's problem, has been decided but won't be going before the Court. . Every law school in the land has one to help prepare its students for practicing law in the real world. Wabash is one of the few undergraduate institutions that has this great opportunity for its law-minded students.

Usually, the Wabash Moot Court competition is held in the fall, but in this year of differing circumstances, the competition will be going on this March. Another anomaly this year is that the competition will be done virtually. Competitors will likely be at their workstations or "optimal" work stations to address the case and the judges making arguments on this year's problem.

Ordinarily, students argue or reargue a case that is currently before the Supreme Court of the United States. This year's problem resembles the case *Jones v. Governor of Florida*, which has already been decided by the Eleventh Circuit and won't be going before the Supreme Court. Every year the writer of the problem changes the names of the respondent and petitioner in the case for the competitors. This year, Jane Ann Himsel wrote the problem and the competitors will be arguing the case of *Dwayne Michael Carter, Jr. v. Governor of Grammy*. In this theoretical case, the people of the State of Grammy have voted to enfranchise non-violent felons who have served their sentences. However, before they can vote, they must pay all fines and fees related to their sentences. This problem asks competitors to consider two crucial questions: one about the 14th Amendment and another about the 24th Amendment. Competitors will have to argue whether Grammy's



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Cooper Smith '23, the winner of last year's Moot Court competition, with Associate Justice Geoffrey Slaughter of the Indiana Supreme Court. This year's competition will be held virtually start March 20.

mandate for felons to pay their fees is an infringement under the 14th Amendment's equal protections clause. The other problem also asks competitors to argue whether that same mandate is the same as enacting a poll tax, which would have been made illegal in 1964 when the 24th Amendment was ratified.

This year's competitors will get an opportunity that law students, and even fewer practicing attorneys when they argue the on the 24th Amendment. Thousands of cases regarding the 14th Amendment have been to the Court, but the 24th Amendment has only been argued before the Supreme Court once. This year's competition will not only give Wabash men an experience most undergrads will not get, this group of Wabash men will get an opportunity most well-established appellate attorneys will not get during their legal careers.

This is guaranteed to be a very interesting problem, like the ones from past years, which included cases regarding police searches and gun rights for all American citizens. The first round of competition will be on March 20th with the semifinals on the 23rd and the finals on the 24th. Be sure to watch the preliminary & final rounds for some incredible legal argumentation before some wonderful and eager judges.

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

## KEEP TABS ON YOUR FRIENDS

*Hi-Five to Amtrak for releasing plans to run a route from Cincinnati to Chicago, which would stop in Crawfordsville, four times daily. Wabash men should work up their stamina since they're used to only taking big trips on the weekend.*

## WHERE WILL YOU SIT NOW?

*Hi-Five to the brothers of Delta Tau Delta for burning a couch during the first weekend of the semester. Proximity to Sig Chi can apparently work wonders for your decision-making skills.*

## SOUND IT OUT

*Hi-Five to Sigma Chi's for allowing us to make fun of them every week in this section. Granted, once they learn to read they might have a different take. But for now things are peachy.*

## CMA'S = RUINED

*Lo-Five to Morgan Wallen for "pulling a Kramer" and ruining his young career by being caught on video screaming a racial slur. We thought the mullet was bad enough to get him canceled, so this was a real nail in the coffin.*

## SOLID CALL, GREG

*Lo-Five to the COVID-19 panemic for lasting longer than the average Wabash man's romantic relationship. Remember when the College called a mandatory chapel to discuss an airborne disease?*

# SPORTS

# They're Back ! Wabash Athletics Return

BLAKE LARGENT '22 | SPORTS EDITOR • On March 13, 2020, the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and Wabash announced the suspension of all varsity athletics until further notice. Students and fans alike waited for the return of one of Wabash's biggest traditions. Nearly a year later, sports are finally back. Basketball's return against DePauw and the debut of Wabash's volleyball program gave Wabash its first taste of varsity action in 322 days. And although no wins came as a result, sports' return lived up to the 'Wabash Always Fights' mantra.

To be able to return in the current environment, in which the pandemic continues to surge through the United States, requires a planned team effort. Wabash Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney '05 did just that. "The availability of regular testing for teams is key to the return-to-play process," he said. "Acquiring over 10,000 antigen tests is not an easy feat and many on campus helped move that mountain, including President Feller, Professor Ann Taylor, and Tom Keedy. It's been a team effort the entire process, and we're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to resume competition."

Tanney also gave some insight into the planning that went into the return of athletic competition: "The operational aspects of hosting events are vastly different in this environment," he said. "We're testing officials prior to games, creating additional locker room spaces for physical distancing, coordinating enhanced cleaning procedures, and more. I appreciate the collective effort from athletics staff - Ayanna Tweedy, Ryan Clark, Brent Harris, Samantha Current, Mark Elizondo, Lauren Vincent, Erin O'Connor, and others - in making home events possible."

Basketball's game against DePauw and volleyball's doubleheader against Adrian College certainly were not normal. Neither featured the raucous crowd that Chadwick Court is known for. But Tanney, like the rest of Wabash, echoed his excitement of even making these competitions possible: "Competing on campus for the first time in 11 months is another step forward for the athletics program," he said. "We don't take anything for granted. I'm pleased we're headed in a positive direction and most excited for our students."



LIAM GRENNON '24/ PHOTO

**The Wabash Volleyball Team huddling during the first match in the program's history. Along with the basketball team's Saturday loss to DePauw, the match was part of the first weekend of athletic competition on campus since the start of the pandemic.**

There were also some other noticeable changes. Each team's benches were scattered apart between players as part of the effort to maintain social distancing as much as possible. Players and coaches wore masks on the sideline, and the volleyball team wore masks while competing. The basketball team may have faced the biggest challenge, competing with only six available players due to COVID restrictions and quarantine protocols. "We're operating an athletics program in a global pandemic, and until that changes, our expectations remain optimistic, yet tethered to that reality," Tanney said. Basketball, despite a valiant short-handed effort, fell to DePauw 86-75. The debut of the volleyball program also resulted in a loss, with the team coming up short to Adrian 3-0 in both matches of its

doubleheader. The results certainly are not what teams or fans were hoping for, but they offer excitement and hope for what is to come. Tanney expressed this feeling when commenting on the debut of the volleyball team: "I'm proud of the entire volleyball roster," he said. "Joining a new program, then practicing and competing in a pandemic while masked is not what anyone signed up for when the program was announced. I told the team after the game last Sunday they're now a part of Wabash history. The future is bright with the leadership of Coach [Ryan] Bowerman ['11]."

As for the remainder of the semester, nothing is concrete. Most teams do not have a definite schedule, and each event is subject to short-notice changes. "All teams' schedules remain fluid, and we anticipate many changes

in the coming months," Tanney asserted. "The volleyball schedule is established by the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL); the NCAC did not issue winter schedules and it's more on a team-by-team basis. Our spring sports hopefully enjoy more definitive schedules in 2021."

While many students and fans will not be able to attend athletic events this semester, support can still be shown. The volleyball team will need Wabash's support as they look to bounce back for their first program win in an away doubleheader against Wittenberg tomorrow at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Basketball returns to action this weekend as well, squaring off in an away matchup against Denison on Sunday at 3 p.m. All of these events should be available via livestream at sports.wabash.edu.