

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | FEATURES EDITOR • This past summer, a treasured Wabash man tragically lost his life. Rising junior Nick Casad of Terre Haute, Indiana, passed away in an automobile accident on Sunday, June 11th, 2023. Casad excelled at Wabash and was beloved for his warmth and welcoming personality. His openness and caring demeanor was reflected in his career aspirations, dreaming to become a pediatrician. Though he was involved in the Global Health Initiative and a prolific wrestler, he will be missed by countless more whose lives he brightened every day.



COURTESY OF WABASH COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Matt Lepper '25 remembers Casad with a smile, but also with great pride for his strength of character. "Nick is a prime example of an indomitable, loving and faithful spirit," said Lepper. "Nick faced adversity with a smile and positive attitude no matter the situation. His faith was unwavering, and Nick truly lived by the golden rule of treating others like you would want to be treated." The Wabash community has rallied in support behind the Casad family, largely spearheaded by Lepper. Over the summer, Lepper organized a t-shirt fundraiser in Casad's honor, with its design paying tribute to Nick's dedication to weight training. All proceeds were sent directly to the Casad family. There will be further opportunities to donate at the vigil. There will be a memorial vigil on Saturday, September 2nd held at Pioneer Chapel. Organized also by Matt Lepper, this vigil will give an opportunity for the Wabash community to unite and pay their respects to their fallen brother. Space will be given for those who knew Nick personally to step forward and share their stories and memories of him in the chapel. There will also be a memory board for those who wish to share a small written memorial. "Nick's smile, warmth, and positivity impacted those around him. His spirit will always flow through this campus without fail."



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

President Feller speaks at Ringing-In ceremony for incoming Freshman.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The Senior Bench is painted with a welcoming message for the class of '27.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Students pose with Wally during the most recent Day of Giving.

SAM BENEDICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • On August 19, 2023, President Scott Feller rang in the newest class of Wabash students. In doing so, the 17th President of Wabash College officially began the 2023-24 academic school year. "I thought we had a really positive Ringing-In Saturday," said Feller. "I think move-in was smooth and the students were excited to be here. The families seemed really excited and motivated by what they saw. Personally, I was impressed with the New Student Orientation Mentors and the other students who helped with this process. I think it was a good look for the College that there weren't really grownups directing traffic. It was very student-led so I thought that was a good signal to send right off the bat."

**"We set out to raise \$225,000,000. And at the end of the day, it was more like \$250,000,000."**  
- President Scott Feller

Prior to the start of the 2023-24 academic school year, the Giant Steps campaign closed at the end of the 2023 spring semester and marked a landmark achievement for President Feller. The campaign came to a close after raising over \$250,000,000, exceeding its goal by \$25,000,000 and witnessing over 12,000 alumni and friends of the College make donations. "We set out to raise \$225,000,000," said Feller. "And at the end of the day, it was more like \$250,000,000. We're well past the goal of what we set out for and I think we still have a lot of momentum. We again achieved 40% of alumni who gave to the College this year, so this is going to be a big celebration. This is a giant moment for Wabash College."

**"When you look around this place, if you look at a building, it was built on philanthropy. That's a big part of this."**  
- President Scott Feller

To celebrate the success of the Giant Steps campaign and honor those who donated and worked on the project, Wabash will be hosting a two-day celebration on October 6 and 7. "This semester, it might not be a focal point for the students, but a focal point for the alumni will be the celebration in October of the conclusion of the Giant Steps Campaign," said Feller. "There's a  
**Continued page 2**

## A Conversation with the Student Body President



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Student Body President Cole Bergman '24 celebrates after being sworn in.

SAM BENEDICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Following a contentious semester where students and senators were alarmed at the state of the Student Senate budget, newly elected Student Body President Cole Bergman '24 is ready to make a change. Bergman, a football player, Sphinx Club member and Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse senior fellow, was elected in a race that saw no opposition. However, during town hall-style conversations, he made it clear that transparency was his number-one priority. Last year, Student Senate was perceived by students to rapidly be on track to go broke before the semester ended. This prediction never happened, but it created tension among senators and students. "A lot of money was spent in the first semester," said Bergman. "That's what

caused some of those tighter budgets in the second semester. This year, we want to make sure that not only us but the senators are aware of where the money is at all times. Transparency is our number-one goal." Bergman believes that transparency not only includes senators, but also students. "Something that's currently in the works right now is getting the website up and running. It started getting there last semester, but we just want to make sure it's publicly known that there's a website where you can access Senate materials. This year, we're going to be putting the budget on the website. This allows students who have questions about the budget or where stuff is being allocated to easily access it." A common critique of Student Senate from those taking part—especially new

**"This year, we want to make sure that not only us, but the senators, are aware of where the money is at all times. Transparency is our number-one goal."**  
- Student Body President Cole Bergman '24

senators—is that they don't understand the Senate decorum that they are expected to abide by. Senate meetings are often slowed by explanation of procedure, leading to dwindling engagement and frustration. "This summer, we've been working a lot on making sure Senate meetings are done efficiently and effectively," said Bergman. "Luis Rivera '25 has been working on implementing new senator orientation material so we'll be doing that with the new senators next week after the first meeting." Outside of educating new senators on how Senate works, Bergman is focused on providing new Wabash students information on how to be involved with Senate. "I think that the biggest thing for freshmen to know is that the Senate is a body that works for this student body of Wabash," said Bergman. "One of the biggest goals of it is to make sure that people on campus are having a good time. If they have ideas for clubs or activities or events that they want to see, Senate will be very receptive to that. A lot of clubs have been made by freshmen and we saw

a lot being formed last year. Creating an enjoyable experience for students is what we're here for." Although Bergman is planning to implement significant changes to the way Senate meetings are conducted, some things won't change. Clubs and committees will be encouraged to submit semester-long budgets at the beginning of each semester so senators understand the full picture of what they will be voting to fund. The change in leadership from last year to this year has been effective because of requirements for outgoing executive members to submit documents explaining their jobs. "Bryce McCullough '23 made it a big sticking point to ensure that executive

**"One of the biggest goals of it is to make sure that people on campus are having a good time... Creating an enjoyable experience for students is what we're here for."**  
- Student Body President Cole Bergman '24

members and committee chairmen had good communication with the people they were passing the roles to," said Bergman. "Each incoming chairman or cabinet member had access to all of the documents and information that you would need to be successful in the role."  
**Continued page 2**

# A Summer in Politics

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | NEWS EDITOR •

While Wabash’s academic year may have come to a close as summer began, the world of American politics continued to chug along. The summer months—full of indictments and campaign announcements—proved to be eventful and impactful on the future of American politics.

It was a summer of indictments for former President and Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump, who garnered his fourth indictment in August. Despite mounting legal challenges to the former president, Republican voters seem largely unfazed and he remains far in the lead in GOP primary polling.

Former President Donald Trump announced his candidacy early in the election cycle, after a disappointing midterm showing for Republicans. Now, as the election cycle is in full swing there are ten Republicans other than Trump vying for position including Vivek Ramsways—an entrepreneur and self described ‘outsider’, Chris Christie—former New Jersey Governor and fervent anti-Trumper, Mike Pence—Trump’s former Vice President who broke with him over claims of election fraud and Ron Desantis—the current governor in Florida who won big during a midterm generally considered abysmal for Republicans. However, with a 38-point lead in National Polling according to the FiveThirtyEight and only five months until the Iowa caucuses, it’s hard to imagine Trump will be dethroned as the presumptive GOP nominee.

President Joe Biden remains the presumptive Democratic frontrunner. However, even as incumbent, he has faced criticism regarding his age and questions about his mental and physical ability to continue governing. Currently there are two Democratic challengers to Biden: Marianne Williamson, who ran for the Democratic nomination in 2020, and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Though many speculated he would step aside and let younger candidates vie for the position, Biden made his intent to run again clear—holding firmly onto place as the front running democratic candidate. This leads to what will likely seem to be a replay of the 2020 race.

