

# Spring Rush Spells New Life for Fraternities



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One of the key parts of Admitted Students Weekend is Spring Rush, which gives prospective students a chance to tour Wabash’s 10 fraternities and meet the brothers of each house. This year, after a down year in fraternity recruitment, fraternities are including meals with brothers so that parents can meet the brothers as well.

SAM BENEDICT ’25 | STAFF WRITER • The Wabash College 2026 fraternity rush season has started and houses have been busy hosting prospective students, holding rush events, and trying to recover from a poor 2025 rush. According to the IFC, fraternities are up to a 38% bid acceptance rate of prospective students, which is a significant increase from this time last year. “[Bid and acceptance] Numbers are looking really good going into the summer,” IFC Secretary Brett Driscoll ’24 said. “We are ahead of the curve as far as last year goes. I think overnights play a big role in the Wabash fraternity community, as far as that process of transitioning from senior year of high school to freshman year of college, and that was something we didn’t have last year.” This year has been much better for fraternities because of the absence of COVID-19 restrictions, which forced a lot of fraternities to pivot and move to virtual rush events. “Compared to this point last year, Fall 2022 is looking to have larger pledge classes all around. With COVID restrictions lifted, Wabash Fraternities have been able to paint a more accurate picture of what we’re about compared to visit weekends we saw in Spring ’21,” IFC President Mason Allen ’23 said. IFC has implemented new ways to push students towards fraternity living. “Starting this year, we introduced something new for Admitted Students Weekend where, before the program started, admitted students and their families were

able to eat lunch at fraternities and interact with brothers,” Quinn Manford ’25, Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) IFC Representative, said. “We think that really helped rush numbers because it gave parents and students more opportunities to interact with the brothers of each house and get a better feel for what fraternity life is like.”

**“Wabash fraternities have been able to paint a more accurate picture of what we’re about compared to a visit in Spring ’21.”**  
-IFC President Mason Allen ’23

On average, 15 students and their families had lunch at fraternities before the admitted students events started. The opportunity for parents and students to sit with active brothers and share a meal is often undervalued, but this small activity is often a powerful moment of ease for these guests. “Our goal has been to get as many brothers and people in the house as possible down in the environment during rush because it isn’t fair to these kids if they come to the house and they don’t meet anyone and it’s hard to accept a bid to a place when you don’t know anyone,” FIJI Rush Chair Evan Miller ’24 said. The whole process starts with communication. “We want everyone involved and just to talk with these guys. It helps us understand if they’re a good fit for our house as it helps

understand if we’re a good fit for them.” Looking ahead to the summer, most fraternities are planning on holding events after the school year concludes to keep the momentum going from the spring. “Current rush numbers are off to a great start across campus,” Allen said. “We saw a lot of bids getting accepted during our Admitted Student Weekends in March and April, so we plan to utilize this momentum into the Summer for more rush events to come. For Summer recess, Fraternities typically employ a combination of tactics to continue recruitment. Rush calls on Zoom/Facetime, hosting events at a brother’s house, or just keeping in contact with prospects are some of the tools Houses utilize.” “We are looking to do a couple things this summer with local guys who have shown interest that we have on our radar,” Miller said. “One of our ideas is to get a group of brothers and prospective students together and attend an Indianapolis Indians game along with other things of that nature. We want good kids that want to get involved and be hands on, get good grades, and truly want to get something out of their education and experience at Wabash as opposed to just going through the motions.” The biggest issue that fraternities have to overcome is the negative perception that families have coming into the rush process. “IFC sees one of the biggest hurdles for students joining fraternities is their parents,” Manford said. “One of our goals for the future is to speak to the parents

of incoming students and get a parent panel going with current parents of students in fraternities who would talk with these incoming parents and educate them on what a fraternity actually is. You see a lot of media about fraternities and the stereotypes of what fraternities are, which turns a lot of of parents away and results in students being turned off to rushing. We want parents to recognize that Wabash fraternities are different from other stereotypical fraternities and give us the opportunity to prove to them that fraternity life at Wabash is a great culture to be a part of.” Next semester, IFC will hold a week of rush events across campus at the beginning of the year to try and get even more students in the fraternity system. This period is an important time for fraternities because it is one of the few moments where students do not have to worry about academics, athletics, or other aspects of Wabash College. Driscoll says that the events will focus on getting as many students into the fraternity system as possible because the benefits of fraternity life can’t be understated. “Fraternities make Wabash special,” Driscoll said. “The Wabash culture is so heavily based on fraternity life as more than half of its student body are involved. Fraternity culture offers an opportunity for self-improvement in many different aspects, whether that be academically, socially, athletically; the fraternity culture provides the support system of brothers around you and the constant motivation to continuously improve in every facet.”

## Cooper Smith '23 Chosen as Next Editor-in-Chief



REED MATHIS ’22 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • For the 2022-2023 school year, the rest of *The Bachelor* staff and I are excited to announce that Cooper Smith ’23 will be the next Editor-in-Chief of the publication. Smith has been part of the publication for the last three years and is looking forward to the chance to lead *The Bachelor* for his senior year. Cooper Smith recently became only the 8th Truman Scholar in the history of Wabash College. Combining his stellar academic profile, his professional experience, and his recent history as Online and News Editor of *The Bachelor*, Smith knows that the position of Editor-in-Chief is the last step in a memorable four years at Wabash College. “Ever since I started as a freshman staff writer, I hoped to be Editor-in-Chief as a senior,” Smith said. More than anything, Smith is ready to come back from his semester studying abroad in Chile to give his all for the future direction of the publication. This year marked the revitalization of *The Bachelor*, utilizing a digital platform with a new website and a heightened social

media presence. While there is room to improve, Smith has his intentions clear on how he wants to use the print and digital platforms. “We are hoping to diverge print and online content [...] the biggest stories will run for both formats, but the long-term goal is to create a different presence in each medium,” Smith said. More than anything, Smith is looking to build off of the success of his predecessors (Reed Mathis ’22, Austin Hood ’21, and Jake Vermeulen ’21) and put *The Bachelor* into the next phase of being a multi-platform publication. “I hope to build on the excellent track record we are inheriting from many years of talented and hard-working writers,” Smith said. “Each year we have stepped up our journalism, and I hope that this coming year will be no different.” The *Bachelor* continues to serve the Wabash community in every issue and piece. Looking ahead, the future and reach of the publication will only continue to grow under the leadership of Smith. Contact Cooper at [cesmith23@wabash.edu](mailto:cesmith23@wabash.edu) if you are interested in being involved with the publication next year.



# WDPD Leads Deliberation on The Gentleman's Rule



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This week, Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) hosted a deliberation on the Gentleman's Rule and its perceptions around campus, including its effects on underrepresented students and other members of the Wabash Community, like faculty and staff.

CHRIS ZIMMERMAN '25 | STAFF WRITER • On Wednesday, April 20, Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) held a deliberation targeted at uncovering perceptions students and faculty have about the Gentleman's Rule. Though the event saw good participation from faculty, staff, and the administration, this deliberative session primarily targeted students. James Proszek, WDPD Program Associate and Visiting Instructor of Rhetoric, explained the importance of bringing in a diverse group of students given all the work WDPD does with diversity, equity, and inclusion. He mentioned that a series of focus groups were held prior to this deliberation that were aimed at trying to "identify groups that might have different perspectives on the rule," Proszek said. Proszek recognized from these focus groups that fraternity students may view the rule differently than independents, minority students might hold different views than the majority of whites, or upperclassmen may be able to recall more instances of the rule coming into play more than underclassmen. The general consensus is that there are times in which specific rules may be sufficient to better govern our campus, but the freedom and flexibility that the rule provides is something that the Wabash community

remains willing to work with. The rule's brevity and lack of specifications allow it to apply to many situations and act almost as a way of life.

