

“Lean into brotherhood”

President Feller on philanthropy, new student center

COOPER SMITH '23 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • President Scott Feller – sheep farmer, Oregonian, and Better Call Saul enthusiast – will ring in the Class of 2026 today, and he offered new students a word of advice: to surround themselves with fellow students that make them better. “A real strength of our College is fellowship. I know ‘brotherhood’ seems to be preferred word for the students. Lean into that – get to know the people around you.” Feller applauded the mentorship from faculty and coaches, but he explained the even larger role that peer relationships play, particularly at the beginning of the college experience.

“A real strength of our College is fellowship. I know ‘brotherhood’ seems to be preferred word for the students. Lean into that – get to know the people around you.”
-President Feller

“At the end of the day, you spend more time with your peers than with the grownups,” said Feller. “Choose the people who are going to push you towards the goals you want.” Feller, himself a parent of two college graduates, also offered advice to parents of new students. “I think you really just have to trust your student to make his own way at college – including making some mistakes,” said Feller. “I think there can be a tendency for parents to want to keep their kid in the slow lane. But at some point, they need to accelerate. I think we need to become comfortable with seeing our kids out in the passing lane.”

“Choose the people who are going to push you towards the goals you want.”
-President Feller

One way that incoming students begin to accelerate into the fast lane is through greek life – but recent years have seen the number of incoming pledges declining. Feller described his views on the



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President Feller rings in the Class of 2025 after ongoing risks from the COVID-19 pandemic forced the ceremony outdoors.

recent decline as “the watchful waiting phase.” He pointed to two possible explanations for the apparent decline in freshman fraternity membership: the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and a reflection of national greek life trends.

Feller pointed to pandemic-related issues with rush. In March 2020, the College canceled both Admitted Student Weekends, often a key event for incoming students to explore houses and receive bids. Similarly, the entering Class of 2021 had exactly zero overnight visits.

“We just couldn’t encourage the type of interactions where someone could see the fellowship and brotherhood, the key aspects of fraternity living,” said Feller. He connected those canceled events to current numbers, describing a building effect from two consecutive years of students without rush experience. However, he also mentioned an increase in the number of students who pledged after their freshman year as a sign of a potential rebound.

Beyond pandemic-specific effects, Feller connected Wabash numbers to national greek life trends. “Going back a decade or so, there has been this long-standing trend of fewer students choosing fraternities,” said Feller. “So I don’t discount that this trend may have just been a late arrival to the College.”

“That’s why I call it watchful waiting,” said Feller. “We can’t just sit around and blame it all on the pandemic, because I do think those things that drove some students away from fraternity life across the nation, those things happen here.” Addressing both causes, the pandemic and the national trend, will be key. “We need to focus on both causes,” said Feller. “Even if this was pandemic related, it’s still a good idea to be reflective and improve our processes.”

“I’m not at ‘code red’, but I don’t think we could put a green dot next to this,” said Feller. “We’ve got to be watching this because for many of the students, fraternity life is an important part of their Wabash experience.”

The bulk of Feller’s tenure as president has been marked by COVID-19 response. While pandemic restrictions have receded, frightening monkeypox headlines have surged, inciting growing fears of a new type of outbreak. President Feller, who has vaccine research experience with the FDA, outlined his perspective on monkeypox and the College’s preparations.

“Don’t panic,” said Feller. The overreaction could be worse than the actual threat.”

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Nevertheless, Feller emphasized the importance of being prepared for a potential outbreak. Currently, monkeypox testing can be difficult to receive. Feller mentioned that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Independent housing shortage



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After upsetting the traditional 60-40 split between fraternities and independents, a number of incoming freshmen will begin the year housed in fraternities they do not belong to.

WILLIAM GRENNON '24 | ONLINE EDITOR • While Wabash welcomes the Class of 2026 to campus at this year’s ring-in ceremony, a handful of new students’ housing assignments remain in limbo. In the past, enough incoming freshmen had accepted bids or requested to be placed in fraternity housing when they first moved to campus. However, a declining interest in greek life has left a number of students to be placed in fraternity houses, despite requesting placement in a residential hall.

This is a familiar issue for the College following the pandemic. Last year, a number of freshmen were similarly placed in a type of living unit they did not originally request. Now, following the second consecutive year of running out of independent rooms, Wabash is left with a choice: double down and provide more support for fraternity recruitment, or make changes to the current housing structure to accommodate more independents.

This year, 50 percent of incoming freshmen have accepted bids by move in, compared to only 40 percent last year. Of the independent

students placed in fraternity houses last year, all were able to move into residence halls within the first two weeks of school. Associate Dean of Students Marc Welch ‘99 is hopeful for a similar outcome with the Class of 2026.

“While not ideal, under the big umbrella of Wabash brotherhood and community, it works,” said Welch. “Last year, by the end of New Student Orientation, we were able to have all independents in residence halls which allowed for all fraternities to house only their brothers.”

The current residential infrastructure leaves the College to rely on fraternities to house a majority of students, meaning independent living becomes more stretched as more students skip the fraternity experience. Wabash currently owns all ten of the fraternity houses on campus, a decision originally made in hopes of standardizing the amenities and cost of joining a house. Wabash pays membership dues for students, reimburses houses for travel to fraternity events, and provides each house a budget based on how many members they have.

Coupled with a wide variety of houses on campus, the hope is that these efforts allow any student to join a house of their choosing.

“I always encourage students to consider a fraternity and to participate in rush,” said Welch. “Given that we have ten nationally recognized fraternities, each unique in its own way, most students can find a home away from home in a fraternity.”

From the independent perspective, more and more students are finding a sense of belonging outside of fraternity houses. Independent Men’s Association President Filippo DeFranza ‘23 has led IMA efforts in providing such a community.

“We have many events, such as Monday night football, where we watch the game and eat Bdubs. We even have bowling where independents can get two free games at the local bowling alley,” said DeFranza. “We also tailgate every home football game and we have many events that aim to bring campus together, not just independents.”

Additionally, independent participation in campus traditions has continued to increase, with almost fifty independents earning their “W’s” at last year’s Chapel Sing and even more participating in painting the Senior Bench. While historically independents have had opportunities to participate in these traditions, up until this past year they have rarely been well-represented.