“I think the main thing to keep an eye on is how the Biden and Trump campaigns begin to gear up for a potential rematch, especially since the public doesn’t seem keen on a replay of the 2020 race,” said Dr. Shamira Gelbman, Associate Professor of Political Science. “Mobilizing voters to show up for both primaries in spring and summer 2024 and the general election in November 2024 will be a challenge, and it will be interesting to see how the leading candidates’ campaigns start laying the groundwork for that.”

Despite their front running status, criticism of both Biden and Trump’s age abound with many desiring to see fresh and young faces in politics. Age remains a big factor in voters’ minds as the summer saw attention drawn to two elderly political figures, Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and California Senator Diane Fienstien.

The 81-year-old McConnell made headlines in July when he froze up during a press conference for an extended period of time and was escorted away by staffers. McConnell has declined to explain the event, though privately his colleagues have expressed concern. According to Politico, several Republican lawmakers have “grown alarmed” at McConnell’s declining health with one saying “I think he’s just not processing.”

Diane Fienstien, the oldest member of congress at 90 years old, has had a number of health scares recently, including encephalitis, a three-month absence after contracting shingles and a recent fall in her home and subsequent hospital visit. Senator Dick Durbin D-Ill has criticized her absence.

“I want to treat Dianne Feinstein fairly. I want to be sensitive to her family and personal situation,” said Durbin. “I don’t want to say that she’s going to be put under more pressure than others have been in the past. But the bottom line is the business of the committee and the Senate is affected by her absence.”

Dianne Feinstein has announced that she will not run for reelection in 2024. Despite calls to resign it seems she will finish her term.

Abortion access following the overturning of Roe v. Wade continues to dominate the political atmosphere, with a record-high number of registered voters considering abortion to be the most important factor when deciding whom to vote for, a majority of whom support abortion rights according to Gallup. Republican efforts to curtail abortion seem to be backfiring as a new USA Today poll suggests that efforts to block abortion have made roughly a quarter of Americans more supportive of abortion rights. Most recently, voters in Ohio gathered for a vote to amend their state constitution to protect abortion rights.

“It’s also likely to reverberate more broadly as we look ahead to the 2024 elections nationwide,” said Gelbman. “It may shape which candidates come forth, how they run their campaigns, what sorts of ads we’ll be bombarded with, who turns out to vote and ultimately who wins control of the Presidency, House, and Senate next year.”

home football game and then we’ll have a big celebration. I think that’ll bring folks to campus and also bring some good energy and give us time to be grateful for what people have done for all of us who participated or worked on the campaign.”

Although the Giant Steps campaign only just concluded, more is on the horizon to begin thinking about as Wabash enters its bicentennial in 2032.

“We’re going to continue to find things to celebrate,” said Feller. “We’ll start to think in real terms about the next big celebration for Wabash College, which will be our bicentennial in 2032. That’s a big deal. Not a lot of organizations make it 200 years. So I think we should start thinking about what that means to us. How are we going to celebrate that? What do we want to think about as we go into our third century? I think that’ll be a real focus of something we can think about and begin to set goals for.”

Last year, The Bachelor reported on plans for a Student Center to be built where the Sparks Center currently stands. The project is expected to be a multi-year initiative with the goal to limit disruption to student life during construction and eventually open a building that will improve the student experience at Wabash College tremendously.

**“This will be the most expensive project in the history of Wabash College and one of the most complex because we’ll have to be very disruptive. That’s the best real estate on campus. It’s the corner of the mall, the Allen Center, the library.**

- President Scott Feller

# Looking ahead cont’d



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

President Feller is inaugurated as the 17th President of Wabash College.

“We’ve done focus groups,” said Feller. “We’ve had drawings rendered. I know people are probably tired of having us ask for their opinions, but we do want to get it right. The Sparks Center has been there for nearly 70 years, so this building has to be right.”

President Feller expects the design phase to be done this fall, but wants to ensure that all of the student and faculty needs are being met.

“Outside of the design process, we’ve been talking to friends of the College who might be interested in supporting philanthropically,” said Feller. “When you look around this place, if you look at a building, it was built on philanthropy. That’s a big part of this. Just as the design team has been working in one direction, the Advancement team has been working alongside in parallel basically taking what we’ve heard from students and community members about the need for a campus center, what it can do for us and then sharing that with friends of the College and saying this is the need of the College. This is what the students need.”

The last factor to consider during pre-construction is how to complete the

project with limited disruption to students. Because the Sparks Center is the main area where independent student meals are served, Wabash will need to find temporary meal service for those students. Because the land is located within the heart of campus, construction will need to be done in a way where students are still able to attend the Lilly Library, academic buildings, and the Allen Center.

“This will be the most expensive project in the history of Wabash College and one of the most complex because we’ll have to be very disruptive,” said Feller. “That’s the best real estate on campus. It’s the corner of the mall, the Allen Center, the library. It’s the best spot we have and we’re going to have to dig a big hole.”

# Conversation with the Student Body President cont’d



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREEN '25

Student Senate senators meet during a February 20, 2023 meeting to discuss National Act, budget requests and upcoming events for the Student Body.

The last important topic that Bergman is working on is National Act, in conjunction with Lewis Dellinger '25, the National Act Committee Chairman. After a poll last year following Cheat Codes’ performance, Bergman was surprised to see that most responses were positive. The poll asked

students if they felt that National Act should continue or if that money should be reallocated to other events. It also asked for preferences on genre of music and location for the concert.

“The majority of the feedback was that people liked National Act and they want-

ed it to continue,” said Bergman. “NLE Choppa’s performance two years ago had a lot of positive feedback. Cheat Codes was a little bit more middling, but even then it was slightly more positive. However, the survey also didn’t reach as many participants as we had hoped it would. Only about 120 students submitted a response and we were hoping for closer to 150. But off of that sample size, the interpretation we’re going with right now is that while there are some vocal people who have negative opinions on National Act, the majority of people like having a big event on campus. So I think National Act will continue in some form. There’s still some deliberation on whether we still want to have one large event or have multiple smaller artists.”

The Wabash community is excited to see what a Bergman presidency looks like and are awaiting the first Senate meeting on August 28, 2023. Budgets will be voted on, discussions surrounding plans for the semester will commence and senators will be sworn in.

# Wabash Club of Indianapolis

## Welcome to Wabash!



## The Wabash Club of Indianapolis sponsors events and projects to support Wabash and connect our community.

### Here’s just a sample of what we support:

- Back to School Bash • Bachelor Ads • Leadership Breakfast
- Monthly After-Work Get-Togethers • New Faculty Reception
- W.A.B.A.S.H. Day • Admissions • Moot Court
- Career Services • Bash Before the Bell • Scholar-Athlete Award
- Mini Marathon Tent • Faculty-Alumni-Staff Symposium
- Mitchum Crock Golf Outing • Wabash Night at Victory Field

## State of Rush: Fall 2023

'Wabash fraternity men continue to show their difference by defying the odds'



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Brothers at Phi Kappa Psi show out for a rush event**

**JAMES WALLACE '26 | OPINION EDITOR •** O Another summer has ended with the historic Ringing-In Ceremony this past Saturday, marking the beginning of a new fall semester at Wabash. This means that fraternities will be gearing up for another season of recruitment as the newly rung-in freshmen look for their home on campus.

But with fraternity recruitment trending negatively nationwide, Wabash fraternity men continue to show their difference by defying the odds.

Brett Driscoll '24, who is currently serving as the Interfraternity Council President, assures that the goals for recruitment have not wavered this year.

"We have the same goal as we had in the spring; seventy percent Greek, thirty percent independent," Driscoll said.

"It's a lofty goal, but we'll likely

be close to passing at least the sixty percent threshold."

However, fraternity rush has been more and more difficult as the national perception of Greek life continues to worsen.