This event started by asking students for their initial thoughts and interpretations of the Gentleman's Rule, since its brevity may lead to a variety of different implications. The Gentleman's Rule at Wabash originally intended to convey the enormous freedoms provided to the student body along with the responsibilities that these freedoms entail. Proszek and the WDPD intended to start with this interpretation as a backbone to identify changes in the rule's interpretation that have occurred over time. Participants were very passionate about this topic, which led nicely into the next point of discussion being the exploration of 'specific contexts in which students might engage with the rule.' This allowed participants to focus on the relationships between students, staff, and faculty and how the rule is enforced. It also led participants to talk about the aspect of trust required for this rule to achieve successful results, which turned the discussion to move into social context. The groups at this point thought about how the rule is applied during weekends or how it might apply differently to fraternity houses than to independent

living units. Again, with the WDPD's heavy focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion, another topic of discussion was about what could be done to make the Gentleman's Rule a bit more inclusive. Lastly, the conversation shifted to a more goal-oriented focus by asking participants what they believe to be the drawbacks of the rule or if there are any aspects of the rule they would change. Given that many students view the rule differently, the deliberation then briefly turned its focus to the future and asked how the student body, as a collective, should address the future of the rule.

This event aimed to address the current benefits and drawbacks of the Gentleman's Rule and discuss its future on the Wabash campus, which may create room for further deliberation on this topic with the goal of creating change or decision making as opposed to simply learning about the Gentleman's Rule. This rule seems to appeal to the Wabash community because of its application to the four pillars of the Wabash education. With this rule in place, Wabash students are afforded the freedom and creativity to truly embody the values of thinking critically, acting responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.

This data will be used to evaluate how

different groups of students perceive the Gentleman's Rule and indicate trends among the participants in order to make a report of the findings for the Office of Student Life, who was partnered with the WDPD for this event.

While the year is coming to a close, the WDPD hopes to continue holding events in the future that will maximize student interest, as these opportunities allow students to voice their views on topics that are important to them and can optimize the Wabash experience for all.

On Wednesday morning, the WDPD Free Speech Keynote scheduled for yesterday in the Fine Arts Center got canceled. This event was intended to promote discussion of the First Amendment in modern times and talk about how its different interpretations and capabilities, especially on the university level. The WDPD was to host Dr. Dale Herbeck, a professor of Communication Law, Cyber Law, and Freedom Law at Northeastern University. This event will not be able to be rescheduled due to our proximity to the end of the school year. However, the WDPD has one last upcoming event next Monday, April 25, where it will be partnering with a pastor in Indianapolis regarding the dispersal of money from fundraisers taking place before COVID-19.

# Wabash Adopts New DEI Statement

## A Message from Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse

WDPD has concluded the final two sessions of a 7-week-long Campus Assembly—a series of deliberative meetings geared towards the production of a guiding document on diversity, equity, and inclusion at Wabash College. The Wabash community members on the Campus Assembly spent time reflecting on the college's history and current climate pertaining to its values and actions surrounding DEI. The Assembly's purpose was to draft a guiding document that would help increase sense of belonging across the community, closely examine the current state of Wabash's relationship to DEI, and identify how Wabash might take steps to better achieve its goals moving forward. The 30-person assembly of students, faculty, staff, coaches, and alumni accomplished the writing work in the last two sessions of the Campus Assembly process that began in February. These last two Campus Assembly outings were held on March 29 and April 5, respectively. Reflections on the first 3 sessions of the Campus Assembly can be found in The Bachelor's issue published on March 25.

During the fourth session of the Campus Assembly deliberations, the group began the process of writing a DEI statement. This

statement would articulate the participants' DEI-related priorities and values that they felt could guide Wabash in a positive and productive manner. The participants met in small breakout groups to react to and question the results of the previous week's value statement prioritization exercise, dot voting exercise, in which they were asked to rank individual statements written by participants the previous week based on how well they embodied the concerns and priorities regarding the promotion of DEI throughout the Wabash community. This dot voting exercise was conducted in order to identify the collective goals and values that the Assembly believed to be critical components with regard to building a DEI guiding document. The exercise also provided participants with a way to express the Assembly's shared objectives when it comes to DEI. After an in-depth discussion on initial reactions to the outcomes, the small groups turned their focus towards critically thinking about the individual statements produced, and voicing their recommendations and concerns going forward. During this process, small groups combined, paraphrased, deleted, and added new statements.

Following the small group deliberations, all participants reconvened in a large group setting to draft the final DEI statement. During this large group discussion, the Assembly thoroughly discussed the priorities, values, and perspectives that they felt should be included in the statement, and differing points of view were brought to the table that considered exactly how these priorities, values, and perspectives should be put into words so as to be effectively conveyed through the final product. As the March 29 session came to a close, the group decided that an additional Campus Assembly session was necessary in order to finalize their work in a satisfactory manner, and so they proposed to come back for a fifth and final session on April 5.

When April 5 rolled around, participants picked up their previous discussion in a large group setting. It was during this final Campus Assembly session that the group put a heavy focus on how they wanted to structure and format their DEI guiding document statement. After having spent the March 29 session brainstorming ideas in a past-present-future format, they decided that it was appropriate to lead with a description of the Wabash College community's present

intentions regarding their plans to address DEI issues. The participants decided to begin with language that could be easily interpreted by those within the Wabash culture, as well as somebody from the outside looking in that is not familiar or engaged with the culture of the Wabash community. After beginning the statement by detailing the groundwork for DEI efforts that Wabash College should focus on in the present day, the Assembly participants elected to follow that up by providing an acknowledgement of Wabash's past transgressions and shortcomings when it came to DEI, and how past failures would be considered in order to promote and foster positive change in the present and future. This portion of the statement was then proceeded by a list of core focuses outlined by the Assembly, along with a recognition that this list had the potential to evolve over time to suit the needs of the Wabash community as they too evolved. Finally, the Assembly concluded the statement by pledging to remain in dialogue with the past, present, and future so as to sufficiently connect DEI-related initiatives in accordance with Wabash's mission statement and the Gentlemen's Rule. The statement, as written by the Campus Assembly, follows below.

**The Wabash Community believes that constant work is necessary to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in accordance with our mission statement in order to foster a society that promotes democracy and justice through engagement of all those in our community.**

**As an institution that originated as a White, all-male college to educate a White, all-male student body, we acknowledge that we have perpetuated and remained complicit in oppression in many forms.**

**Therefore, much work remains to be done to create an educational community where everyone belongs. This work currently includes, but is not limited to:**

- Creating equity in opportunity and access for all members of the community both institutionally and culturally.
- Establishing consistent and clear communication about DEI goals and activities.
- Expanding education and training in DEI at all levels of Wabash College.
- Ensuring the representation of all groups within the faculty, staff, and student body.
- Increasing diversity in hiring and recruitment practices.
- Seeking out how people are affected by DEI.
- Establishing clear and public procedures for acknowledging and rectifying shortcomings and failures to adhere to our DEI principles.