100 years ago, almost 80 percent of students were a part of fraternities at Wabash. Statistics show that students who join fraternities see higher retention rates and end up giving more money back to their institutions later in life. But nationally, greek life has drawn increasing criticism and opposition.

“At some schools, there has been a complete anti-fraternity/sorority movement based upon many high-profile issues within higher education and beyond,” said Welch. “Wabash is not immune to such issues. That said, we have worked hard and will continue to work in partnership with students, alumni, faculty/staff, to improve and reimagine fraternity membership in 2022 and beyond – especially as we emerge from the COVID-

19 pandemic and approach the College’s bicentennial in 2032.”

Being one of the few remaining all-male institutions in the nation, Wabash further separates itself by being one of the few schools to still allow incoming freshmen to accept bids. Most other institutions require their students to wait until the spring of their freshman year before rushing. This buffer period is designed to give students an opportunity to get a better sense of college life before making a decision to join a greek organization. However, because Wabash relies on fraternity housing for the majority of their rooming, the large majority of this year’s freshman class accepted their bids before even stepping foot on campus.

For many, this unique approach to fraternity life has been instrumental in their Wabash experiences. Inter Fraternal Council (IFC) President Mason Allen ‘23 thinks fraternities continue to contribute to the success of students, even outside their respective houses.

“Along with the Wabash brotherhood, you gain a more personal support network of men who will become some of your best friends,” said Allen. “These guys will help you succeed in the classroom, develop as a man, and maybe end up at your wedding one day. Along with that, fraternities allow you to develop your teamwork and leadership skills, which transfer well into the working world as you apply for internships & full-time jobs.” IFC has continued to push houses to improve their recruitment efforts. Utilizing Zoom and other virtual platforms, they hope rush chairs can connect with a wider range of incoming students and continue to forge the brotherhood they continue to support.

For the Class of 2026, a number of freshmen remain in either Phi Kappa Psi, Kappa Sigma, or Theta Delta Chi, despite requesting an independent placement. The hope is that, like last year, enough students will choose to join houses and enough beds will open up in independent dorms to accommodate every student who wants to be placed there. For the students left in limbo, they’ll have to wait and see.

Feller interview, continued

the health center has a plan for isolating students until test results can confirm suspect cases. Feller pointed to the College's recent successes mitigating the spread of COVID-19 as experience for this strategy.

There is also a short supply of vaccines that can be used for people who are known to be exposed - but again, these are in limited supply and can be difficult to obtain. Feller said that the College is developing a plan for securing vaccine access. But above all, the administration's role will be educational.

"Education is a big part of what we'll do," said Feller. "Educating people on the risks associated with monkeypox, how to reduce those risks and how to monitor your health." Though the risks are daunting, they seem to be milder than the risks from COVID-19.

"This is not March 2020."

-President Feller

"This is not March 2020," Feller emphasized. Monkeypox is far less contagious than COVID-19, and someone exposed to monkeypox does not need to quarantine in isolation - a major difference in potential disruption to the academic semester.

Feller described how the pandemic altered the College's broader growth strategy. Prior to the pandemic, the next stage of the 15-plan capital project was renovating the Lilly Library. However, priorities have shifted. Now, the focus is creating a new student center.

"My personal change in thinking was driven by the early weeks of the pandemic, when everybody went home. I was the dean of the college at that time, and I would talk to students occasionally on Zoom. I would always ask how it was going, and what I heard over and over again was, 'I miss my friends. I miss what happens outside of class.' That kind of pushed me towards a space that was more student-centered than the library."

Feller further explained his thinking behind the shift. The library has served as a de-facto student center because there has not been a formal student center. But at the end of the day, the library is for working. Looking at the many work spaces around campus, Feller began to think that the greatest need was a location for students to gather informally.

"The past couple of years have convinced me that this new center is where the college's energy needs to be focused on," said Feller.

From focus groups, surveys and meetings with an architectural firm, Feller identified three priorities for the new center: a campus living room, adaptable event space and an improved dining hall for independent men.

A campus living room, according to Feller, would be a place for students to come together. Whether playing games, watching movies or chatting over a beer at Wally's,



COURTESY OF PRESIDENT FELLER

President Feller raises lambs with his wife, Wendy. After recently scaling back their farm, the Fellers expect to raise 40 to 50 lambs this year.

students from different living units would find space to build relationships. Feller also acknowledged the demand for an on-campus convenience store, which students voiced repeatedly in surveys.

Adding campus event space would address an ongoing need. Currently, the main available spaces are classrooms or gymnasiums - with no size in between. A purposeful event space would provide such a space, along with improved audio and visual equipment and comfortable seating.

Feller recognized that the third priority, independent dining, was not a new creation, but an improvement upon the existing Sparks Center. Among other issues, the Sparks Center notoriously lacks air conditioning. Feller acknowledged this and added a slightly different angle.

"One of the things people don't think about," said Feller, "is that all of our staff who are working in the kitchen also don't have air conditioning. I've been back there - it's really hot." The new student center would address this problem and more, improving the dining experience for students and staff.

Of course, implementing visions of a new

student center will take time. Feller explained that his timeline for the project was "as soon as possible" - but it will not be completed this year.

To implement his vision for the College, including actualizing a new student center, Feller outlined three key goals in his strategy: building a sense of belonging on campus, continuing strong enrollment and harnessing philanthropy.

Feller's goal of building a sense of belonging on campus is tied to his vision for a new student center. Such a space would be a physical space where all are welcomed, where all students have a sense of ownership.

Additionally, Feller hopes to continue the College's strong trajectory on enrollment. This year's entering class is larger than normal, with most of the growth coming from outside Indiana. Feller attributed out-of-state growth to new remote recruiters in Chicago and Dallas. Overall, he aims for the College to continue attracting strong students who are excited to be at Wabash.

"I'm focused on the experiences of students who haven't walked on campus yet," he said. Feller emphasized that philanthropy,

his third goal, will be key to securing other priorities, such as the new student center.

"Most capital projects at Wabash are funded through philanthropy," said Feller. "We just don't expect student tuition and room and board to generate the funds to build new buildings." Feller explained that his "big job" at the moment is to talk with potential donors.