"Students don't want to rush fraternities because of the national reputation," Driscoll said. "It's our job to continue to prove that fraternities are different here."

**"We have the same goal as we had in the spring; seventy percent Greek, thirty percent independent."**

**- Brett Driscoll '24**

Brayden Tippet '26 serves as one of the three rush chairs for Beta Theta Pi this year, and while his fraternity has experienced

their fair share of difficulties with recruitment this year, he has persevered through the challenges their house has faced.

"This year the guys in the house have been really present for rush," Tippet said. "We've really worked hard to constantly reach out to guys and this has tremendously helped our efforts. We've managed to hit our goal this year, and want to continue to get more guys."

**"Students don't want to rush fraternities because of the national reputation. It's our job to continue to prove that fraternities are different here."**

**- Brett Driscoll '24**

Unfortunately, Beta has been at the epicenter of dirty rushing this semester, and Tippet acknowledges the impact that this has on his house and campus.

"Around half of the guys who have been interested have mentioned something about dirty rushing across campus," Tippet said. "There's houses bashing other houses, and it's unfortunate to see."

Driscoll also stresses that the dirty rushing towards Beta is something that is a problem.

"I don't love the overall campus attitude towards Beta," said Driscoll. "I know that some unfortunate events happened last semester, and it's sad to see that guys are dirty rushing them."

But while dirty rushing continues to happen in pockets around campus or on Yik Yak, Driscoll notes that it has been getting better.

"I think it definitely has been better this year than it has been in the past," said Driscoll.

However, even through the challenges of dirty rushing and the national perception of fraternities, Wabash fraternities continue to preserve their unique and historic stories on campus.

## Pathway to your future brings disadvantaged high schoolers to campus

**ELIJAH GREENE '25 | PHOTO EDITOR •** Over this past summer, Wabash hosted its second annual Pathway to Your Future event for rising high school sophomores and juniors. During the week of June 24-29, men from Texas, Arizona, Illinois and Indiana gathered in Crawfordsville for a week of immersion into both the college experience and the idea that college is not only achievable, but quite possible.

Much like a scholarship, the Pathway to Your Future program requires these high school students to fit one of three criteria to apply: they must be a first-generation college student, come from a poor socioeconomic background or be an underrepresented minority in secondary education.

During their time on campus, the selected students sat through lectures designed by faculty to simulate a typical Wabash classroom, engaged in co-curricular activities to encourage team-building and leadership skills with Wabash coaches, and even participated in their own personal extra-curricular time. Combining all three of these modules represents a typical day for a fair few Wabash students.

"Part of this program was to expose students to what a Wabash classroom is like, all centered around a certain theme," said Dr. Laura Wysocki, Professor of Chemistry, and one of the Wabash faculty that designed a lecture for the students.

"I was tasked with putting together a class thinking about the theme of resilience in community through the lens of chemistry."

This and several other classes across all three academic divisions gave the prospective students a taste of what a classic liberal arts education at Wabash can entail.

This multifaceted approach to the college experience gives these stu-



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Associate Professor of Chemistry Laura Wysocki met with Pathway students for class inside the MXIBS**

dents a broad-scale idea about what life in college at Wabash actually looks like.

"By the time [the students] have finished with the week, they will have engaged with some of the most important constituents of the Wabash experience: faculty, staff, and students," said Assistant Director of the MXI Kim King II.

"They really do experience a microcosm of Wabash life."

But this program is much more than a simple recruitment experience. The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies aimed not only to provide a college-esque experience, but bottle a little of Wabash's magic and give it to these prospective students. Spearheaded by King II, the MXIBS presented Wabash as not only a place to go to college, but a place that they might enjoy fully.

"[The program] is very intentional," said King II.

"We want these students to apply and come to Wabash. We're working to build meaningful relationships and an early pipeline so that students can become aware of Wabash even earlier than their junior year."

Pathway to Your Future is simply the next step for Wabash to continue its outreach to underrepresented students in higher education and its commitment to placing first-generation college students in Crawfordsville. Only in its second year, the program has yet to have a graduated high school senior who could even attend Wabash, but King II is optimistic about the program's impact on the young men in attendance.

"These three demographics have long been represented in the life of the College," said King II.

"By focusing on this group, we're simply naming them and challenging ourselves [at the College] to continue to work with these students from these backgrounds with the same kind of success that we work with students at-large."

King II and the rest of the staff of the MXI are ushering in the next generation of Wabash students by showing them the magic of Wabash College-through its classes, faculty, and even alumni engagement. Now all that's left to do is see if the magic sticks.

## Freshmen DOs and DON'Ts

**DO talk to your advisor.** Most of the time they just want to get to know you.

**DON'T oversleep.** Seriously, you don't want to be the guy showing up to tutorial at 9:46 the first week of college.

**DO go to rush events.** Even if you don't go Greek, free food is free food. Plus you might just find your new home for the next four years.

**DON'T step on the W in the Allen center.** It's way more fun to judge people that do.

**DO go to TGIF.** Again, free burgers and free brotherhood. What's better than that?

**DON'T stay in your room.** People here are super friendly if you make yourself available!

**DO join that club you might be interested in.** Most club events will have free pizza or snacks if that's your thing. We have a lot of free food here.

**DON'T give said free food to the squirrels.** They will come back expecting more.

**DO ask questions in class.** Some professors throw out participation points like candy

**DON'T send all-campus emails.** Unless you're running a club, take it to the classifieds. You'll thank me later.

**DO learn the fight song.** it's long and hard (lol) but it gets you hyped like nothing else.

**DON'T spend too much time on YikYak.** Speaking from experience here.

# Summer movie recap

Bachelor writers weigh in on the summer's best movies

## 'Barbie'

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25 | MANAGING EDITOR • Believe the box office. *Barbie* was so good on opening night that I went back to see it the next week. The message of equality is hard-hitting and cuts right to the core of the present state of women's rights in America. But as we all know, theme is nothing without a good story, which *Barbie* provides multiple times over. Writing, directing and acting combine for two hours of nonstop laughs all centered around a simple, heartwarming story about a mother and daughter.



COURTESY OF DEADLINE

FINAL VERDICT:  
5/5 WALLYS



## 'Oppenheimer'



COURTESY OF IMDB

ELIJAH GREENE '25 | PHOTO EDITOR • Even among the likes of *The Dark Knight*, *Interstellar*, or *Inception*, Christopher Nolan's latest big-budget blockbuster *Oppenheimer* stands apart. A depressing and hyper-realistic biopic, *Oppenheimer* highlights the life and works of one J. Robert Oppenheimer, dubbed the "father of the atomic bomb". With stunning visual effects, an epic soundtrack, and more A-list Hollywood actors than you can shake a stick at, *Oppenheimer* was the toast of this summer's movie releases.

FINAL VERDICT:  
5/5 WALLYS



## 'Blue Beetle'

CURTIS FAUGHNAN '26 | STAFF WRITER • I went into *Blue Beetle* expecting just another mediocre superhero film; however, I came out pleasantly surprised. The movie really connects you to the principal characters through the context of Hispanic Culture. This connection made all the ups feel good and all the downs feel heartbreaking. Another thing they got right was comedy. Many superhero films have put in comedy without the need for it and the jokes would never hit, however for *Blue Beetle* almost all of the jokes hit. For anyone who is hesitant to go see this movie. Go, you don't want to miss this one.