**It is our intention to periodically revisit, assess, and revise this list to guide our work. We are in dialogue with our past, present, and future to weave the ambitious intentions of our DEI goals into our mission statement and the Gentlemen's Rule.**

**IAWM**  
The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men

**Cheers to 50 Years of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies!**



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# Pan-Hel Exemplifies Decreased Excitement for Wabash Greek Life



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**Bed Races caps off a week of Pan-Hel events where fraternity houses compete for bragging rights. Pan-Hel began in 1893, making this the 129th year of Pan-Hel. Pan-Hel used to include a dance and Wally's dates would stay in a hotel or in houses in Crawfordsville.**

ANDREW DEVER '25 | STAFF WRITER • The Wabash Pan-Hellenic was once a prominent event present in the minds of all Wabash students and fraternity members, where passionate brothers of all the Wabash fraternities laid it all on the line for glory, honor, and bragging rights among Greek life at Wabash. It was an event that all Wabash students looked forward to, were eager to participate in, and anxiously awaited the results for. However, excitement for Pan-Hel has fallen drastically.

While some were eager to participate and observe the unique and interesting competitions that Pan-Hel offered this year, many were shocked to see the lack of turnout from houses and the student body in general. For example, most if not all of the day events, including Spikeball, Ultimate Frisbee, and the quintessential culmination of Pan-Hel, bed races, had five out of the ten fraternities participate to any capacity. Furthermore, most of the day events were scarcely populated by brothers of the fraternities who actually managed to scramble teams together to compete, and non-associated Wallies. In general, fraternities who failed to send any members to events had dismal attendance ratings for the entire week.

While it might be easy to attribute

fraternities at any given event or the shocking lack of interest from the greater student body to the stress and rigors of Wabash, the concern goes deeper than that. Wabash has always been hard and will continue to be difficult for generations to come.

The steeper drop-off in participation, however, is an increasingly prevalent and worrying phenomenon which may be representative of a greater concern for the 10 fraternities maintaining the unique and cherished tradition of Greek-life here at Wabash: Are we witnessing the rapid decline of Greek life at Wabash? With the abysmal turnout rates at Pan-Hel, combined with the record number of incoming freshman choosing to stay independent, many around Wabash have posed the same concern, and are anxious to see the fraternity-independent split for the Class of 2026 in the fall semester of 2022.

Using Pan-Hel as a lens to look at the greater context of an apparent decline of fraternity life here at Wabash, one can examine that a major problem that is harming fraternities is outreach during the COVID-era. Due to restrictions to gathering sizes, and a major reduction in fraternity budgets stemming from economic instabilities caused by the pandemic, fraternities have seen increased difficulty in

reaching out to people interested in fraternity life. This could be a major reason the Class of 2025 saw an initial record of 65 percent of its members stay independent for the Fall 2021 semester (this percentage has declined slightly and is now closer to 55 percent after Spring rushes). Furthermore, the communication aspect of fraternity life has drastically changed. Take last weeks' Pan-Hel for example. Pan-Hel emails were sent out so infrequently that many Wabash students, including dedicated members of many fraternities, were unaware of crucial details about the events. Better communication and an increased fraternity budget would aid an increase in awareness about the specific Pan-Hel events and consequently, a higher and more passionate student turnout. This moment would be crucial in revitalizing fraternity life here at Wabash, enticing more current and incoming Wallies to consider fraternities, and improve the overall atmosphere on campus (which has worsened significantly since the pandemic according to many Seniors).

Finally, it is important to note that fraternity leadership is not sitting by idly and watching the apparent decline of fraternity life without looking to address the problems and concerns of Wabash men. There will

be a substantive discussion on the benefits of fraternity-life at Wabash, as well as solutions to address the drastic changes to fraternity life caused by the COVID pandemic, rigors of Wabash, and other factors. Through this talk, fraternity leaders hope to identify and address the problems plaguing our historic fraternities, propose solutions to combat these problems, and highlight the numerous benefits to fraternity life. Hopefully, this will serve as a warning to Wabash administration, the new student body President, and the Student Senate to rise to the occasion to aid in the preservation and restoration of fraternity life to its integral and irreplaceable position at Wabash.

As Wabash wraps up the 2021-2022 school year, it is imperative that the Wabash community takes a deep look at the culture of the school and greater community, and how it has been affected by the pandemic and other factors. Fraternity life is a staple of Wabash life, an integral block in the foundations of the school, and an imperative function for around half of the student body in their day-to-day lives. Thus, as nationally fraternity life declines, we here at Wabash can be different, and rejuvenate Fraternity life, and Pan-Hel with it, to its former glorious state.

# Wallies Present at Celebration of Student Research



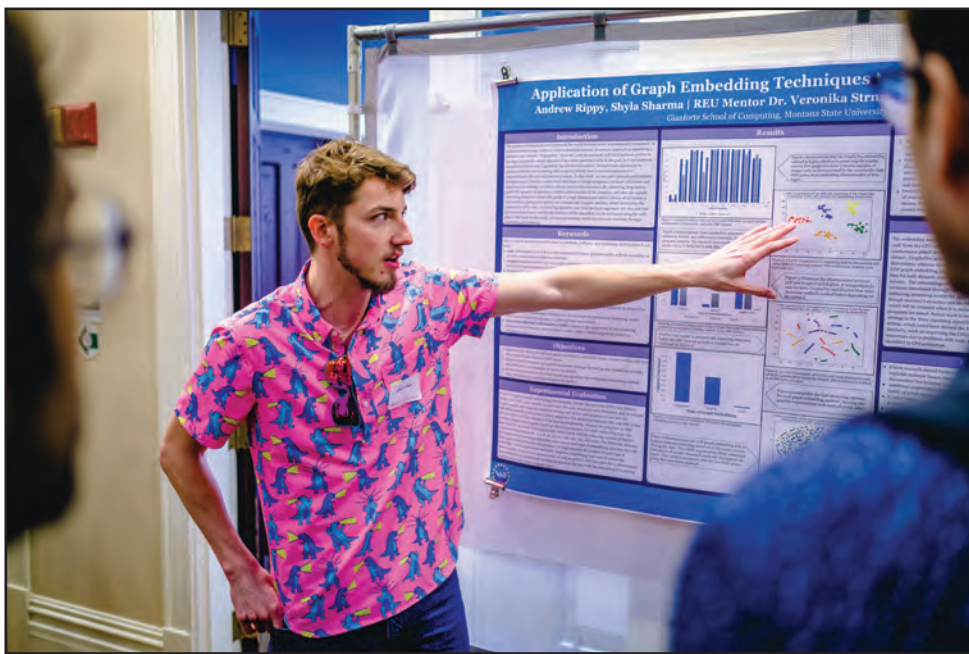
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**Ian Gale '22 brought his guitar and played his own songs to an audience of his peers on April 15 for the celebration of student research, scholarship, & creative work.**



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**Professor of Biology and GHI Director Eric Wetzel (left) chats with Kody Witham '22 and Don Silas '24 after their presentation with Thomas Gastineau '23.**



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**Andrew Rippey '22 presents his research on 'Malware Detection using Machine Learning,' to students and faculty in Detchon Hall.**



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**Caleb Powell '22 shows his presentation "Applications of Single Board Computers" to Prof. Amanda Ingram**



