

# Accreditation hiccup sparks debate



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Students study in the Rogge Lounge as they prepare for the annual Moot Court competition.

**SAM BENEDICT '25** | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Accreditation has never been a question for Wabash College. Recently, it's become the main point of conversation. Accreditation is a process that reviews higher learning institutions to ensure quality and compliance with both state and federal policies. Colleges

and universities that receive approval are eligible for hundreds of millions of dollars in financial aid, and furthermore, speaks to the legitimacy of the education each student receives. During The Higher Learning Commission's review, one of the criteria that institutions are judged on is how many credit

hours each student takes at a minimum. At Wabash, courses are counted as four-hour credit courses, even though most only meet for the equivalency of a three-hour credit course. "A lot of liberal arts schools do that, including about half of the schools in our academic group, the Great Lakes College Association," said Todd McDorman, Dean of the College. "They award credits like we do and so do schools like Oberlin and Kenyon. The accreditors looked at our system and said, 'well, most of your classes only meet for the amount of time that we commonly associate with a three-credit hour class, even though you say your class is worth four credit hours.' So, they've asked us to demonstrate why and how our courses are the equivalent of a four-credit hour class, even though about two-thirds of them meet for the amount of time that is associated with a three-credit hour class." The accreditation team that visited and reviewed Wabash was pleased with all other aspects of the College. However, the credit system still became a point of contention. "When they talked to faculty

during their visit, they were largely persuaded that the courses are worth four credit hours," said McDorman. "But when they look at the syllabus, they don't see the explanation. They need us to include our credit policy and an explanation for the course of where that additional instructional time comes from. Basically, one additional instructional hour per week is what they're looking for us to explain to them." When the initial decision came back, administrators tried to appeal, claiming that Wabash classes are more difficult than other institutions and that they require significant time outside of the classroom, justifying the four-credit hour label. The appeal was denied. Now faculty and administrators need to find a solution. Currently, there are two main options that have been discussed in faculty and Academic Policy Committee (APC) meetings. The first option being discussed is a change in the way that syllabi are written. Statements would be included that discuss what the expectations outside of the class are, therefore justifying the fourth

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# Student Senate budget leads to uncertainty



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Members of the Student Senate executive cabinet listen to discussion surrounding budget allocations.

**DEREK MCDONALD '27** | STAFF WRITER • If you are an active member in any club on campus, then you have probably heard the controversy around the allocation of the Student Senate budget. The budget's allocation of \$300,000 is determined by the Student Senate. Around \$100,000 are allocated to clubs per semester on top of the \$65,000 towards National Act. Currently, the Budget only has \$8000 left to allocate for the rest of the semester.

"While this can be considered a negative thing, it is a positive thing because it does mean we're spending that money on clubs," said Gavin Hill '24, Student Senate 2024 representative.

and with inflation constantly increasing, the value of the student budget has naturally gone down. "A big goal of mine is to be able to advocate for a larger budget to reflect inflation," said William Grennon '24, Student Senate Treasurer. National act puts a strain on the budget, costing around \$65,000. While National Act is the pinnacle for events on campus, being a requirement in Wabash's Constitution, it puts a strain on the budget and can be responsible for some of the cutback in spending. "National Act is the largest amount of money allocated for the entire budget and we should look into minimizing that budget," said Hill. Some potential solutions

# Preparing for cybersecurity threats



COURTESY OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Cyber security has become a prominent focus for institutions across the globe.

**ELIJAH WETZEL '27** | STAFF WRITER • Most students remember the ransomware attack last semester that dramatically changed finals week for students, faculty and staff. Nearly six months removed from the cyber attack, The Bachelor met with members of the Wabash community to evaluate the aftermath of the incident, and address steps Wabash took to beef up its ability to combat cybersecurity threats. Last spring's attack, in which hackers infiltrated some of Wabash's servers and attempted to extort a ransom from the College in exchange for access back to its data, threw everyone for a loop during one of the most critical points in the year. Dr. Colin McKinney, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Mathematics at Wabash, spoke about some of the challenges he and other faculty faced while important systems were offline, including