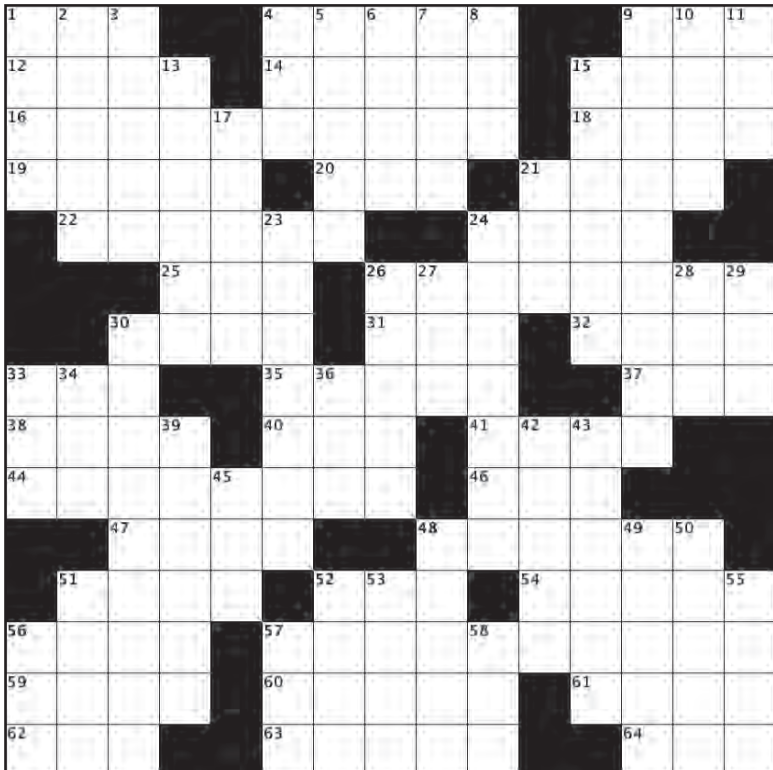
COURTESY OF IMDB

FINAL VERDICT:  
4.5/5 WALLYS



## 'Class schedule'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



### Across

- Apt name for an IT specialist?
- Ties, as shoes
- Rainbow, e.g.
- Workplace safety group: Abbr.
- Coffee order
- India's continent
- \*Study of Collins, Jackson, Knight & others?
- Put away for later
- Civic or Sonata, e.g.
- 'The Matrix' protagonist
- Gossip
- Legendary loch beast
- 19-Across, e.g.
- 2023 role for Ryan Gosling
- Put two and two together
- Alley dwellers
- Blow away
- Type of loser
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday
- Kind of dog?
- "Dude!"
- Bucks' kin?
- "Flipped" body part
- Gross
- '\_\_\_\_\_ for the Devil,' by the Rolling Stones

- John, by another name
- + and - particles
- Touch affectionately
- Raises a hand, say
- With 60-Across, separately listed on a menu
- Robin Williams role in a classic Disney film
- Poker starter
- \*Study of a classic horror film?
- Owl's home
- [See 52-Across]
- Not all
- Stalone, to friends
- 2023 FIFA World Cup champions
- Faux \_\_\_\_\_

### Down

- Deck-swabbing tools
- Pallid
- Reprimand
- Weight room inits.
- By oneself
- Missing garment for Mr. Incredible
- Word often yelled into a cave
- Pie in the \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Study of Texas baseball players?
- Type of police with shields
- Eagle cry
- Baked \_\_\_\_\_
- "The way things stand..."
- Beginning, as symptoms
- Record over, maybe
- Trash talks
- GMA part
- Iron smith?
- Come up short
- Time period
- Scout unit
- \*Study of some undergarments?
- Newspaper purchases
- Spanish 101 verb
- Medical research org.
- Like some poetry
- Container ship's load
- Prepares to propose
- Ques. partner
- Saguaro and Prickly Pear, for two
- Yenta
- Greek "S"
- Freudian stage
- "Stat!"
- Vega's constellation
- Sense organs
- The six in a six-pack
- Desktop items, for short
- Farm mother



Scan for solution!

## 'Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning'

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | FEATURES EDITOR • The penultimate film in the *Mission: Impossible* franchise does not reinvent the wheel, but rather refines the spy thriller formula while still being fresh and exciting. The film brings familiar characters in a familiar structure, but ups the ante with increasingly breathtaking stunts, polished and gripping action, and an intricate plot that addresses modern concerns over deteriorating international relations and the role of artificial intelligence. In the age of streaming, the action blockbuster has lost some cultural relevance, but *Dead*



COURTESY OF AMAZON

*Reckoning* proves that passionate filmmakers can still make great action movies on a large scale that deserve a trip to the theater.

FINAL VERDICT:  
4/5 WALLYS



## 'Meg 2: The Trench'



COURTESY OF REDDIT

FINAL VERDICT:  
3.5/5 WALLYS



TIERNAN DORAN '26 | NEWS EDITOR • A sequel to *The Meg* (2018) and a loose adaptation of Steve Aletern's best selling book series *Meg 2: The Trench* (2023) ups the ante of dumb giant shark fun. At first glance, *Meg 2* seems to be the very antithesis to the art of cinema. It has nothing to set itself apart from the dredge of mediocrity that inevitably sludges through theaters year after a year. Yet, despite all of these things I can't bring myself to say it was unenjoyable. This time around, this sharky sequel is directed by Ben Wheatley, replacing the original film's director John

Turteltaub. Once again it follows Jonas Taylor (Jason Statham), who is now out of retirement and busy busting illegal dumping of waste in international waters. One thing leads to another and once again he's 6,000 meters under the ocean battling sharks. It's nothing groundbreaking, but that's okay. Giant sharks abound, as well as a cornucopia of other delightful monsters, and it's a great time.

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

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 800 words.

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*The Bachelor* is a member of the Hoosier State and Indiana Collegiate Press Associations (HSPA and ICPA).

## Why you should write for *The Bachelor*



Nathan  
Ellenberger '26

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Freshmen, welcome to Wabash College! Your first week of college is one of the most exciting—but also overwhelming—times of your life. You've been told about traditions, shown the ropes and met some incredible people, all in a very short period of time.

One of the most common pieces of advice freshmen receive is to get involved. Fraternities, sports teams, clubs and organizations all offer opportunities to do great things and enrich your life outside of the classroom. Among these great organizations, *The Bachelor* has produced some of the finest Wabash Men in the College's history, and you could be the next.

*The Bachelor* won Division III Newspaper of the Year at the Indiana Collegiate Press Awards in 2023, and the 2023 Princeton Review named us third-best college newspaper in the country, just two spots behind Columbia University. As you may know, however, there are no journalism majors at Wabash. None of the work we do is for a grade. *The Bachelor* is staffed by future journalists to be sure, but also future lawyers, doctors, businessmen, actors, artists, writers and photographers. What unites the staff of *The Bachelor* is a dedication to serving the Wabash community, a passion for working hard, and a strong sense of camaraderie.

It's not just about us and what we achieve. Writing for *The Bachelor* is another opportunity to deepen and hone the skills that Wabash seeks to develop in you.

Obviously, your writing skills will be put to work. If you want to become a great writer, there's no better supplement to the education you receive in the classroom than writing a beat. However, while writing is the most important skill needed to write for a paper, you'll develop many other critical skills for success in college and beyond.

Writing and working in a paper office is an excellent preparation to enter team-based environments in the business world. Your oral communication, time management and decision-making skills will all be pushed, and you'll realize how far you've come in those after just a few short weeks of writing.

Perhaps most importantly, working as a student journalist will make you inquisitive. Curiosity is a key attribute of a successful writer, and as you research and investigate for your articles, you'll find that you start asking better questions about events, people, and the community around you. Conducting interviews will train you not only for writing, but also for getting to the heart of the issues that really matter.

Even still, it's about more than developing yourself. Ultimately, writing for *The Bachelor* is an opportunity to get in close touch with the Wabash community. Your first level of community is *The Bachelor* office, where you'll make close, lifelong friendships that will be your rock through your college years and beyond. However, you are also put into contact with the larger campus community as well. Your interviews will take you to every corner of campus, from fraternities and sports facilities, to faculty and administration offices. You'll even make a friend or two in unexpected places just by volunteering to write a piece on something you don't know much about.

*The Bachelor* holds staff meetings in the basement of the Armory on Mondays at 12:10. Come find us when you're ready.

## HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### OUR GUARDIAN ANGLE

*Hi-Five to Buck Waddell for getting a well earned promotion. He's not the hero we deserve, but the hero we need.*

### UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

*Lo-Five to Trump for not attending the first GOP debate. How dare you rob us of all the memes that would've come from that.*

### FEMA WHO?

*Hi-Five to CampServ for delivering water bottles to all the living units. Great start to what we know will be a pretty poor performance from you this year.*

### INFLUENCER-101

*Hi-Five to that one freshman "working for the starter spot." Don't you know the Wabash Snapchat story is just for videos of squirrels?*

### DIAMONDS ARE MADE UNDER PRESSURE

*Hi-Five to JC for coming in clutch with the Midweek Motivation at 10:53 P.M. Much like all of our papers, we like to be motivated at the very last minute.*

Check out the  
*The Bachelor* Online!



@wabashcollegebachelor

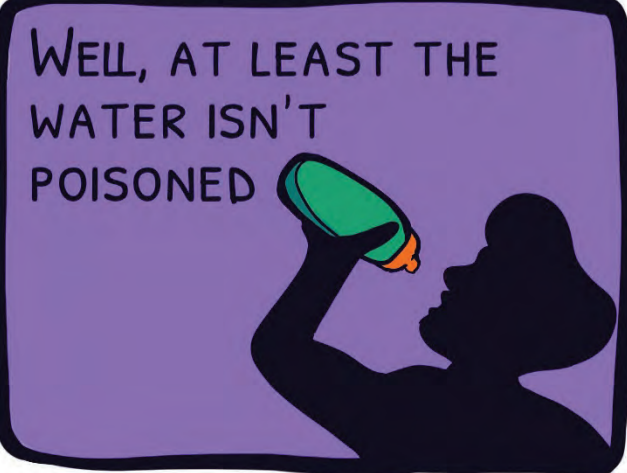
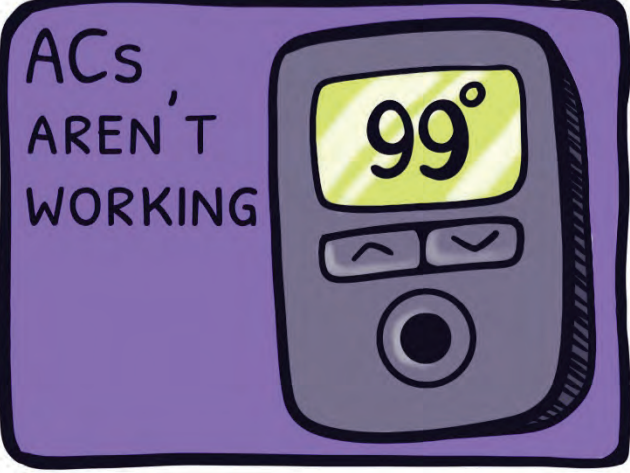
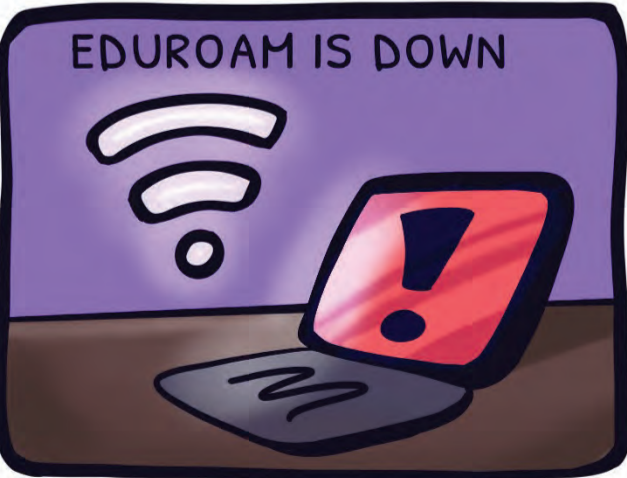
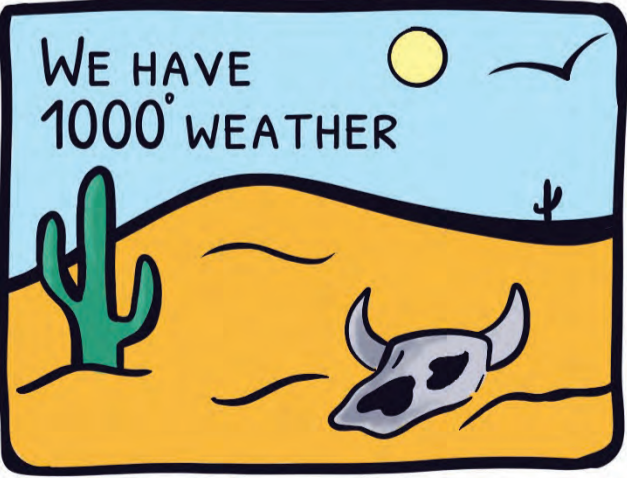


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## 'There's no place like home' Cartoon by Arman Luthra '26



# Advice to the Freshmen from the Faculty

## Starting strong



**Prof. Scott Himsel '85**  
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himsels@wabash.edu

There is no one right way to do Wabash. Over time, you'll figure out what works for you. In the meantime, here are a few ideas to consider.

First, start early. We all put things off until later. We know it's not good to procrastinate. But procrastination is particularly bad when you start college. High school often divides up our work for us: for example, one test per chapter per week. College is different. You'll have fewer assignments to turn in for a grade, each assignment will cover more material, and assignments will be spread over a longer period of time. So if you procrastinate, you could end up with a train wreck. And it can happen before you know it. Avoid this problem by starting early.

Second, scaffold. What should you do with the extra time you'll have if you start early? Scaffold. That is, break larger tasks down into smaller, more manageable pieces.

Imagine you have a research paper due. Put that due date (and all of your other due dates) on a calendar as soon as you get your syllabi. Then use your calendar. Use it to plan the smaller, more manageable tasks that lead up to the assignment you turn in for a grade.

What should you put on your calendar for the day before the paper is due? The answer is not writing the paper! Instead, you should be proofreading a paper you have already written to catch and correct your mistakes. What should you

put on your calendar as the step before proofreading? Prepare an earlier draft or two of the paper. Don't think of writing as a single event. Think of it as a process where you improve with each draft. What should you put on your calendar as the step before drafting? Research the topic and organize your thoughts into an outline. Finally, what should we put on your calendar as the step before research and outlining? Sometimes we have to select a topic. Bottom line, excellence in college requires more planning and more work than high school. But here's the big payoff: learning how to start early and to scaffold will help you succeed not only at Wabash but beyond.

Third, engage. Wabash's website says, "We Learn More. We Earn More. We Lead More. We Play More." How do we accomplish these things? We engage. For example, never read without marking the text or summarizing what you have read in your own words. Ask yourself, what is the author trying to prove (we call this her thesis)? What is her evidence? Are there holes in her argument? And what do I believe—that is, what's my thesis? In this way, you make learning an active process. The same goes for campus activities and leadership. What skills do you want to continue to develop? What new things could you try? What would you like to change on campus? Our small size and lack of required structure gives you lots of room to engage and be creative. Finally, engaging becomes much easier if you regularly take off some time to play. Alumni are fiercely loyal to the College because in addition to learning a lot, we had a great time here.

New students always have questions. Please ask. Let our great faculty, staff, upperclassmen, alumni, and friends of the College know how we can help you. We are eager to do so, and we are so happy you are here.