"The money to build the new student center will not be found in Crawfordsville," Feller said. "I'm going to travel more this year, and that's out of necessity."

More broadly, Feller's philanthropy strategy includes a strong finish to the Giant Steps campaign, which will end this year.

"I've got a clock running in the back of my head to finish Giant Steps - the biggest fundraising campaign in Wabash history."

When asked about what will follow the Giant Steps campaign, Feller first described a campus-wide celebration of such a successful capital campaign. But he also pointed to the next milestone on the horizon.

"We need to start thinking about 2032, the College's 200th Anniversary," said Feller. No doubt, philanthropy and belonging will be key features of that future celebration.

'Reviving Student Life': President McCullough '23 dicusses strategy



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

McCullough '23 addresses the campus during his inauguration ceremony at the Chapel in May 2022.

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Wabash student body presidents have been promising to reunite campus like before the pandemic, yet every year, students clamor for that pre-pandemic Wabash feeling. New Student Body President Bryce McCullough '23 is the last student body president to remember Wabash before the pandemic. With a cabinet and student senate ready to get stuff done, McCullough has no intentions of letting things stay the way they've been.

In his campaign announcement last spring, McCullough and his cabinet, made up of Benjamin Sampson '24, Ian Rollins '23, and Sarvik Chaudhary '25, wanted to get student senate back to work in a way that "spends your money well, empowers all voices on campus and leads the student body in conversations to make our Wabash experience more meaningful and leave a better Wabash for the next generation of students." The work that he and the senate have already

done this summer show they mean it.

"We did follow through on what we said with placing senators on committees so anyone who was elected to the Senate, either by class year or living unit rep, will be serving on a committee in the Senate," said McCullough. "And it's our belief that that will help the Senate be more involved in work, work to do something for the students."

Included in that are the plans for the new Wabash Supreme Court established in the most recent constitutional amendment process. Elections for its Chief Justice will occur early in the semester and the other two justices will be appointed by McCullough and approved by the Senate.

McCullough also promised to "revive student life programming, improve funding management and increase engagement." McCullough and his team have made significant progress on that front as well. They've worked extensively with Coordinator of Student Success Vic

Lindsay, including work with the new student events and clubs system the College is using, Engage.

Their work on student events doesn't stop at the new app, though. McCullough plans on coordinating many events throughout the year, and he is starting early. August 27, during the Student Activities Fair, the Student Senate plans on paying for a number of food trucks and setting up lawn games on the mall for students to enjoy. Cultural clubs will also provide foods from the nations and cultures they represent. McCullough hopes this event can "bring students together, show the freshman what we're all about and get the year started off right."

In addition to these early events, the National Act Committee has already begun work on National Act for the spring. As shown by the communication and polls by the National Act Committee over the summer, Senate hopes to have multiple talents to fit everyone's tastes and ensure that all students enjoy the event.

McCullough, who began Wabash in 2019, is one of the few students who knows what Wabash felt like before the COVID-19 pandemic, and he plans to use his term as student body president to bring back the Wabash from the early days of his freshman year.

"I think people showed out more so for all events. That includes student-sponsored events and College-sponsored events you think about the events on the mall, but also the speaker series that are sponsored by faculty and the department. The seats were always filled," McCullough said.

McCullough, a member of the class of 2023, is one of the few students who knows what Wabash felt like before the COVID-19 Pandemic and he plans to use his term as student body president to resurrect the Wabash from the early days of his freshman year.

McCullough thinks that the most important role of the Student Senate in reuniting Wabash like in the pre-COVID times is ensuring a constant stream of events and spreading the word on what events are going on so that students know their options. Jacob Maldonado '23, who runs social media for the Student Senate, is working with clubs and organizations on campus to create better coverage of events so that students do not miss out.

McCullough mentioned Engage, the new student app being used by the College, as another way they plan to spread awareness of all the opportunities for students to participate in on-campus events.

"Students will be able to check the app and see what's going on on a day-to-day basis. We're hoping that that could be useful for students as well to track what's going on rather than trying to remember everything," said McCullough

McCullough's campaign announcement said that his presidency wanted to "[empower] all voices on campus, and [lead] the student body in conversations to make our Wabash experience more meaningful, and leave a better Wabash for the next generation of students."

Beyond having a diverse cabinet, McCullough has solicited the help of the Diversity and Inclusion committee to ensure that student events are comfortable for and accessible to minority students on a campus that often fails to represent them. Whether it be through food, music, or some other events, McCullough is ensuring that the post-Pandemic Wabash will be more welcoming to underrepresented students on campus.

McCullough, looking back at Student Senate meetings in recent years, lamented what he saw as the failures of those convocations and the way they worked. "Usually, emails get sent out about students that are meetings and it's like, 'email me if you plan on attending.' That sort of gives the impression that student senate meetings are closed, and we don't want that. He made clear that his main goal is that he really wants the student senate to be an advocate on behalf of the student body and that the senate is open and available to everybody."

McCullough ran for Student Body President to reclaim the Wabash that he came to as a freshman before the COVID-19 pandemic derailed his Wabash career. He has put together a diverse cabinet and a senate ready to do the work to resurrect that Wabash. They've planned events to bring the Wabash community together. And he has worked with the administration to make it easier for students to know about those events. The school year has just started, but Student Body President Bryce McCullough and his team have started the year off strong.

A note from the rising MXI chairman



Malik Barnes '23

Reply to this editorial at
@mjlbarnes23@wabash.edu

The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies functions as many things in its beautiful niche in our community, hand carved by great men of integrity and passion. Since its origins, which date back to 1967, it has been a symbol of activism and a refusal to turn a blind eye to the injustices which still haunt our Wabash Brothers and our nation to this day. The name itself was chosen as a means to refuse to be named and defined by anyone other than ourselves. Though the Institute was founded as a safe

haven for Black students, people of all races—including one of our founders, Emeritus Professor Peter Frederick—have been crucial in aiding the Institute as it fulfills its mission and realizes its full potential.