having to hold classes at the Crawfordsville Public Library. "I held one of my finals there [the library] instead of here on campus because it wasn't clear there was going to be reliable enough Internet access on campus," McKinney said. "It also made reporting grades very difficult; we had to basically do it all on spreadsheets and email because those were the only systems that were still up." Some systems like Canvas and Outlook stayed open because not all of the computer systems the College uses could be infiltrated since they are not systems managed by Wabash, and thus were not susceptible to a breach in Wabash's security. Others, comments McKinney, were not affected but shut down on purpose. "A lot of the systems that went down we chose to take down," McKinney said. "The concern was what systems have been compromised, and which ones aren't compromised, but

could be if we left them up." The nature of an attack like Wabash suffered last spring is that once a hacker has access to the passwords and data of an individual, it is a race against time to prevent the hacker from accessing information and data of other individuals who store their data in the same network or system. Isaac Grannis '26, a Computer Science and PPE double major, explained. "People are really scared of just clicking on a link for the most part nowadays, but that's not really how most phishing attacks happen," said Grannis. "The primary way that phishing attacks work is getting you to download a file and open up that file. The hacker might say, 'We want to finalize this business deal, this ad, or we're sending you some files to look over.' So it's all ultimately geared toward getting you to open that file."

"Our hope is to prepare everyone through the simulations before they get the real scam messages."

- Brad Weaver

A phishing email is what precipitated the attack during finals week, said Brad Weaver, Director of IT Services at Wabash, and why in the aftermath of the security breach the college began sending out fake phishing emails, enabling the IT department to gather data on how many people fall victim to a scam email, as well as to educate on how to best resist phishing emails. Weaver is confident this will prove beneficial to the Wabash community.

"It's probably too soon to draw a definitive answer, but generally the more exposure and awareness people have to phishing emails the greater their ability is to look at a message and think critically about if that's the real thing or not," Weaver said. "So our hope is to prepare everyone through the simulations before they get real scam messages." Weaver believes that Wabash improved its cybersecurity since last year's attack, with more robust security including a private firm that guards the Wabash network 24/7, upgraded antivirus tools, and more two-factor identification processes. However, Weaver acknowledges that the odds are stacked against cybersecurity personnel seeking to keep up with the ever-changing threats created by hackers. "It's important to understand the way in which the game is stacked against Wabash or any other company with information," Weaver said. "The goal is to reduce success, and then failing that, because we know there will be some inevitable failures on that front, taking additional steps to prevent the kind of escalation that we saw in May where a single phishing account doesn't lead to wide scale disruption." Grannis concurred, noting the back and forth nature of the battle between cybersecurity and cyber attacks. Even so, he expressed confidence in Wabash's ability to respond to potential attacks moving forward. "I am confident in our ability to deal with future issues; again, there will always be the human element. We can't stop that, but I think we are much better prepared."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

The entire Student Senate deliberates to discuss financial matters, campus concerns, and areas for growth at Wabash.

Upon approval, clubs and other groups hosting events receive funds from this pool of money. This year many club leaders did not receive the funding they requested, but were promised a smaller portion would be allocated to them for their various activities. The cutback in spending is due to many reasons, including inflation, the price of National Act and other predetermined allocated funds, like paying for Engage and Monon Bell shirts. The budget has been the same for several years,

offered by Hill were supporting local artists across a weekend or bringing in a comedian instead of a musician. "I think there is merit in racking up the budget for National Act, but I also think that we need to be very careful and very specific in where that money is going," said Hill.

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# News around the world

All the news you need to know... simplified

**ELIJAH WETZEL '27** | STAFF WRITER • **United States:** The House of Representatives selected a speaker after three weeks of back-and-forth negotiations, failed votes and closed-door disputes among Republicans. Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana was unanimously elected by House Republicans with 220 votes, while the Democrats chose to symbolically throw their backing to Rep. Hakeem Jeffries. President Biden congratulated Johnson over phone and expressed that acting with prudence was now the House's primary concern. Johnson's election opens up the option of sending aid to Israel to aid in their war against Hamas and allow Congress to avoid a possible government shutdown. Republicans are relieved that the debacle is behind them and that their fourth nominee has presumably unified all sides of the party.

**Japan:** Japan's highest court struck down a 2003 law on Wednesday that required transgender individuals to have sex organs removed if they wanted to legally change their gender. The law, which had drawn criticism from human and medical rights groups, also required that transgender individuals receive a diagnosis of gender dysmorphia and not be married or have children. The court's decision is a crucial one for the country's LGBTQ+ community; Japan does not have significant discrimination prevention laws on its books, and gay marriage is not a legally protected right either. The decision by the high court, however, will not be implemented for some time as the case was sent back down to a lower court for further review, delaying the date the ruling can be applied.