**Prof. Michael Abbott '85**  
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Welcome Wabash class of 2027! When James Wallace asked me to write a piece offering advice to incoming freshmen, it gave me a chance to think about my freshman advisees over the years. What help or advice have they reported back to me – sometimes many years later – that made a difference for them? I'll offer three thoughts:

- 1. Stop worrying about value and quality.**  
"Is this book any good? Will this concert I'm required to see be boring? Is Professor X good/bad/easy/hard?" Try to turn off that voice in your head. Open your arms. Be humble and curious. You've entered a world of educators eager to share what we love with you. Let it happen. You will discover we're hungry to learn with you. Bring us what you love, and we will go there with you, ready to love it too.  
We rarely recognize in real time the events that impact us most. It's often in retrospect that we discover how a single interaction with a teacher or an assignment that we resisted impacted our lives. Show up, do the work, and let the meaning and value of it all emerge on their own.
- 2. Interrogate tradition.**  
Wabash's mission statement says we educate students "in the traditional curriculum of the liberal arts." But as we know, tradition extends beyond

the Wabash classroom. In many ways, tradition defines us as a community. One of the first things new faculty notice about Wabash students is their exceptional regard for tradition. It bonds us.

But I must tell you, tradition makes me nervous – or I should say unexamined tradition – and I encourage you to scrutinize the practices presented to you as Wabash tradition and decide for yourself what they mean and what they sustain. From my student days here, I have seen Wabash periodically struggle to distinguish tradition from orthodoxy. I encourage you to study Wabash's traditions and embrace the ones that align with your values. Before you make up your mind, talk with a student who disagrees with you. You may not share his perspective, but try your best to understand it. Then follow your own path. Every tradition has a beginning. Maybe you should start a new one. Challenge us.

- 3. Don't be afraid of mistakes.**  
The older I get the less I see my students in high-stakes situations. Of course, when you're 19 trying to choose a major, it can certainly feel like a life pivot point. But trust me, it really isn't. You can make a bad decision with the best intentions; you can make the right decision for the wrong reasons. And you know what? 99% of the time, it all works out fine. Think hard, make your choice, fully commit, and move forward. That's all you can do. When you discover you got it wrong, or you misjudged, or circumstances change (as they always do), you'll reassess, learn from it, and make your next move. Mistakes happen because you're not in charge of the universe, and you never will be. Do your best, enjoy the ride, and be kind to yourself along the way.

## Dueling Opinions

or



## The time to rush is now



**Brett Driscoll '24**  
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As the Interfraternity Council President at Wabash College, I am not only a strong advocate for Greek life but also a living testament to the opportunities and experiences it brings to our campus life. I respect the independence and individualistic approach fostered by the Independent Men's Association, however I more strongly believe in the unique advantages offered by fraternity life. These benefits span the spectrum from academic support and athletic camaraderie to personal development, and even career advancement.

To begin, I'd like to debunk the unfortunate stereotype often associated with fraternities—that of a culture dominated by parties and revelry. In the backdrop of Wabash College, the reality is quite different. Our fraternities not only contribute significantly to academic pursuits but also consistently outperform their independent peers. Fraternity members here boast higher average GPAs nearly every semester. This academic achievement stems from a mentoring system where older students guide the newer ones, building an environment conducive to academic success.

Beyond the academic front, our fraternities nurture athletic talent and camaraderie. Around 55% of our student-athletes are part of fraternities. This relationship is hardly accidental. The fraternity experience mirrors the dynamics of a sports team, with unity, support, and shared goals at its core. In this setting, fraternity members develop qualities such as resilience, commitment, and leadership, which are invaluable both on and off the field.

However, the impact of Greek life isn't merely limited to academics and sports. Perhaps its most significant contribution is the profound sense of belonging it instills.

College life, while exciting, can also be a challenging journey with new experiences, expectations, and occasional loneliness. Fraternities provide a robust support system during this time—a 'home away from home.' Here, young men find acceptance, camaraderie, and build connections that often turn into lifelong friendships. This deep sense of community contributes to a more positive and memorable undergraduate experience.

Adding another dimension to fraternity life is the unparalleled opportunity for personal growth and development. Being part of a fraternity is more than membership; it's a platform to take on leadership roles and responsibilities that nurture both personal and professional skills. These experiences shape fraternity members into responsible, confident and community-conscious individuals, making them better equipped to face life after college.

Moreover, fraternity life opens the doors to an extensive network of alumni and professionals across various fields. These connections provide not only career guidance and mentorship but often lead to internships and job opportunities. The relationships cultivated in a fraternity extend far beyond our beautiful campus in Crawfordsville, Indiana, offering members a nationwide network to lean on throughout their careers.

Of course, the decision to go Greek or remain independent is intensely personal. Every student should have the freedom to choose the path that best aligns with their comfort, aspirations, and needs. Independent life offers its unique set of benefits and opportunities, and it's essential to acknowledge that fraternity life isn't a one-size-fits-all solution.

However, in my experience and observation, the fraternity structure at Wabash College provides a multi-faceted support system. From nurturing academic and athletic success, instilling a sense of belonging, fostering personal development, to facilitating professional networking, Greek life offers an environment conducive to holistic growth. It is a choice worth considering for any young man looking to make the most of his college years and prepare for life beyond Wabash.



**Matthew Lepper '25**  
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The time spent as a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed freshman at Wabash is exhilarating to say the least. Scrambling around campus, adjusting to the barrage of emails, and trying to find the right living unit for you are core Wabash experiences. Amongst the chaos of ringing in and orientation, the age-old question arises, should I rush a fraternity or be an independent?

It would be incredibly easy as the Independent Men's Association (IMA) president to not give Greek life the light of day and to only advocate for independent living. However, in true Wabash fashion, I've garnered a different outlook on the Greek or Independent debate as the semesters have passed.

My advice to my Wabash brothers early in their career? Put yourself out there and trust your gut. There is no way to find your home on campus without seeing what Wabash has to offer. Go to rush events, swing by an independent tailgate, and talk to your classmates that are in different houses. Throw yourself into the mix and catch a glimpse of what the different fraternity houses and independent living units have to offer. Wabash is a place where we can get out of our comfort zones and experience new settings. Not only will this help you get a feel of where on

campus feels the best to you, but you will meet some awesome people in the process.

On that front, it is crucial to remember that it is never too late to switch things up. I know plenty of Wabash men that have spent a year or two as an independent and then rushed a fraternity and vice versa. No matter where you end up, Wabash will still be Wabash. Getting to know a different working part within our campus is nothing to shy away from.

Perhaps the most important factor in deciding whether to go independent or Greek comes after your decision has already been made. Whether you live in Morris or Beta, make sure that you contribute to wherever you live. Apply for a position in your house, run for an IMA cabinet seat, play on an IM team. Bottom line, wherever you end up, get involved. There are beds in rooms all over campus but look past a place to sleep at night.

Take pride in your living unit and wear them on your sleeve. Wabash functions at its best when we as a campus are involved and bought into the culture.

With rush events in full swing, I encourage the independents who are so-so on a fraternity to go to a house event, and those that were set on a fraternity to explore what independent life has to offer. You might be surprised with what's in store.

## Football is hell-bent on winning

Wabash Football is back in action, preparing for fall season



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

The Wabash football team huddles after defeating Ohio Wesleyan University on October 15, 2022, at Little Giant Stadium.

Ryan Papandria '25 | SPORTS WRITER •

Last Season: 7-3 (6-2 NCAC)

Key Additions: Jordan Cree '27 (DL), Cole Williams '27 (LB), Will Fremion '27 (WR), Carac Johnson '27 (LB)

Key Subtractions: Heisman Skeens '23 (WR), Jose Franco '23 (DB), Cade Lansdell '23 (DL), Brigham Anderson '23 (K)

The quest for a deep playoff run for the Little Giants football team kicks off September 2, in Hampden Sydney, Virginia.

The team is slated to travel six times this year, with one being to Indianapolis to face Butler University, and they also will host four games at Little Giant Stadium, including the 129th Monon Bell Classic.

Last year's squad battled through a highly demanding schedule for a solid 7-3 overall record and a 6-2 conference record. Unfortunately, however, some of the high points of the season were overshadowed by the 49-14 loss in Greencastle at the hands of DePauw University in the 128th Monon Bell Classic.

Regardless, Wabash still returns many key players to the 2023 unit. On the offensive side of the ball, all five starting offensive linemen return with another year of experience under their belts.