Today, the Institute functions as a place where Black students are free to embrace historically suppressed aspects of their Black Heritage. It shapes critical thinkers of all races who refuse to allow racism to continue as it has historically and the more subtle and harder to see ways it continues today. The Institute is open to all students who take seriously matters of Black: reality, thought, and context. This year we look forward to adding to and further building our family of Brothers who are driven and determined to make a positive impact not only here at Wabash, but their own local communities and throughout the world as we carry on through life. We are firm believers that it is not the duty of Black students to be primary educators of these complex and quite frankly, disturbing realities many still face. However, there is great value in the context and real-world experiences

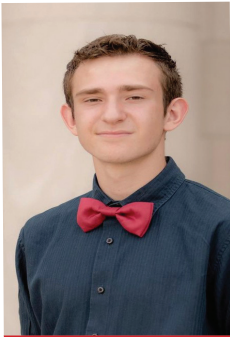
minorities have and I encourage you to consult with those that are willing, such as myself.

As Chairman of the Institute this year, I am thrilled to work alongside all who mean well for the progression and well being of all students at Wabash with an emphasis on those who have traditionally had a more difficult time here. It is said that our college days are some of the best ones of our lives, and this is something that should ring true in the ears of every Wabash man regardless of race, creed, or origin. Though progress may always be slow to those who call for it, I commend the good efforts made by those throughout our community. Even so, I have long held that our campus administration must do better at understanding the demographics of its students and accommodating them to create a more inclusive environment. For example, if they understand that many of our students may come from communities where they have not interacted with many minorities, they should make efforts to educate those students. This would cultivate a more genuine understanding, which would yield

genuine relationships. If the only idea you have of a minority came from the news or what your grandparents told you, we're in some deep trouble! However, even for you I have hope that you can leave Wabash a more educated and inclusive man, ready for employment in the 21st century. It is a great dishonor to our college that it should produce graduates who are just as clueless to the reality and effects of racism as when they first enrolled. Again, it is not the duty of minority students to be the primary educators of the reality and effects of racism, creating diversity by putting people of all races in the same room but not fostering understanding and inclusion just results in tribalism. Nevertheless, I look forward to working alongside all who have hope and faith in building a better Wabash and cultivating a more equitable and inclusive community.

If you believe in the promotion of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for all people, and would like to be among like-minded men, getting involved with The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies might be for you!

The darker side of electric vehicles



James Szalkie '25

Reply to this editorial at
jwszalkie25@wabash.edu

With gas prices at historic highs and electric vehicles becoming more and more prevalent, many Americans are making the switch from combustion to battery powered vehicles. Companies such as Tesla, Nissan and Ford love to paint these sleek new vehicles as the answer to the many issues we face as a society, from pollution to advancement in engineering. However this is not entirely the case. These electric vehicles use lithium-ion batteries, which harness chemical potential energy in order to produce a charge. These are similar to the batteries in our phones, computers, and really

anything that charges. While these are much more sustainable than conventional car batteries in terms of materials and method, they present some issues. Lithium is an element which needs to be mined from places around the world such as Chile, Australia, and regions of the Congo. The mining of Lithium has a massive impact on the environment. According to MIT, for every ton of Lithium mined, 15 tons of CO2 are released into the atmosphere. In addition to this, lithium ion batteries degrade over time. For example, you may notice your phone begin to hold less charge as early as a year after purchasing it. This is because the electrolyte that rests between the electrodes (allowing it to hold a charge) breaks down over time, resulting in a decrease in efficiency. As a result, we could see a wave of degraded, useless lithium batteries become an issue within the next ten years as the first generation of electric vehicles begins to break down.

Another issue with lithium ion batteries is how the materials are acquired. Similar to how oil has been over the last century, lithium is becoming a new gold standard

of mineral, and everybody wants a piece. This can lead to foreign intervention for American interest which our government has coined since the turn of the 20th century, now for batteries instead of oil. This raises many ethical dilemmas as a demand for these minerals skyrockets, and small nations sitting on gold mines struggle for independence.

So what is the answer? One option is to continue to optimize the combustion engine. Gas powered vehicles have the benefit of the energy being released from within the vehicle, while electricity sent through power lines loses efficiency through heat from resistance. Additionally, many power grids in America rely on fossil fuels to produce power, which simply pushes the burden of pollution from individuals to larger centers of energy production. However, we will run out of fossil fuels someday, and that day may be getting closer and closer as the world continues to produce more drivers.

Another option is investing in concepts such as graphene batteries. A theoretical form of battery, graphene relies on

a 2-dimensional compound of carbon, which can be stacked more densely than any other material, while remaining incredibly lightweight. There are drawbacks to this idea, chiefly being that we have no way yet to mass produce this material. It is also brittle, and can not conduct heat well. However, once we are able to overcome these challenges, graphene batteries offer benefits such as increased longevity without deterioration, significantly more energy stored compared to lithium batteries while charging 60 times faster, and a production process which involves no mining, since the material is able to be synthesized. Graphene batteries may very well play a major role in mankind's future.

So in the meantime, think critically about what powers your life, and what motives are at play behind these green initiatives. Options such as using public transport, optimizing charging options on your phone, and advocating for the investment in materials engineering are some STEM-savvy ways to not only lessen your carbon impact, and help preserve our future.

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

If so, contact Andrew Dever (atdever25@wabash.edu) and get your point across to the campus in *The Bachelor* opinion section.



The Bachelor

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908

Frosh do's and don'ts

EDITORIAL STAFF

1. Do tell everyone that you're technically a sophomore by AP credits. They'll love it.
2. Don't get behind the first week of school... believe us, it only gets worse. You don't want to get caught writing Hi-Fives at 3am.
3. Do join a club or student organization that aligns with your interests.
4. Don't forget to take care of your sleep schedule. You don't want to be caught napping in Professor Himself's tutorial.
5. Do wear all of your clothes that have your high school on them. It's also important to describe your best high school moments continuously.
6. Don't put your fraternity in your bio, but if you do, at least spell it correctly.
7. Do have your significant other over for the entire week before they start school. Especially if you pledged a fraternity.
8. Don't ask about Sheepgate – just don't.
9. Do take a class with Dr. Warner, for the free food if nothing else.
10. Don't be fooled – those lovely Sparks dinners from admit weekend were just for show. Enjoy “fresh” bread from 1832.