**South Africa:** More than 500 miners in South Africa were caught in the middle of a union dispute earlier this week and were held hostage underground by their coworkers before managing to escape Wednesday. Officials of the gold mine where the incident occurred reported that members of a union not recognized by the mine held their colleagues against their will in a bid to gain acknowledgement from the mine. An estimated 100 miners took part in the forced protest, managing to blockade and defend exits from workers trying to break free for three days until they finally relented. Police reported no fatalities, however around 15 individuals did suffer minor injuries from scuffles which occurred during the standoff.

**Gaza:** Critical aid from the United Nations into the Gaza Strip could be halted as the UN announced early Wednesday that their fuel supply was dwindling. This would prevent much needed food, medical supplies and other forms of relief from reaching Palestinians in need. So far almost 25,000 Palestinians have been injured or killed by Israeli airstrikes in response to Hamas' October 7th that killed over a thousand Israelis, and over 1 million Palestinians have been displaced from their homes. The conflict continues to rage on along with speculation over a possible Israel ground offensive.

**Mexico:** Hurricane Otis, a category 5 storm, made landfall near the popular resort town of Acapulco just 24 hours after being categorized as a tropical storm. While no deaths or missing persons have been reported so far, Otis triggered power outages, flooding, and landslides that severely damaged large portions of Acapulco. Hurricane researchers were shocked by how quickly the intensity of the storm increased and that the predictive models used to judge a storm's potential to become more powerful failed to forecast Otis' possible impact. Ocean temperatures have been at all-time highs throughout 2023, and Otis' rapid materialization is the just the latest example of the effects these rising temperatures will have on weather.



# Accreditation cont'd



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Students and faculty listen intently to a student presentation during the 2023 Student Day of Research.**

credit hour associated with the course.

The second option is a change in the way that Wabash schedules classes. Each Monday, Wednesday, Friday course would be 60 minutes instead of 50 minutes and count for 3.6 credit hours instead of 3. Tuesday and Thursday classes would experience similar changes. However, this option poses problems to overall scheduling that would need to be further explored. “Both options bring some further decision making, but the further decision making brought by the second option is more significant,” said Dr. Shamira Gelbman, Political Science Professor.

“Those decisions are bigger and consequential to the daily life of the College, whereas the decisions for the first option are a little more straightforward and won’t have big waves of effects.”

The recent discussions surrounding the solution to this problem have been spirited among faculty members because there isn’t an obvious solution. “I think we’re in a necessary sort of messy exploration of what our options are,” said Dr. Preston Bost, Psychology Professor. “I think it’s important first to emphasize that the visit team didn’t question whether Wabash was providing the education that it promises to its students. What they communicated to us was that we’re delivering what we say we’re delivering to our students but took issue with one specific aspect of the accounting.”

“I think people are thinking carefully about what the implications are here,” said McDorman. “They’re thinking carefully about the work that’s imposed on students. They’re thinking about the work that they will experience as faculty members. They’re thinking about questions of retention if we make certain changes. They’re thinking about the impact it could have on our culture. Those are big questions. I think what we’re hearing is our faculty thoughtfully and candidly exchanging ideas on how to approach the issue. Faculty are testing out these options and in that is a messy, engaged process. It’s a little bit Socratic. People

are really going back and forth in the way they ask the questions. You can hear in the conversation as people will individually move toward one direction or another across the conversation as they are listened to carefully, and as they listen carefully.

Throughout these conversations, student voices have been involved through the Student Senate APC representatives.

“The Student Senate Academic Policy Committee (SSAPC) is a committee of the Student Senate, which is responsible for communicating the needs and wants of the student body at faculty meetings,” said Benjamin Sampsell ’24, SSAPC Chairman. “The SSAPC Chairman serves as an ambassador at APC meetings with faculty, which are meetings where professors who are part of the committee meet and talk about credit requirements, changes to the curriculum and changes to our academic policy as a school. Wanting to have a student voice, they invite the academic policy committee chairman, and sometimes guests, to come in.”

Recent faculty discussions have come across as unproductive and worrisome to some student representatives.

“It feels like the way the conversations are going are not super fruitful for finding more advantageous solutions, but I also don’t think that there is an advantageous solution,” said William Grennon ’24, Student Senate Treasurer and SSAPC Representative. “I think they’re being exhaustive in examining the outcomes, but it seems that there’s not as much urgency as I think that there should be.”