Starting QB and Manning Award Watch List member, Liam Thompson '24 returns for his senior year under center, alongside many dangerous weapons, including Wide Receiver Cooper Sullivan '24, Running Back Donovan Snyder '24, and 2nd Team All-American Tight End Penn Stoller '24. Head Football Coach Don Morel's offense was the top-scoring offense in the NCAC in 2022, with hopes to continue

their extraordinary success.

Although the offense has been excellent the past two years, a constant desire for refinement spreads throughout each player.

"One of the biggest things in Division III football is improvement in Spring Ball," said Thompson. "We are really trying to take everything day-by-day, building off what we did in Spring ball, and continuing that momentum."

Thompson, who has been recognized by dozens of media outlets for his exceptional quarterback play, is not worried about scoring statistics, but rather offensive efficiency and doing what it takes to win.

**"We want to do what we have to do to win. If we have to run the ball for 300 yards one week, we'll do it."**

- Liam Thompson '24

"We want to do what we have to do to win. If we have to run the ball for 300 yards one week, we'll do it," said Thompson. "We are really well rounded on offense and comfortable in figuring out what we are and are not good at."

Defensively, Coach Mike Ridings enters his second year as Defensive Coordinator for the Little Giants. Year one under his regime felt growing pains throughout the entire season, as a young group finished as the sixth-ranked defense in the conference.

Nevertheless, there is reason for hope. The front seven return key players in Sophomore and leading tackler Gavin Ruppert

'26 along with other experienced players such as Linebacker Joe Rios '24, Edge Rusher Owen Volk '25 and Defensive Lineman Steven Thomas '24. The secondary

two big plays and over 17 points allowed have cost us games. If we meet our goals each Saturday, we will not lose any games."

As previously mentioned, the



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash football huddles ahead of a game.

looks to make a major jump in production as well. Seniors Will Netting '24 and Ben Netting '24 will lead a young group of safeties and cornerbacks, including Sophomores Jake Pasch '26 and Sam Ringer '26.

Rios felt that this defense looks as sharp as ever during fall camp this year, with all units clicking and ready to head into game week.

"What's the most important part of a car?" is a question Rios and the rest of the defense are asked frequently by Coach Ridings. "There isn't a singular part of the car that makes the car run. It requires all the parts."

The defense has some overarching goals each week that correlate with a successful defense and winning football games. The three main indicators of success are allowing no more than 17 points, under 100 yards rushing allowed and 2 or fewer explosive plays.

"We want to stop the run and limit big plays," said Rios. "Over 100 yards rushing, more than

non-conference schedule is poised to be challenging once again. On the road at Hampden-Sydney will pose a difficult task as it did in 2022, where the Little Giants snuck away with a 52-48 win at home. Then, after a week two bye, Wabash travels to Indianapolis to face Division I opponent Butler University, a team that beat Depauw in 2021 49-24.

**"If we meet our goals each Saturday, we will not lose any games."**

- Joe Rios '24

A then battle-tested Wabash team enters conference play with Oberlin coming to town for Homecoming on September 23. Some notable conference games include an October 14 bout at Denison and an October 28 matchup at home versus Wittenberg. These games lead up to the 129th Monon Bell Classic on Veterans Day, November 11.

Papandria's Prediction: 8-2,

## McRoberts: NCAC Football Power Rankings

Noah McRoberts '23 | SPORTS WRITER •

1. DePauw University Tigers (2022, 9-2, 7-1 NCAC)

A year removed from placing the NCAC crown on their crooked heads, the School Down South again, much to my dismay, appears positioned for success. The Striped Cats managed to hold off opposing offenses to the tune of 15.6 points per game, while keeping defenses guessing by scoring on the ground and in the air, with 26 TDs each. A formidable, yet brutish, Danny squad seems poised for an impressive season.

2. Wabash College Little Giants (2022, 7-3, 6-2 NCAC)

The Little Giants have started off behind before only to overcome adversity in a blaze of glory. Led by Liam Thompson '24, Wabash is loaded with offensive firepower. Amounting an astounding 42.5 points per game on the back of an absurd 535.5 yards per game, the Wally's are a force to be reckoned with. The lone question mark remains on the defensive side of the ball, but with an extra year of experience behind them the defense is primed and ready to take the needed step forward.

3. Denison University Big Red (2022, 8-2, 6-2 NCAC)

Finishing conference runner up last season, the Big Red bring back their big bruising back Trey Fabrocin, who leveled opponents to the tune of 130 yards per contest, while amounting 20 TDs in 10 games. Though keeping the heart of their powerful offensive attack, their once stout defense lost All-Conference lineman Clay Denstorff in an impressive senior class. In light of these losses, the Denison D will likely take a step backwards, thus moving them backwards in the preseason rankings.

4. Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishops (2022, 6-4, 6-2 NCAC)

The Bishops from Delaware, Ohio finished 4th in the conference last year with solid, if not spectacular stats across the spectrum. Sporting the 2nd best defense in the conference besides the Dannies, they wouldn't run you out of the stadium, instead battling for a full 60 minutes in the trenches. However, they were somewhat inconsistent, giving up 40 points in their two worst losses. This could be accredited to their youth, as they graduated few key players on both sides of the ball. However, returning players may have the experience and pieces around them to be a major player in the conference.

5. Wittenberg University Tigers (2022, 5-5, 4-4 NCAC)

Don't let their mediocre record fool you, the Cats from Springfield were the only conference team capable of handing an L to the boys down south last year. With a stout front seven, Wittenberg held opposing teams to just over 100 yards a game. Combining that with a run heavy attack, the 5-time NCAA champions enjoy slugfest football. Though probably not crown bound this year, this Witt team could manifest more than a couple upsets.

6. The College of Wooster Fighting Scots (2022, 6-4, 4-4 NCAC)

I'm not sure how much fighting the Scots will do this season. Following a very rocky season where they lost a combined 35-170 against the top 4 teams in the conference, and now without their top receiver, quarterback, running back, and tackler, they might be in for an even poorer showing.

7. Kenyon College Owls (2022, 3-7, 2-6 NCAC)

Kenyon's 2022 season could be very nicely split between the two sides of the ball, as they sported the 2nd best passing attack in the conference, while maintaining the 2nd worst pass defense. So, Kenyon wasn't often completely blown out, but they didn't hang around against better teams. They will still be able to beat the puny likes of Hiram and Oberlin, but likely nothing more.

8. Hiram College Terriers (2022, 2-8, 1-7 NCAC)

Not much can be said about the Terriers other than that they are better than Oberlin. So, I won't say much about them.

9. Oberlin College Yeomen (2022, 0-10, 0-8 NCAC)

Oberlin might need to exchange their mascot for a different medieval class. Instead of the fairly well-off Yeomen, the serf is likely a better fit since all they do is provide everyone else with free wins.

## Season Preview: Cross Country

Wabash Cross Country set to begin Fall slate with Alumni Race



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash runners press ahead in 2022.

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR •

Key additions: Dylan Maeder '27, Angel Perez '27, Ty Murphy '27, Aidan Shaw '27

Key subtractions: Thomas Gaines '23, Nolan Hughes '23, Zane Stout '23

Cross Country kicks off Wabash's fall sports schedule with their Alumni Race on August 27.

The team closed their last season with a seventeenth-place

finish at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional, followed by placing seventh in the NCAC tournament. The team graduated three seniors: Thomas Gaines '23, Nolan Hughes '23, Zane Stout '23. Gaines finished the season with the second best time for the Little Giants at 25:41.5, which was good for a top 100 finish at the regional meet.

This season, the team has plans for big improvements. Head Cross Country Coach Tyler

McCreary told the team that he wants to see them finish as a top three team in the conference and build to a position where they can be one of the best teams in the region.