# Letter to the Editor: The R–Slur

## Luis Rivera '25 & Dakota Baker '22

There is no secret that we are a culture that heavily values the traditions and customs that make Wabash College so special. We are driven by slogans and mottos that enable us to persevere in a place that prides itself in breaking young men down and building them back up. When I sit and observe the proverbial bloodline of the college, I can directly point to a spirit that thrives off challenges and adversity. This has led me to the ultimate question I have before strolling across the arch. What do we mean when we say, “Wabash Always Fights”? It sounds self-explanatory on the surface. Quite frankly, we have embodied this statement a numerous amount of times in nearly two centuries. In this past year alone, we have dealt with a global

pandemic that challenged the ways we can preserve and uplift the Wabash culture. Honestly, it is much easier for me to tell you what it should not denote than telling you everything that coincides with that motto we hold so dearly. “Wabash Always Fights” should not mean you do not allow yourself to reach out for help. Too often, students buy into the notion that they are supposed to shoulder the load in every facet of being a Wabash student. As a person who has bought into this notion, I can vouch that this attitude creates crippling effects that can deteriorate your experience as young men. I spent a great portion of my time believing that a man, a Wabash man, should try his hardest to work as a solo act. However, there is no true merit in

being excessively headstrong and independent. Wabash is a place that is supposed to push you towards hard-work and self-accountability, but self-accountability does not equate to neglecting the help that is in your reach. Do not let your ego deter you from reaching out. Check your ego at the door. At the end of the day, there is nothing to gain from being too independent and too full of yourself. “Wabash Always Fights” should not mean you are not allowed to feel fatigue. There is no shame in being overwhelmed in an environment as rigorous as Wabash. Although we pride ourselves in saying that we are cut from a different cloth, we are still people going through internal and external battles on a daily basis. The thing to avoid is allowing that fatigue

to restraint you from continuing your journey and your path as a Wabash man. As my days close, and I reflect over what makes this Wabash experience so important to cherish. I realized the “survivor mentality” we have inherited enabled us to thrive in a place that is meant for challenges and adversity. However, I realize that that same mentality, without being properly harnessed, can inhibit us from being the best version of ourselves. As you come closer to crossing the arch, remember what WAF is supposed to represent. Do not allow yourself “survivor mentality” to be the demise of your success.

You can reply to this column at [djbaker22@wabash.edu](mailto:djbaker22@wabash.edu) and [lrivera25@wabash.edu](mailto:lrivera25@wabash.edu)

# Scientiae et Virtuti



**Mark (Will) Sawyer '22**  
Reply to this editorial at [mwsawyer22@wabash.edu](mailto:mwsawyer22@wabash.edu)

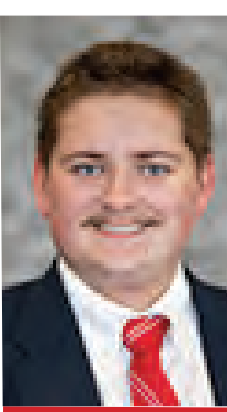
I’d like to think that after four years I can share some wisdom. Some profound insight into life and my time at Wabash. But what I have come to realize is that no such wisdom truly exists. No single motivational quote or book will change the path of your destiny. No single failure or triumph will define it either. All we can truly do is to seek to be the best we can be, whenever we can. Certainly, much easier to say than to do. But guidance for this is everywhere if we are willing

to look for it. For example, our motto, and the title of this piece provides some ancient insight into what it means to not only be a man, but to be a good man. “Virtuti” is often translated simply as virtue. And that would not be incorrect, but it conceals the full meaning. Virtuti is a parsing of Virt s, -t tis, which means, manliness, courage, excellence, virtue, character, worth. Its origins can be traced back to the Latin word Vir which means “man”. Virtuti is also often times linked to the Greek concept of Arete. Arete is a term for excellence that is intertwined with fulfilling one’s purpose. It’s about living up to your full potential. If you express Arete, you use all of your good faculties such as intelligence and courage to the utmost to complete difficult tasks and produce real results. Arete is an essential component of Virtuti. One must not only possess and cultivate virtues, you need to practice them and live them out. The virtues exist for something, they have a greater purpose. As I look back on my time at Wabash, I remember many times in which I

sold myself short. I didn’t put enough effort into a paper and got a bad grade. I didn’t apply to an internship because I was afraid I would not get it. I avoided social events because I thought “doing homework” was a good excuse for missing out on half the Wabash experience. Academic success is important here. But Canvas posts do not develop one’s courage. Papers do not bring out your full potential. And you’d be hard pressed to find worth in a midterm exam. But yet, all of these are present, if you seek them out. A long and arduous paper is an opportunity to test your determination and patience. An exam is a mere test of your accumulated capabilities. But all of this practice, the goal of it, lies far beyond Wabash, out in the real world where we will be truly tested. Excellence and courage are easy to espouse when the challenges you face have simple deadlines and prompts. Life is much trickier than that. You will have difficult interviews. A career that you must balance with a family. You could get depressed, become addicted to a substance. Or fall into the early

life malaise where you ask yourself, is this really it? I’m going to spend my youngest years in an office? But through all this, remind yourself that at every moment you are capable of working towards your full potential, especially here. This could be in small ways or large ways. A paper that you get up early to write, an interview that you prepare for despite the odds. Or maybe it’s putting down your phone when all you want is to be distracted from life. Ultimately, your destiny is up to you. No one can vicariously succeed for you. And no single class, book, or YouTube video will make you courageous or motivate you to succeed. That desire must come from within. Life will take many twists and turns. And oftentimes it will seem boring and dull. But it’s up to you to put a shine on life. You will find nothing that you do not look for, so seek it out. Figure out your excellence, this world, and this life. Don’t let your four years here be just that, time spent. Make your time here meaningful because it will be over much sooner than you think.

# The Onion: A Layered Subject



**Robert Borland '22**  
Reply to this editorial at [rsborlan22@wabash.edu](mailto:rsborlan22@wabash.edu)

The onion (*Allium cepa*) is a vegetable cultivated for its large bulb. The genus *Allium* has numerous species which have been used for human consumption, including garlic, leeks, chives, and ramps. Due to frequent hybridization, it is difficult to delineate how many *Allium* species exist, with estimates ranging from 260 to 979. For example, shallots

have been found to be within the *A. cepa* species despite them traditionally being classified as their own species. The frequent hybridization of the members of the genus has also made it difficult to identify where onions were first domesticated, with the most likely candidates in Central and Southwestern Asia, but even that is debatable. The wild onion species is now extinct, and the domestic onion spread quickly across Eurasia after being domesticated round 7,000 years ago. Records of the vegetable describing similar characteristics to modern onions have been found from Ancient Egypt and Bronze Age China. The bulb observed in onions and is the structure used in cuisine is a characteristic feature of the *Allium* genus, a structure the plant primarily uses to store starch during the winter. The onion is a biennial plant but is normally cultivated as an annual. One of the most noticeable characteristics of *Allium* species is their strong aroma. This is due to cysteine sulfoxide