Fraternities prepare for critical rush week



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Lewis Dellinger '25 earns his “W” during Chapel Sing.

SAM BENEDICT '25 | FEATURES EDITOR • The Wabash College Class of 2026 will be arriving on campus August 20th for ringing in and with that means fraternity rush will be taking place from August 20 to 24. New students will have the opportunity to visit each fraternity on campus every night of freshman orientation to meet with brothers, engage in events and learn about each house on campus. If a student receives a bid, he has the option to decline, accept, or hold that bid. If a student elects to accept a bid, then he will be moved into the fraternity immediately.

Most fraternities at Wabash experienced smaller pledge classes last year in what many consider to be a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, national trends indicate that the recent decline in Wabash College fraternity life is similar to that of fraternity life across the country.

“In my opinion, the main challenge we face is the negative perception of Greek life in general,” said Tau Kappa Epsilon Rush Chair Jacob Lawson '24. “I think this really stems from two different parts that hit on the same note. The first is guys just not knowing what a fraternity/

Greek life is coming into Wabash, but also that for a lot of guys what they know about fraternities, or what they think they know, is based on social media, movies, and other campuses. Wabash is a completely different place and culture than anywhere else in America, and our fraternities reflect that. Unlike many other campuses, fraternities at Wabash are not just an excuse to drink on a Tuesday night. At Wabash, the Greek system is built to support and grow the Wabash community and its students. There are many valuable resources that fraternities have to offer, and I don't think many guys realize that before they begin talking to houses.”

Hazing incidents that have ended in severe injury and sometimes death have led the media to portray fraternities in a negative light, leading potential new members to question why they should join. In 2020, the “Abolish Greek Life” movement became popular across the country and published instances of hazing, discrimination, and sexual assault in fraternities and sororities.

While Greek life is seeing national declines, fraternities at Wabash College

do have reason to believe that they will rebound this year. As of May 2022, rush numbers for every fraternity were higher than they were in May 2021. This indicates that incoming students are more open to Greek life than they have been in recent years.

“As we head into the fall semester, we're very optimistic that this will be an up year for our fraternities,” said Inter Fraternal Council President Mason Allen '23. “We're seeing the largest pledge classes within the past four years at Wabash with some houses while others continue to prospect for potential brothers. While we had to adapt to a world with COVID, I believe most of the houses have done a great job at implementing new strategies to make recruitment successful for them.”

Fraternities believe that they offer brotherhood, academic excellence, and resources that independent life is unable to replicate. Historically, Wabash fraternities have had higher GPAs as a whole than independent men. This year, the Wabash College chapter of Phi Gamma Delta won the Jordan Bowl award for best chapter academically in the country. Fraternities also host brotherhood events such as white water rafting, cook outs, and tailgates that boost student morale and develop community, but are exclusive to their brothers.

“We look for guys who put themselves out there and are willing to try something different and make new friends,” said Camden Cooper '24, rush chair at Phi Gamma Delta. “You've got to be open and willing to make new friends when you'll be living with them for four years. If you can find someone who gets along with a variety of the brothers in your house, that's a great start. We also love it when prospective members come ready to learn, not only about the college experience itself but in the classroom as well.”

Starting August 20, fraternities

will begin hosting their own rush events. Tau Kappa Epsilon will be hosting a BBQ day on August 20 for all brothers and prospective students. Phi Gamma Delta will host a similar event called Smoked Meat Mayhem on August 21 that will include brisket, ribs, and pork butt. Sigma Chi and Delta Tau Delta will be hosting casual grill nights to meet the brothers throughout the week. Kappa Sigma is hosting Video Game Night on the August 23 and S'mores Outdoors on August 24.

“The IFC plans to announce the rush events at each house every night for rush week to inform the incoming freshmen class,” said Allen. “We also will be promoting rush during the Fall Club Fair on the 27th with fraternities having tables to talk to potential brothers if they desire to do so. We're also pushing for all students to explore Wabash's fraternities, even if they think it might not be for them. Even if members of the class of 2026 decide not to rush, they still get to meet guys they'll be with for the next four years at Wabash, which is just another asset for them.”

The rush process can be an intimidating venture for new students because of the sudden influx of new people that a prospective member meets. However, most houses recognize this and try to make rush attendees feel comfortable by having casual events for both parties to meet.

“I think a normal rush event for us looks like this,” said Cooper. “Every brother at the house down on our main floor and on our front porch hanging out and talking to one another as prospective members come by and join in on a conversation so we can get to know them. We also tend to have some activities like cornhole, a fire pit going, a sports game on our TV, a casual pick-up game of basketball, and tours of the house. Our goal is to talk to and get to know as many prospective students as we can so that their transition into Wabash is as easy and fun for them as possible.”

In conversation with: *The Bachelor* sports staff

THE BACHELOR STAFF • Sports at Wabash return soon, and it's set to be a packed fall season. Soccer takes to the field first, but it isn't long before football, cross country, tennis, and golf all take their places in the limelight. That's not even to mention the return of basketball and swimming later on in the year.

So, with the season's first athletics event just around the corner, our writers got together to discuss the semester and answer the all-important Little Giant questions.

What is the most important game/event for your team this semester?

Sam Benedict '25, Football • The Monon Bell game is and always will be the most important game of the year. Wabash travels to Greencastle for the 128th edition of the game and looks to defend the Bell after last year's exciting game. I'm also looking forward to NCAC games against Denison University and Ohio Wesleyan University. Last year, Wabash took both teams to overtime and narrowly beat Denison 39-38, while losing to Ohio Wesleyan 28-35. These two games will be important in the race for the conference championship.

Andrew Dever '25, Football • The most interesting game this year will be the renewal of the Gentlemen's Classic against Hampden-Sydney College. This unique opening day clash will see two teams looking to bounce back from disappointing 2021 seasons. Furthermore, with this game being held at Little Giant Stadium, Wabash has decided to make this game Senior Day to celebrate all the great achievements and accomplishments by Wabash football's senior class. As a result, the Gentlemen's Classic is a crucial opening game and a unique opportunity for Wabash College.