Brayden Curnutt '25 will return as the Little Giant with the best time, after recording a 25:20.4 at the regional meet, a time which garnered him a finish just within the top 50. Other returning leaders for the team are Joe Barnett '24, Justin San-

tiago '25 and Will Neubaur '25, who finished with the third, fourth and fifth best times for the team, respectively, at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional.

In addition to the strong returning members, the team managed to recruit a massive nine-man freshman class. Angel Perez '27 comes in with the best time on record, with Dylan Maeder '27 and Ty Murphy '27 close behind. The rest of the Little Giants' recruiting class will have ample time to showcase their skills and the roster is chock-full of talent.

With such a large group of new members, Coach McCreary plans to emphasize building tight team chemistry with the freshman class, maintaining the strong work culture that the team built in the last few seasons.

The Alumni match will give the younger group a chance to dive into collegiate cross country in a low-stakes environment that will allow them to connect with team veterans returning for the race. The Alumni match will take place on Saturday, August 27 and will be held in Crawfordsville.



Liam Thompson '24 carries the ball forward for the Little Giants.

PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '25

# Putting on the Scarlet and White

*A guide to Wabash sports, culture, and tradition*

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR** • The clock is winding down, as another year of Wabash sports is just around the corner. Everyone who knows anything about Wabash sports knows that they hold a special place in the hearts of Little Giants across the country and around the world. The task of exploring such a deep connection could be daunting. So, *The Bachelor* has put together a quick guide to Wabash sports history and culture.

## In the Beginning:

Since the very beginning sports have been an integral part of the Wabash experience. By the 1840's, intramural football became a favorite pastime on campus. Other intramural sports such as tennis and wrestling would quickly join the daily routine of the average Wabash student.

November 24, 1866, marked the beginning of a long tradition, when Wabash College won its first intercollegiate contest, defeating DePauw University, then named Asbury University, in a game of baseball.

The rest is history. Wabash officially adopted scarlet and white as the school's colors twenty years later in 1886, and proudly took on the name "Little Giants" in 1904. Since then some of the most notable moments in the College's storied history have taken place on fields, courts, tracks, mats and in pools across the country.

In 1884 Wabash's football program began intercollegiate competition and defeated Butler University in their first game. At the turn of the century, Wabash football was one of the most dominant teams in the nation, regularly going toe-to-toe with bigger schools like Purdue University, Indiana University and Notre Dame. Since then Wabash has become the fifth most-winningest football program in NCAA Division III.

Sports continued to grow on campus with the most popular intramural sports turning into some of the earliest intercollegiate teams in the state of Indiana. Wabash's golf team is even credited with playing in the first intercollegiate golf match in the state of Indiana during their 1921 contest against Purdue University.

Midway through the twentieth century, Wabash would settle into its role as a powerhouse amongst Division III schools, choosing not to permit athletic scholarships in order to protect the academic integrity of the college and its students.

Later in the twentieth century Wabash spent time in a few different DIII athletic conferences, before finally joining the North Coast Athletic Conference in 1998, where the school continues to compete today.

## The Monon Bell:

When it comes to Wabash sports, there is no escaping the Bell Game. For the uninitiated, the Monon Bell rivalry is the rivalry between Wabash and DePauw. The game takes place in November every season and is televised across the Midwest. While the two schools are competitive rivals in every sport, the annual football contest is the main expression of the rivalry.

The two teams met on the football field for the first time in 1890. Since then, the Little Giants and Tigers have faced each other 128 times over the years. The annual contest has resulted in some great moments for both teams, the greatest of which are remembered decades later.

In 1932 the Monon Bell was donated by the Monon Rail Company to serve as a trophy for the game. The

Giants.

Often the result of the Bell game is more important to how a team is remembered than any other achievement from the season. For a recent example, despite finishing first in the conference in 2021, DePauw football team will always be remembered as the team who blew a 21-0 lead. As the series stands, Wabash holds a respectable 63-56-7 lead.

## Wabash Always Fights:

The Wabash motto, "Wabash Always Fights", is the perfect summarization of the Wabash sports culture. The adage originated in 1919, and was coined by Ed Zeigner '10. It is the most popular chant for the Wabash faithful. The cry can be heard at any sporting event regardless of the score, and is most commonly heard when the team is trailing, often resulting in momentum shift for the Little Giants. The chant has been the catalyst to some of the most gripping comebacks in the College's history. The call to action reminds everyone that it is never too late to take a stand.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Wabash fans hoist the Monon Bell, after football wins the 127th Monon Bell Classic.**

trophy was chosen because the Monon Rail was the railroad connection between Crawfordsville and Greencastle, where DePauw is located. It would go on to become the namesake of the rivalry.

The 127th Monon Classic saw what may have been the most dramatic comeback in the history of the matchup, when after trailing by 21 points at the end of the first quarter, the Little Giants mounted a legendary comeback and won the game 42-35.

The most recent 128th Monon Classic saw the two teams enter with both the Bell and the top spot in the conference on the line. The game took place in snowy conditions and ended with a 49-14 loss for the Little

tin Kopp '21, who played both soccer and golf while he was a student at Wabash. "And it's the same with golf. Coach Petty would tell us to remember that when you want to get down on yourself, and we're fighting for others on the team, as well as yourself and your school."

## Continuing the Tradition:

**"It really doesn't leave a lot of room for interpretation. The players know the standard and they try to live up to it as best they can."**

- Coach Bickett

More than 150 years from the beginning of Wabash sports, the legacy continues with this newest generation of Wabash men, with recent examples such as track and field's decade long chokehold on the NCAC, football's spectacular twenty-one point comeback in the 2021 Monon Bell Classic, wrestling's second-place finish in the DIII national championships in 2022, and Jack Heldt '23 winning the 2023 DIII heavyweight national title.

Plenty of other examples of Little Giants packing the trophy cases continues to be forged every season with no signs of stopping soon. The spirit of competing is still deeply ingrained in the Wabash experience, and it drives the success that the athletics programs continue to see every year.

"Every time we go out to the course," said Kopp. "Whether it's in bad conditions, or whether we haven't had our best performance where we want to be the grittest team out there, the strongest team and we don't want to be scared of the other teams. We want to go out there and know that we're gonna fight."

"Wabash attracts a certain kind of individual, as you know, a little bit more mature eighteen year old comes to Wabash over other colleges," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "I think that's what makes those guys special, and more dedicated to academics, and more dedicated to their athletics. You're getting a more competitive kid, and I think that that really helps them transition into college athletics. And it's why we do well here at Wabash in general."



## Volleyball Hires New Head Coach

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR** • The Wabash Athletics Department announced on Monday, July 24 the hiring of Ashuan Baker to fill the position of Head Volleyball Coach. Baker will replace former Head Coach Ryan Bowerman '11. Bowerman served as head coach for the program's first three seasons.

"Choosing Wabash was an easy decision, as the values we share align significantly," said Baker. "What I love most about Wabash is that it offers a unique experience that more young men deserve, as the rich culture of the campus community and support from staff has allowed for a smooth transition."

Baker comes from his position at McCutcheon High School where he served as the head volleyball coach during their 2021 season. He graduated from Ball State University with a master's degree in sport administration, and also serves as a board member of the Indiana Boys Volleyball Association. While at Wabash, Baker will continue to assist with the 17U Indiana Boys' Academy Volleyball Club.

Baker's experience with new programs could prove to be the most valuable addition to the team this season. Last season he coached a high school team in its first season to a top-20 spot in the state of Indiana. This experience may be exactly what the Wabash team needs, as the program—entering its fourth season—continues their efforts to establish themselves in the collegiate volleyball landscape.

"As the Head Volleyball Coach, I am most excited to work hard for our student-athletes to help them get one percent better each day and find a way to make a name for Wabash College volleyball alongside other respectable programs in Indiana," said Baker.

On top of his vast experience coaching, Baker brings with him a deep passion for the sport and a will to motivate players to be the best versions of themselves on and off the court. His devotion seems to be the perfect match for the Wabash sports culture.