molecules present inside. When the plant is damaged, allinase enzymes convert the amino acid sulfoxides into sulfenic acids which in turn reorganize into thiosulfonates that produce the odor and syn-propanethial-S-oxide, which enters the air and irritates the eyes and throat, leading to tear production. When onions are grown in soil that has a lower sulfur content, the vegetables do not produce these sulfur compounds, giving them a sweeter taste. Onions thrive in well-drained soils with high levels of organic matter but are hardy, able to grow in a wide variety of soil types and temperatures. It is advised to plant onions relatively early in the growing season; this provides a longer growing season and takes advantage of the vegetable’s resilience to cooler temperatures. Indeed, temperatures that are too warm can cause them to flower too early in the growing season. The Purdue Department of Horticulture recommends planting up to May 15th for this area. Onions are grown from seed,

bulbs or transplants of whole plants. As bulb formation is an adaptation to seasonal changes, the process of growing a large bulb is governed by various factors, including the length of daylight and temperature. This can lead to varieties of onions that thrive a particular locale providing a mediocre crop when planted in a different area. The bulb onions are often ready to harvest near late August to early September. Onions can keep for several months in a cool, dry dark place with good ventilation. Once the time comes to eat the onions, they can be prepared in a variety of manners. They can be grilled, sautéed, caramelized, fried, or diced and used raw. The dehydrated onion can be used to make onion powder, allowing the product to be stored for a longer time. The onion – much like an ogre, some would say – is a layered subject that can be opened up and explored in numerous ways, revealing a union of fascinating aspects.

# Old Wabash and You



**Jackson Miller '23**  
Reply to this editorial at [jemiller23@wabash.edu](mailto:jemiller23@wabash.edu)

Gentlemen, the pandemic wrought campus in ways that we, as a student body, were ill-equipped to handle. It wasn’t for lack of trying. The Seniors and juniors are the only ones to have experienced a Wabash fall semester, unsullied by COVID. Yet, we did not

adequately work to preserve the memories of those from years past, and it shows. I do not wish to look back, with rose-colored lenses, to view campus not as it was, but rather what it is. We have an opportunity before us, gentlemen, to bring the Wabash experience back to that which we can only read about in the alms of the archives. That we might only come to live in these moments, so embedded in our picture of what student life should look like at Wabash. Nostalgia, dear gentlemen, is a dangerous mindset, it blinds us to the opportunities before us. I have been blinded by nostalgia. Looking back at the class scraps, fraternity antics, debates, dances, festivals, panhel, homecoming, and all those great traditions we held dear for the longest time, those things that were synonymous with the Wabash experience. The gallantry, the

pageantry, and the prose, what we have lost gentlemen over the past 3 years is the heart of the Student experience at Wabash, our traditions. Gone is the Caveman; Gone are the Bouts; Gone is the grit, and we have every cause to bring it back. These events, like chapel sing, are shared with every living alum who came before us. A quintessential Wabash experience is sitting with an alum and being regaled by tales of his experience at Alma Mater. I ask ye brothers, what stories will we tell? Shall we say, “for a period of four years I was relegated to the confines of my dorm to which I stayed.” NO! Where then are our dances, where are our scraps, where are our tales? It is up to us, dear brothers, to scheme, to plan, to lay foundations over the course of these summer months for the most Wabash year yet. Down with the mundane; down with the boring; down with the mismanaged.

Student life simply cannot afford these things. It saddens me that with this graduating class, we lose the lived and remembered experiences of a student body not connected to nearly 90 years of collective memories. There is hope brothers, seek the stories of your seniors, learn what is best done and what is best left undone. Have ye no seniors? Go to the archives, get inspired, and petition our activities committee to bring back what has been lost. My call to action is simple, find, for yourselves, the Wabash student experience you were promised, and work to make that promise a reality, if not for you, for those who come after. Only we, the Student Body of Wabash College, can bring this promise, this dream, to fruition. Brothers, all I ask is for one grand year.



# Earth’s Greatest Threat... You



Connor Baker ’24  
Reply to this editorial at  
cabaker24@wabash.edu

Earth Day. A day for remembrance, awareness, and appreciation for all the Earth’s fantastical natural wonders, ever complex innerworkings, and mesmerizing flora and fauna. We all grew up hearing the age-old tale of the importance of plants, how they are the foundation of life and vitality. Yet, they seem all but forgotten in the grand scheme of things, from education to legislation. While not only marvelous in their biological ways, humans have historically relied on them as they are cornerstones of our global economy, make up large portions of our diets, source many of our medicines (upwards

of 75%), and provide sanctuary to not only wildlife but our own rampant minds. Despite how important plants are, we cut them down left and right and kill them slowly through human-imposed climatic change. Indiana itself was almost nearly covered in forest, nearly 90%, but it now persists around the 23% mark. Sadly, this is not the lowest it has been in recent times. In 1900, Indiana forest only covered a mere 4% of the land. This cleared land either became developed areas or farmland. A whopping two-thirds of Indiana’s landcover is dedicated to farming. Any Indiana resident already knows that we are an agricultural powerhouse, generating over \$31 billion a year in sales. But with global climate change these rich fields and nourishing crops are at huge risk. Temperatures in Indiana have risen 1.2°F since 1895, in correspondence with the Industrial Revolution. Rain and Snow fall patterns are also changing. Rain is becoming more common in the colder months (making our future winters much greener), like the absurdly wet spring we are experiencing right now and decreasing in the summer by up to 7%.

The combination of these factors is predicted to cause many trickle-down effects like more frequent extreme weather events (i.e., flooding, heat waves, and drought) and increased dominance of non-native plants that outcompete natives in these changing and abnormal environments. Understanding this is grim and may lead you to wonder, “What can someone like me do about this?”. Fortunately, there are many approaches you can take to better the environment around you. These strategies range from simple behavioral changes to active outreach. Behavioral changes within your daily life are the easiest to implement and the least time consuming. Some of the most impactful changes you can make are to live car free (i.e., walk, ride a bike, use public transportation, etc.), avoid flying, eat a plant-based diet, purchase green energy (i.e., solar, water, or wind power), and/or, surprisingly, have one less child later in life (an additional future carbon source). If you are looking for slightly less live-altering choices, put effort towards limiting water usage (i.e., run ONLY a full dishwasher), minimizing waste, reusing/recycling items, begin composting, or even planting a tree.

Outreach is another route more enthusiastic activist may strive towards. Increasing awareness overall on the effects of climate change and ways one can help is an excellent way to urge people to make a difference and work together, as a collective, towards a solution. A potentially more impactful strategy would be to influence, and then implement, changes in school systems to teach children at a young age of the atrocities that humankind as imparted upon the Earth and what they can do to help. Ultimately, future generations and even our own will be the ones who will experience the worst that is to come if we don’t address this problem now. If there is any hope for the future of plants and the Earth, changes need to happen NOW before the potential becomes certainty that Earth as we know it will be changed forever. Whether they are small behavioral changes within your daily routine to advocating for community awareness, everything counts. Humans caused this problem, and we have the tools and technology to fix it. It’s a matter of collective will power to do what’s right for ALL future generations to come, not just humans.