Benjamin Bullock '23, Soccer • In September, Wabash will play host to the Robbie Dreher Classic. A week-end-long tournament, it is named in honor of the 12-year-old son of Scott Dreher '82 who tragically died in a plane crash in 2006. For this year's iteration of the tournament, the Little Giants will take on Fontbonne University and Webster University.

Peter Leithauser '24, Tennis • The Wabash tennis team has a very short fall schedule with only three tournaments. All three will be important opportunities for younger members of the team to build experience. For the veteran members, it is important to return to tennis condition and start preparing for their spring season.

Who is your team's most exciting player?

Dever, Football • Rising junior and 2021 Offensive Player of the Year Liam Thompson '24 will be looking to supplement his already extremely impressive Wabash career this fall. The First Team All-NCAC quarterback will need to play to his full potential for Wabash to have an opportunity for post-season football. Expect dynamic playmaking and improved accuracy from one of the best players in the NCAC and DIII football.



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Football began pre-season preparations this week ahead of their opening game against Hampden-Sydney on September 3.

Ethan Wallace '24, Basketball • Looking forward to this season, the most exciting player to watch will be Ahmoni Jones '23. Jones showed on several occasions last year that he could take on the role of leading scorer for the Little Giants. But he struggled with consistency and could accurately be called a second half player. While that was not a huge detriment to the Little Giants last year, who had players like Davidson and Watson, this season Jones will need to find a way to play at a high level all game every game. Brumett and the team will be looking to him as the only senior and returning starter to take the lead role.

Bullock, Soccer • If I had to choose one, it would be Coledon Johnson '23. Johnson was the conference's leading goal scorer last year, bagging himself 12 goals in 19 games. With a shot conversion rate of over 20%, he is really dangerous in front of goal. So, as he heads into his senior year, Johnson will undoubtedly be hungry for more.

Leithauser, Tennis • Tennis has a few excellent players to watch, but the most exciting is junior Liam Grennon '24. Liam plays a very exciting game with a huge serve and strong ground strokes. The aspect of Liam's game that makes him so exciting to watch is the energy that he brings to every match.

How do you expect your team to perform?

Benedict, Football • I think that the Wabash offense is in position to score over 40 points every game. Key returners include leading rusher Donovan Snyder '24 and leading receiver Cooper Sullivan '23 to complement Thompson. The defense will be led by Joe Rios and Will Netting who each secured over 50 tackles last year. I'm predicting multiple high scoring

affairs and a 9-1 record this year.

Dever, Football • If Wabash can continue to perform well in its out-of-conference games, I expect our football team to be in contention to win the NCAC championship and automatically qualify for the NCAA Division III playoffs. Aside from the September 10th clash against Division III National Runner-up North Central College, Wabash has a legitimate chance to win every game of the season. However, I believe with the tough non-conference schedule, as well as three difficult conference away games, the 2022 Wabash College Football team will finish 6-4.

Bullock, Soccer • This soccer team has a point to prove. After losing 8-0 to Kenyon in last season's NCAC tournament, the Little Giants will be looking to get their revenge. To do so, they need to show consistency against the top teams. If Wabash are able to score points against the likes of Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan, and Denison, then don't count them out to go far this season. It would certainly be amazing to see this team break into the NCAA tournament, and with enough momentum, I believe they could do it.

What challenges might your team face this semester?

Benedict, Football • The biggest challenge that the football team will face is how the defense will fill the roles of multiple graduates. Last season's top four tackle leaders have all graduated and the coaching staff has seen turnover as defensive coordinator Mike Ridings was hired, leading to a new defensive scheme.

Dever, Football • Besides the non-conference match-up against Division III runner-up North Central College, Wabash's biggest scheduling challenge will be their conference away games.

Playing away at both DePauw and Wittenburg, ranked first and second respectively in the NCAC in 2021, will be an extremely tough challenge for the Little Giants in 2022.

Benedict, Basketball • Basketball will face the challenge of replacing three starting players from last season, all of whose impact at Wabash will long be remembered by the fans. The team will have to step up together to fill the open roles. Compounding this challenge is the fact the Wabash team is very young. Of the players returning this year, only a handful got consistent minutes last season. But with leadership from the returning players and some new talent, I think it is a challenge the Wabash team will be able to overcome.

Bullock, Soccer • Soccer has lost the services of both last year's starting center backs. Cristian Aleman '22 and Josh Scott '22 both graduated last year, leaving a cavity in the Wabash defense that Coach Keller will need to fill.

Finally, what are your predictions for this year's Monon Bell Classic?

Benedict, Football • I believe that the football team will travel to Greencastle with the bell, then travel back to Crawfordsville with it. Considering that this game may decide the NCAC regular season champion, all bets are off, and the game will be a tight one:

Dever, Football • Wabash will follow up on last year's shocking comeback to win 31-28 in Greencastle.

Bullock, Soccer • Wabash win 20-17. Ding, Ding!

Leithauser, Tennis • I hope this year's Monon Bell Classic won't be as stressful as last year's! I believe Wabash will win 35-10.

Football begins preseason training



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Freshman’s guide to Little Giants football

SAM BENEDICT ‘25 | FOOTBALL REPORTER • The 2022 Wabash College football team play their first game in a matter of weeks. Here is everything freshmen need to know as we head into the 2022 season.

A brief history football at Wabash

Wabash’s football program began in 1894 and opened with a 4-0 win against Butler University. The team continued sporadically over the next decade with games throughout the 1880s and 1890s. Although football has changed dramatically since the era of 4-0 victories and the awe of the forward pass, some things have stood the test of time.

The Monon Bell game, between Wabash College and DePauw University, was first played in 1890 and has been televised on national channels such as ABC, ESPN, and Fox. In 1932, a locomotive bell from one of the Monon Railroad Engines was donated to the schools as the prize for the victor because the track ran from Crawfordsville to Greencastle. Sports Illustrated magazine and Barstool Sports have covered the Monon Bell game spectacle, commenting on the passion displayed by fans and players, the historical significance of the bell, and the importance of the game to each athletic department.