# A Dash of Chaos Enriches a Structured Day



Alex Rotaru ’22  
Reply to this editorial at  
arotaru22@wabash.edu

For many of the people around me, college has been all about order: creating and sticking to a fixed schedule, doing assignments systematically, getting into a routine, and building an exact partition of time to create a good work-life balance. Never have I wanted to overthrow such a toxic practice as I do with this one (and I’m a Gender Studies minor; overthrowing toxic structures is at the core of what I do). Fully structuring a


day is enough to drive me insane, and scheduling unstructured time is the height of absurdity for me. As a result, I want to encourage everyone to ditch excessively scheduling every week and add a little chaos to life. There is a caveat to all this: a little chaos is incredibly helpful. Things like doing assignments as you feel like it or taking a break to explore have made many days more enjoyable, to the point that I have thrown the idea of “grinding it out until Friday” out the window. However, too much chaos is more dangerous than none, and I speak from experience. I’m a chaotic person and thrive when things are in full motion. However, once I start seeing things fall apart, missing sleep just to stay on track, and craving for structure just so I could make things more manageable, that’s when I know I overdid it. There’s definitely an art to balancing chaos, which can only be learned by doing. Life likes throwing a lot of things at me, which is why I want to make sure I leave myself an opening whenever an opportunity comes my way. If I see

an e-mail about an interesting talk or a fun event, I will leave myself the time to actually go there, because I might be able to meet someone new, learn something interesting, or see something in a different light. That’s the secret as to why I was literally everywhere in my first 2-3 years here, and how I became a household name. I am a perfectionist who can be a stickler for rules, protocol and procedures. An 89-degree angle unsettles me like nothing else. And, still, I make room for chaos as part of my day-to-day. For me, chaos involves exploration, new experiences, and growth. This is the kind of chaos that helps me better whatever craft I am looking to refine in the most liberal artsy way. For instance, during a Classics talk, I can meet a Psychology major who can tell me more about how, say, Hegelian Dialectics has informed his work. I can then take that into my own knowledge and try to find connections and derive new ideas and hypotheses I can continue expanding. Sometimes being a little chaotic and letting your mind wander can help

you get out of a rut. Whenever I am stuck with an idea, trying to phrase something, or feel a little mind fog, I take a walk (and you have likely seen me do that every day). During those walks, all I do is think: I start from one point and then let the mind wander. Oftentimes, a 15-30-minute walk will help me reach some form of resolution to the issue I am having. The same goes with taking a break from a certain issue and doing something else, then coming back to it - which I can’t do if I have my assignment time structured by subject matter (or my assignment time structured period). Basically, a dash of chaos in a sea of structure helped me succeed in tackling assignments and building a reputation for myself at this school. As a result, I want to give you, all of you, a challenge: think of ways in which you can experiment, explore, discover new things, and ultimately add that dash of chaos that will enrich your structured day. I would love to hear how it goes, what you learn, and how being a little chaotic helped you grow.

**Looking to join the conversation?  
Want to make your voice heard?**

If so, contact Sarvik Chaudhary (schaudh25@wabash.edu) and get your point across to the campus in *The Bachelor* opinion section.



THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908

Awards Chapel at 7 pm  
on April 28th in the  
Chapel or accessible to  
watch at <https://www.wabash.edu/live/>



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING



# Where Is Our Beloved Community? Premieres



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

From left to right, Malik Barnes '23, Dario Banuelos Jr. '23, Alex Rotaru '22, Khoi Truong '23, Chenel Darby, Jamari Washington '22, K'tren Wilson '24, Josh Campbell '25 performing in *Where is Our Beloved Community* in Ball Theater. The production opened this past Wednesday, April 20 and runs until Sunday, April 24.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

The production brought the stories of Wabash students, alumni, and community members to the stage through the performance.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

*Where is Our Beloved Community* showcases the experiences of minorities at Wabash, and in the larger Crawfordsville community.

# Learn To Cook, Cook To Learn

PROF. RICHARD WARNER H'13 | GUEST CONTRIBUTOR • Not to state the obvious but I will: I am looking forward to living in a world not dominated by COVID 19! The pandemic has affected us all in so many ways, of course. For me, one of the more irritating aspects is that it has limited my ability to do something I love to do: cook for other people. I am happy that things are slowly opening up so that I can host friends and visitors in my home, which I affectionately call “The 308” since it sometimes is like a restaurant. And now I get to cook with students again! Over the years I have taught numerous young men how to cook. I remember well a student named John Henry who learned to make Eggs Benedict with me. He posted a version on line that he made for his girlfriend. A few years later, he posted another picture of the dish.... “we are getting married.” I’ve told that story to more than one mother of a prospective student since then. Slowly but surely my “food labs” have returned. I deliberately planned these for the end of the semester this time, in hopes that it would be safe to have guys in my kitchen. I’ve had my EQ guys in a couple times and also my Indigenous History class. I thought I might share some of what we have been making in that latter class.

Basically we investigated foods that were native to various parts of the Americas, and in some cases how these changed with European, then US contact. For the first session we had one station making maize (corn) tortillas from scratch, pressing them out and cooking on a griddle. A natural accompaniment was a bean and wild rice concoction with fresh chilies. Chilies and maize are native to Mesoamerica, and varieties of wild rice were consumed in North America. Beans that are used for this purpose were first grown in southern Mexico and Peru 7000 years ago. At this first lab we also made

“jerk chicken,” a Caribbean specialty featuring native and African elements and cooking procedures. A major ingredient in the rub is allspice, which received its name when an Englishman came upon it and decided that its fragrance is reminiscent of many spices. True enough, in a Thanksgiving spice kind of way.

Our second native food lab featured cornbread made with jalapeños, some stir fried mixed greens as an imitation of the Caribbean dish “Crab Callaloo” and a special chili made with venison! The deer meat was provided by Isaiah McWilliams '22. I’ve always been blessed to know a hunter or two in the student body. The venison provided just a hint of gaminess to the chili, which was universally appreciated by his classmates. The deer made a legitimate substitution for buffalo or alpaca, native foods that I have enjoyed in my travels.

As many of you know, I have satisfied my addictive need to cook for other people during the pandemic by producing ice cream and “cake muffins.” I am appreciative for the suggestion for the name of the latter by Ms. Violet Bengé, since these are really cupcakes without icing and needed a different descriptor. By my count I produced and gave away 500 pints of ice cream and 300 dozen cake muffins over the past two years. Just another addiction, I suppose!

So naturally both food labs needed to end with second breakfast at 9 am and some ice cream. To be honest, ice cream is not that tied to Native history, but maple syrup is, so we made maple nut ice cream the first week. Stretching a bit further in the second lab, we produced Dulce de Leche ice cream, making use of homemade Argentine caramel. As the students discovered, this caramel is produced by boiling cans of sweetened condensed milk for three hours on the stove.... Just the sort of behavior my mother warned me against.

So this is fun, obviously. But we do it for pedagogical reasons. Surely we learn plenty of the political and economic history of different peoples in our courses. But what of culture? Religion and food are two subjects that can tell

us a lot about how people lived, how and why they changed when confronted with other peoples, and what ordinary life was like in their societies.

Or at least, that’s what I keep telling myself!



COURTESY OF PROF. RICHARD WARNER H'13

Warner is no stranger to connecting with his students through cooking and his repertoire is anything but limited.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Reed Mathis • [rwmathis22@wabash.edu](mailto:rwmathis22@wabash.edu)

NEWS EDITOR

Jakob Goodwin • [jmgoodwi23@wabash.edu](mailto:jmgoodwi23@wabash.edu)

OPINION EDITOR

Sarvik Chaudhary • [schaudh25@wabash.edu](mailto:schaudh25@wabash.edu)

SPORTS EDITOR

Blake Largent • [jblargen22@wabash.edu](mailto:jblargen22@wabash.edu)

CAVELIFE EDITOR

Liam Grennon • [wkgrenno24@wabash.edu](mailto:wkgrenno24@wabash.edu)

PHOTO EDITOR

Jake Paige • [jwpaige23@wabash.edu](mailto:jwpaige23@wabash.edu)

ONLINE EDITOR

Jacob Maldonado • [jimaldon24@wabash.edu](mailto:jimaldon24@wabash.edu)

COPY EDITOR

Alex Rotaru • [arotaru22@wabash.edu](mailto:arotaru22@wabash.edu)

MANAGING EDITOR

Alex Rotaru • [arotaru22@wabash.edu](mailto:arotaru22@wabash.edu)

The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas. Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. *The Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 500 words.

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# Scarlet Masque Enters *The Woods*



LOGAN WEILBAKER '25 / PHOTO  
**Drew Johannes '23 (left) and Betsy Swift during a rehearsal in the Experimental Theater. The two play the lead characters of Nick and Ruth .**

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25 | STAFF WRITER • Next weekend Wabash's student theater club, The Scarlet Masque, will perform their two-person play, *The Woods*. The play centers around a young couple in the 1970s who leave the big city for a weekend of relaxation and connection at the old family lake-house. Far from the hustle and bustle of city life, young lovers Nick and Ruth come face-to-face with the stillness of the woods, which draws out all the wonder and fear they cannot experience anywhere else. When tensions rise, the couple must confront those emotions and decide whether they will ultimately go their separate ways, or if theirs is a relationship worth fighting for.

Playwright David Mamet is known for his poetic writing style and choice of heavy, and sometimes controversial, topics. In *The Woods*, one of the primary themes is that of mental health, specifically that of men, and the issues that can arise from not properly processing emotions. Throughout the play, Nick, played by Drew Johannes '23, struggles to convey how he is feeling, which causes strife between the pair, as Ruth, played by Betsy Swift, wants to understand him, but is unable to. This play hits close to home for an all-male college, where mental health can be a pressing issue. Stereotypes often make men feel as though their feelings are not valued, an ideology which may easily be exacerbated in a hyper-masculine environment.

Audiences can expect a raw, emotion-filled depiction of a realistic struggle with men's mental health. "It will appeal and educate this audience in a way that you don't really get in a classroom here," Johannes said. Especially emerging from the time of COVID, when isolation and separation were particularly damaging to mental health, the cast hopes to acknowledge the importance of togetherness in promoting healthy emotional well-being. "A lot of people have spent time very isolated, even isolated with just a few people, and this show does a really good job of showing what happens when people are isolated together and the sort of ugliness that can come out of that, as well as the beauty," Swift said. The play also highlights what dangers can come up when emotional wellbeing is left unchecked like relationship abuse in its verbal, emotional, and physical forms. Being an entirely student-run production comes with its difficulties, but it allows the company to present a show with a focus on contemporary issues. Johannes said, "We're able to direct in a younger lens, connect with the younger audience a little better with our creativity."

This play marks the first Scarlet Masque performance since before the pandemic, and the final production for Ace Dzurovcik '22 and Betsy Swift, who has been filling Wabash's female roles since 2017. *The Woods* plays in the Experimental Theater on Friday, April 29 at 7.30 p.m. and Saturday, April 30 at 1.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

## DON'T OVERTHINK IT

*Lo-five to the Niners for possibly trading Deebo Samuel. That \$20 mil in cap space for the Colts is starting to look good right now.*

## PLUMBER UNIONS ARE FURIOUS

*Hi-five to JJ Redick for putting Boston Celtics' legend Bob Cousy in his place. For the first time in a while, the majority of people actually feel content with supporting Kyrie.*

## THE SUN IS COOLING

*Lo-five to Devin Booker's injury in Game 2 v. the Pelicans. NBA playoffs are getting to a point where babies are the prime suspect... and it can't be ignored.*

## DISAPPOINTED ACROSS THE BOARD

*Lo-Five to us this week for no crossword. To the dismay of many of our editors, you can put the blame on the man in the control room.*

## KEN NEVER CHANG'D

*Hi-five to Ken Jeong for leaving the set of the Mask Singer when Rudy Giuliani was revealed. For someone who seamlessly puts himself into compromising, sketchy situations, Giuliani just can't help himself.*

# Revitalized La Alianza Reflect on Strong Year

SAM BENEDICT '25 | STAFF WRITER • La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre has quickly grown to be one of the most widely recognized and involved clubs on campus, hosting campus wide events in partnership with other clubs, fraternities, and independent associations. The club was revitalized last year by Jonathan Silva '24 who recognized the need to create a space where Latino students could feel at home. "When I did it I was a second semester freshman," Silva said. "So when I thought about it I said I have a home. FIJI is my house, but I don't have a home where I can express my culture. I don't have a place, and Wabash did not have a place, where Hispanic students can go and say 'oh, I want to speak my language. Oh, I want to play my music.' So I think it was finding a balance between a social atmosphere in the cultural atmosphere."

Last semester, La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre saw around 430 students attend events, while this semester, there have been roughly 1000 students in attendance. "It's been awesome to see the growth of La Alianza!" Thomas Joven '24, Student Senate Class Representative, said. "I remember when Jonathan started the club and had so many ideas, now they've come to fruition so quickly and it's one of the most active and important clubs on campus." Recently, they partnered with Asian Culture Club, the MXI, Sphinx Club, Soccer Club, Cooking Club, Beta Theta Pi, and other fraternities, clubs, and organizations to hold a Spring Festival which saw students from across campus come together to celebrate the unique cultures that Wabash students are apart of. This weekend, La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre will partner with the Rugby Club to host a tailgate before the Rugby tournament. "We're going to plan the event with Rugby and we saw that Rugby hasn't had very high student attendance," Silva said. "We want to change that by bringing some of our culture and, in doing this experiment, we found that actually in Argentina, rugby is a big thing and that's part of the Latin American culture. So we learn

more as we experiment. We also want to do what we did last spring semester, which was our first event, and have another taco festival. Each fraternity would have their chef make tacos and then we will also have our own chef making tacos."

Outside of being an area where students can feel comfortable, La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre prides itself in leadership development. Silva acknowledges that some of the biggest struggles that Unidos Por Sangre, the club that preceded La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre, was the lack of leadership displayed. "So there was always one person that would be the spark and that person would do something with two or three guys," Silva said. "Then, the club would die out until another spark would come and revive them." When discussing future plans and goals this past fall, Silva said that discussions with the cabinet had this issue in mind and they decided that "our biggest concern or biggest energy should go to the freshmen in teaching them how to be leaders." Silva was quick to acknowledge that they were still learning how to become leaders, but was confident that everyone would be better off learning together. "We do not see La Alianza as only a cultural club, but I like to see it as a leadership club where everyone is helping actively to better the club and the club is helping to actively better them," Silva said.

"Two weeks before I graduate, I would like to see a junior, sophomore, and freshman be a leader and be empowered to be a leader from our club," Silva said. "The second thing I would like to see is active work to start building a place for us. I think it looks like administration helping us and saying 'okay, you guys want a place then we can help you if you raise \$100,000 dollars or receive \$1,000,000 from an alumni.' So rather than promises saying action, saying if you complete this action then you will get this." For Silva, he has personally experienced immense benefit from the club. "The personal aspect has shown me how to be a leader. And everyday I am learning how to be a leader. It's the idea



COURTESY OF @LAALIANZA  
**La Alianza with members of Delta Phi Mu Sorority during their Spring Festival this past weekend.**

that not everybody works the same way. I had to learn that to be able to make the club successful," Silva said.