Since then, the Bell has been transported to each school various times. Wabash leads the all-time series with a 63-55-9 record. Throughout the history of the Bell, there have been several attempts to steal it from the opposing school. In 1965, Wabash students met with the Dean of DePauw, posing as Mexican dignitaries, to propose more scholarships for Mexican students. They then convinced the Dean to show them the Monon Bell. The Bell was stolen later that night. In 1979, DePauw students stole the Bell from Wabash, but were later raided by Wabash students who stole items from fraternities on campus. The two student bodies met in a location between Crawfordsville and Greencastle to exchange the stolen items.

Looking back at the 2021 Season

The 2021 Wabash College football team ended their 7-3 season with a stunning comeback win against DePauw University to bring the Bell back to Crawfordsville. The season



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Cade Campbell ‘24 celebrates as Wabash storm to a 42-35 victory agaist DePauw, 2021.

started out strong with five straight wins against Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, Hiram College, Allegheny College, Oberlin College, and a thrilling overtime victory versus Denison University. However, back-to-back losses, including a three-point defeat against the College of Wooster and an overtime loss at Ohio Wesleyan University, brought the Little Giants conference record to 4-2 heading into the final three games of the season. The team rebounded with a blowout win against Kenyon College but followed that performance with a loss to Wittenberg University.

Quarterback Liam Thompson ‘24 led an offense that averaged 38.3 points per game as he threw for 2956 yards with 28 passing touchdowns. Thompson capped his season by taking home the NCAC Offensive Player of the Year award along with a slew of other accolades. Running back Donovan Snyder ‘24 led the team with 1023 rushing yards and wide receiver Cooper Sullivan ‘24 led the team with 850 receiving yards. On the other side of the ball, defensive back Jose Franco ‘22 led the team with 41 solo tackles and defensive lineman Seth Buresh ‘22 led the team with eight sacks in 2021.

DePauw blew a 21-0 lead

The most important game of the year, for all members of Wabash College, did not disappoint. In the week leading up to the Monon Bell game, campus was abuzz as tailgate lots were made, extra bleachers were put up around Little Giant Stadium, and the Chapel was packed on Thursday for the highly anticipated Monon Bell Chapel Talk. On the morning of November 13th, students piled into Mud Hollow to begin tailgating for the game against DePauw University by 7 AM. Students and faculty, family and friends, and fans from across Indiana brought a buzz to Crawfordsville as the Little Giants took on the Dannies in the 127th Monon Bell game.

Wabash began the game with a 21-0 first quarter deficit as the number one NCAC team orchestrated three straight scoring drives. The tide began to turn when Thompson broke free for a long first down to extend the second quarter drive and finished by throwing a DePauw defender to the ground before going out of bounds. With 44 seconds left in the first half, Wabash scored to bring the team within seven going into the locker room. The second

half began with both teams trading scores, but the Wabash defense got a stop and the offense capitalized to tie the game at 28 by the end of the third quarter. The momentum continued as Thompson led two more scoring drives in the fourth quarter to take a 42-35 lead and the game ended with Sphinx Club members ringing the bell as students yelled “Wabash Always Fights.”

What to expect in 2022

The Wabash College Little Giants kick off their 2022 season with Senior Day at home against Hampden-Sydney College on September 3rd. The first conference game of the season will take place at The College of Wooster on September 17th and begin an intense streak of competitive games against Denison University, Ohio Wesleyan University, and Wittenberg University.

Last season, Wabash defeated NCAC fifth place Denison University 39-38 in a close overtime game, lost to number two ranked Ohio Wesleyan University 28-35 in overtime, and fell to number three Wittenberg University 14-35. All three of these games will be instrumental in deciding this year’s conference champion, but the game of the year will be against last season’s NCAC champion, DePauw University, in the 128th Monon Bell game on November 12th.

Key players & coaching staff

Head Coach Don Morel enters his seventh season at the helm with a 39-12 record and two NCAC Coach of the Year awards. Defensive Coordinator Mike Ridings was hired following the 2021 season and brings with him a new defensive scheme after the Little Giants allowed 30.6 points per game in 2021.

Wabash College returns multiple impact players across the board. Thompson aims to further a historic collegiate career with a successful junior campaign. He returns alongside his number one wide receiver, Sullivan, who tied the team in receiving touchdowns with seven last year, averaging 85 yards per game on his way to being a first team all NCAC selection in 2021.

On the defensive side, the Little Giants graduated their top four leading tacklers, but return breakout stars Joe Rios ‘24 and Will Netting ‘24 each finished with over 50 total tackles. Linebacker Vaughn Taylor ‘25 had a successful freshman season that saw

Kopp ‘21 replaces Coach Hill after late resignation

BENJAMIN BULLOCK ‘23 | SPORTS EDITOR • The Wabash Athletics Department has this week announced that Justin Kopp ‘21 will serve as interim head golf coach for the 2022-23 season. Kopp’s appointment comes following Coach Josh Hill’s resignation late this summer.

Kopp comes into the position with a long list of intercollegiate athletic accolades. In his time at Wabash, he played both golf and soccer to the high standard expected of student athletes. Overall, Kopp played in 33 rounds and garnered three top-five finishes, including one tournament victory as a senior.

“When I arrived as a freshman, I had no real intention of playing golf,” said Kopp. “Coach Petty was generous enough to offer me a try-out and eventually a roster spot. I worked my way into the top five for the conference tournament as a freshman and realized that golf was something I wanted to begin taking seriously.”

True to his word, Kopp worked diligently on the golf course. In his senior year, he was an integral part of the team that finished fourth place in the NCAC. He also earned the IAWM’s Scholar-Athlete Award for his combined efforts on the golf course and in the classroom.

However, taking on the role of head coach will be a whole new challenge. The golf team will play its first tournament in less than a month, leaving Kopp with only a handful of practice sessions to prepare his players. But that hasn’t stopped him setting his sights high.

“My vision for the team is to continue to progress into a top 100 team in the country and succeed academically,” said Kopp. “I know most of the guys on the team and they have the ability to compete with any Division III golfer in the country.”

“Having had the opportunity to play for Wabash coaching legends like Coach Keller and Coach Petty, I learned a lot about what great coaches do to put their players in the best position to succeed. But the main lesson I will take from my college athletics career is to enjoy each moment. It goes by quickly, and the more fun you have with it the harder you’ll work and the better you’ll be.”

Kopp takes over from the recently departed Josh Hill. Coach Hill left Wabash in July to take up a position at Sewanee: University of the South. He spent one year with the Little Giants, guiding them to a fifth-place finish in the NCAC. Hill also led Branden Weiss ‘24 to First-Team All-NCAC honors, the

first Little Giant to do so since 2014.

“I would not characterize the search’s timing as optimal following Coach Hill’s late summer resignation, just a few weeks prior to the return of students to campus,” said Matthew Tanney ‘05, Director of Athletics & Campus Wellness. “[Kopp] will bring stability to the program and value the totality of our students’ experiences at Wabash both inside and outside the classroom.”

This will be golf’s third new head coach in as many years. Prior to 2019, Wabash stalwart Mac Petty had led the team for thirteen seasons. He was succeeded by Tyler Schmutz who, two years later, was replaced by Josh Hill. However, despite this lack of coaching consistency, members of the team are fully behind their new leader.

“It was very tough first hearing the news [of Coach Hill’s departure] as this is the second time most of us have experienced it,” said senior golfer Allen Johnson Jr. ‘23. “But the goals have stayed the same and the guys have a no quit mentality for this season. The goal is to win conference and the morale will remain high.”

With students returning to campus this week, Kopp will want to hit the ground running. The Little Giants are set to compete in three tournaments



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Kopp played on both the golf and soccer teams during his time as a student.

this fall, including the Wabash College Invitational at Broadmoor Country Club in October. And for Kopp, competing means only one thing:

“Every practice will be competitive, and each shot will have some pressure with it,” added Kopp. “This will prepare the team for that first tournament in September. I believe that’s a tournament we can win.”

Save the date: Fall calendar highlights



September 1, Thursday
Soccer, vs Franklin College
Fischer Field, 5pm



September 3, Saturday
Football, vs Hampden-Sydney
Little Giants Stadium, 1pm



September 17, Saturday
Tennis, Wabash College Invitational
Collett Tennis Center



November 12, Saturday
Football, Monon Bell Classic
Blackstock Stadium, 2pm



Justin Kopp ‘21 named as interim head golf coach

PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Full story on page 7

Ethan Johns ‘25 sets new school records, chases down brother’s legacy

BENJAMIN BULLOCK ‘23 | SPORTS EDITOR • Ethan Johns ‘25 is one of Wabash’s star athletes right now. Only one year into his intercollegiate swimming career, Johns is already turning heads with his lightning quick times and record-breaking ability. But then, it shouldn’t really come as a surprise. His older brother, Elliot Johns ‘16, was also one of Wabash’s finest swimmers. Elliot still holds the school 200-yard freestyle record and, until this year, held the 100-yard freestyle record. He was also part of the 2014 team that broke the 800-yard freestyle relay record, another achievement that still stands today. But for Ethan, the legacy of his brother doesn’t daunt him. It’s his biggest motivator. At the end of July, Johns competed in the Speedo Futures Championships in Cary, N.C., where he set two long course school records. In the 200-meter freestyle, Johns set a time of 1:59.05, a near half-second improvement on his performance just weeks earlier at the Indiana Senior Long Course Championship. He also set a new school record in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 54:11.

“He is one of the most dedicated athletes that I have had the privilege to coach.”

- Coach Bernhardt

“It feels great having the early success I have had in my swimming career at Wabash,” said Johns. “I enjoy the pressure of being a top contributor on the team, which is something I previously have not had the opportunity to experience in my swimming career. It excites me to think about what this team can accomplish down the road.” But the pressure factor is only one element of Johns’ athletics package. At the heart of his performance is a desire to compete with his older



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Johns beat the school’s 100-meter and 200-meter records at the Future Championships in North Carolina.

brother. But what makes Johns special is his absolute belief in his ability not only to match his brother but to beat him too. “I have my sights set on more records,” said Johns. “My older brother, Elliot, currently has the 200-yard freestyle record for the school. This is a record that pushes me to train and compete at the highest level I can, and I am looking to breaking it this upcoming season.” Johns exudes confidence both in the pool and out of it. He is, according to Head Swimming and Diving Coach Will Bernhardt, the perfect example of what a Wabash swimmer should be. “He is incredibly balanced and understands the dynamics of what it

takes to be a very good student and a great athlete,” said Coach Bernhardt. “I was amazed at how well he handled his course load, swimming, and his time away from both during his freshman year.” “He is one of the most dedicated athletes that I have had the privilege to coach. He is a team player that wants everyone to succeed and be a part of the great things our program can achieve. That is what makes him so fun to coach.” Wabash Swim & Dive opens its fall season in October with the Indiana DIII Meet at Rose-Hulman. Johns looks to continue his good form into the new academic year – and to break more records along the way.

Coach Ridings: ‘It will be critical to learn quickly from mistakes’



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Coach Mike Ridings will oversee his first Little Giants game on September 3.

BENJAMIN BULLOCK ‘23 | SPORTS EDITOR • Defensive coordinator Mike Ridings is the latest addition to Don Morel’s coaching staff. With sixteen years of coaching experience under his belt, Ridings is ready for a new challenge with the Little Giants. “I am excited to be here for the first season at Wabash,” said Ridings. “We had a good offseason with implementing new standards on the defensive side. Most importantly, pursuit of the football, improving tackling, and creating takeaways. Our guys are eager.” Ridings joined the Little Giants in January having spent two seasons as defensive coordinator at Keiser University, Fla. Ridings’ defense ranked 15th in the country and allowed just 18 points a game. He also spent four years at Marian University in Indianapolis where, in 2019, he was named NAIA assistant coach of the year by the American Football Coaches Association. Ridings has high expectations for his players. As well as simply improving standards, he hopes to implement a completely new defensive style. “I believe you will see a new edge with the defense. A big challenge for our guys will be learning the new system, so it will be critical to learn quickly from mistakes.” The Little Giants open their season on September 3 when they host Hampden-Sydney at Little Giants Stadium, where Coach Ridings will undoubtedly be looking for a solid defensive showing.