This week, La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre held cabinet elections for the 2022-23 school year. Jonathan Gonzales '24 was named President, Silva was named Vice-President, Seth Kirkpatrick '24 was named Treasurer, Logan Fleming '25 was named Secretary, and Jacob Ramirez' 25 was elected as Alumni Relations Director. "La Alianza is just another home here at Wabash College," Gonzales said. "It gives me the opportunity to interact with my hispanic brothers on campus and continue to share our Hispanic heritage.

This amazing club was founded by two of my WLAIP brothers in which I look forward to keep growing it. My term as president of the club will allow me to help it grow into a more serious manner. I am going to work hard with my cabinet team to advocate for an institutional building. I will also continue to work hard to maintain the amazing work it has produced in the full year since my brothers, Jonathan Silva and Ben Sampsell ['24], started it." The future is bright for this growing club and these students will continue to lead across campus, furthering Silva and the other member's goal for La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre.



# Dwayne Haskins Passes at 24

## Death of Haskins Allows for Reflection on How Athletes are Covered



COURTESY OF @SINOW

**Haskins’ profile skyrocketed during his time at the Ohio State University, where he won the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year in 2018 and finished his 2018 year 13-1 as a starter. Details are still emerging from the death of Haskins, but latest reports indicate that he was hit by multiple vehicles while attempting to retrieve gas.**

ANDREW DEVER ’25 | STAFF WRITER • Early in the morning of Saturday, April 9, 2022, NFL Quarterback (QB) Dwayne Haskins Jr. was struck and killed by a maintenance truck while walking along the highway in South Florida. After leaving a vehicle with his wife Kalabrya, Haskins attempted to get gas for his car by crossing several lanes on the highway when the vehicle struck him. According to local authorities, Haskins was pronounced dead at the scene. Unfortunately, many details about the events that preceded the accident are unknown. The Haskins family held several private services to honor Haskins, while his memorial service will be held in New Jersey, where he was born and raised.

Haskins, who would have turned 25 years old in May, was a standout athlete at The Ohio State University for several years, setting numerous Big Ten records while leading the Buckeyes to a Rose Bowl victory and finishing third in the Heisman Trophy voting before declaring for the National Football League (NFL).

While the overwhelming reaction to Haskins’ death was optimistic and saw an outpouring of support, love, and condolences towards Haskins’ family, friends, and loved ones, several prominent sports reporters provided stories and news that called into question how athletes are viewed in the public eye. ESPN analyst and football reporter Adam Schefter, widely respected and considered the foremost authority on NFL matters in sports media, broke the news about Haskins’ death in an unsavory manner to many of Haskins’ former teammates and other NFL players. Schefter focused more on Haskins’ professional struggles and lack of success than the tragedy of Haskins’ unfortunate death.

To his credit, Schefter profusely apologized for his insensitive tweet. However, Schefter’s original



COURTESY OF @PIRATES

**The death of Haskins is not only felt in the football world. The Pittsburgh Pirates are one of the several organizations to show support to Haskins and his family over the last week throughout the nation.**

insensitive tweet raised an important question that has begun to be posed with more regularity in the sports world: Are athletes’ perception held by the media appropriate, or is it solely performance-based, degrading, and dehumanizing?

The concerning answer is that athletes worldwide have continued to receive increasingly hostile and inappropriate treatment from fans and the sports media with frightening frequency. In an occurrence quite common for European footballers and coaches, Bayern Munich Coach Julien Nagelsmann revealed that he received 450 death threats on Instagram alone after Bayern Munich’s Champions League exit. Nagelsmann elaborated that his family, including his elderly mother, were subject to death threats and abuse

on social media. While Nagelsmann understood frustrations aimed at his team’s failure, he sternly reproached supposed “fans” of Bayern Munich for threatening the lives of his family and loved ones. Nagelsmann is not alone. A recent Associated Press study conducted on the social media pages of athletes who competed at the Tokyo Olympics found that 65% of athletes were subject to online abuse. Furthermore, the study found that the intensity of the media coverage and subsequent fans’ reactions was heightened by the prominence of the athlete. In other words, the more impressive the athlete, the worse the reaction and media coverage.

Public perception, whether due to media coverage or failure of athletes to

meet artificial expectations, has resulted in athletes being unfairly scrutinized and degraded for failure to perform to expectations. Our society has exhibited an alarming forgetfulness of the humanity of athletes. This is not saying that all athletes should be exempt from criticism for failure to produce results. Many athletes make millions of dollars and need to produce for their teams, countries, etc. However, when criticized, the subject of the critique should be constructive and based on the athlete’s performance, not death threats and abuse directed at the individual outside of sport. By remembering that athletes are, in fact, human, we might begin to reverse the trend of overwhelming negativity that surrounds modern athletes.

# Rugby Has Sights on NOLA

## Little Giants Continue String of Dominance Heading into 5-Match Weekend

ETHAN WALLACE ’25 | STAFF WRITER • For the last couple of years, the Wabash Rugby team has found national success competing in tournaments featuring teams from all over the Midwest. This season the team has gone 13-0. Tomorrow, the Wabash Rugby team will play a tournament at Little Giant Stadium in front of an eager home crowd. The team will play five matches in the tournament. The Little Giants will face Loyola Chicago, UW-Milwaukee, Miami (OH), University of Rio Grande (OH), and Alderson Broaddus.

The Sphinx Club, La Alianza, the Student Life Committee, the Mental Health Concerns Committee, Cooking Club, and Asian Culture Club will be tailgating before the match. This will be the team’s first time playing at home this semester, and the team is looking to dominate in front of the growing number of student supporters.

“I think in the past we haven’t had a lot of support, support is ramping up this semester,” Lucas Budler ’24 said. “People used to refer to us as the Rugby Club. But as people have seen what we’re capable of they’ve started to refer to us as the Rugby Team instead of Club. Having the student body’s support has been huge. We’re trying to elevate our game to prepare for the conference, and our eyes on the prize for these matches.”

“Our season has been going great. We’ve been playing hard and smart. We’ve been overpowering teams. We’re undefeated so far and we’d like to keep it that way. This weekend we’re looking to put on a show on home turf,” John Holle ’22 said. “We have five games and want to go five for five. In the three tournaments we’ve had we’ve only been scored on five times.”

This match bears extra significance as it is the last time the Wabash team will play before the conference tournament next weekend. The Little Giants hope to continue building their momentum and enter the tournament undefeated. The team will have to be prepared going into the tournament, as their strong performance this season will have drawn the attention of many competitors. They’re expecting to see better teams than they’ve played thus far, and believe they are capable of rising to occasion.

“We have gotten to 13-0 by addressing deficiencies as we go and sticking to fundamentals. We play fast and we communicate.” Hunter Seidler ’22, President of the Rugby Club, said. “None of that changes this weekend or at the conference championship next weekend. We know we have a target on our back and every school will come out with something special for us, but if we stick to our guns, it will not be an issue.”



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**This past weekend, the Little Giants outscored their opponents 104-12 over the course of four matches.**