It is apparent that there could potentially be significant student life changes, but the magnitude of those changes is unknown.

“The consequences are for the College because the schedule changes would probably mean doing away with a common lunch hour,” said Gelbman. “That has very big consequences for when we have events and who can go to them. How we do our hiring of new faculty will be affected. Killing that

common lunch hour is more consequential than anything it would do to my personal classes. The other option (syllabi changes), for most classes, would not lead to very big changes. It might lead to just changing the way certain parts of the course are explained in the syllabus. There are one or two courses I teach where it might lead to some rethinking of, ‘Am I really meeting our requirement here? If not, do I need to add something to this course?’”

“I think in some classes, there would be no observable change,” said McDorman. “But I’m not going to be as cavalier or bold to say that it would be that way in all the classes because faculty know what their classes are like, and they’ll have to discern the extent to which they feel like they will need to make tangible adjustments in order to demonstrate the four-credit hour value if that is the direction we ultimately go.”

“One of the larger concerns that we all have is that we not burden our students excessively with whatever the solution is,” said Bost. “We do believe, as our students do, that they’re working very hard right now. And that we don’t want to add to that burden.”

Moving forward, steps will need to be taken to ensure that Wabash continues to be an accredited institution. It’s obvious that not receiving accreditation isn’t a viable option. Faculty and staff will continue to candidly discuss the options at hand and find a solution that is the best for Wabash students and faculty. A path forward is expected to be decided on come February.

“The message that I have been relaying, as someone who’s been involved in virtually every layer of this conversation, is that it’s going to be okay,” said Bost. “We are not on the cusp of degradation. If you read the Higher Learning Commission’s report, you will see that the Higher Learning Commission has great regard for Wabash, including its faculty, staff, administration and students. Of the 69 criteria for accreditation, there were 68 that they had no issue with. It’s a strongly positive report. I don’t think our students have to worry about the value of a Wabash degree or the respect that it carries in higher education.”

Going forward, this will continue to be a topic to follow. Current Wabash students, especially upperclassmen, may not see the effects of these changes. However, undergraduates and future students will likely undergo a Wabash experience that’s different for those that came before them.

# Student Senate budget cont'd



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Senators Benjamin Sampsell '24 and Bennett Strain '26 listen intently to the discussion within Student Senate.**

While these ideas for potential spending cuts on National Act are not being enacted within the budget this year or the following, a potential solution could play out in the distant future to solve some issues in regard to club allocations.

Other predetermined funds that the student budget is expected to cover include the Residential Assistant budgets and the price of Engage.

“I think there are certain things that the college needs to start picking up the bill for so that we have that money to actually engage in student activities, because we’re paying for certain things right now that I don’t necessarily think we should,” said Hill.

“There’s lots of places where

**“There’s lots of places where institutional financial support I think is warranted and we don’t receive that support.”**

- William Grennon '24

institutional financial support I think is warranted and we don’t receive that support,” said Grennon

While controversial, these fixed expenses do put more of a strain on the \$300,000 budget, requiring around 20% of the overall budget, which contributes to the overall hesitation to give clubs more money. Grennon offered optimism as well.

“I have been working with Dean Redding about trying to maybe offload a couple of those costs moving forward and with considerations from the college to use Engage more campus wide,” said Grennon. “That cost may be picked up next year by the college. These expenses cut into the small portions of funds that are the Student Budget. With some cut-back, the Senate would be able to allocate those funds to more clubs and other student events.”

A potential solution to the limited budget would be the cutting of Brew credit. In years past since

2020, \$10 have been given to each student for 1832 Brew products during finals weeks.

“I recommended to the Senate that we reallocate those funds in order to further fund clubs,” said Grennon.

If this recommendation is adopted, this would save \$7,500 to be reallocated to other clubs.

A recurring trend from year to year is the ambition of clubs in requesting for funds.

“Clubs are very ambitious at the beginning of the year,” said Grennon. “They ask for a lot of money to host a lot of great events, but they don’t always have those events.”

This historic trend of overallocation seems less prevalent this year, but it is likely that it will occur. While it is not the most ideal, it does mean that money will be put back into the budget for it to be allocated elsewhere.

“Having good relationships with clubs allows for potential reallocation of those unused funds,” said Hill.

The recycling of funds is encouraged so the student budget can be distributed to events that promote student life and not have the funds go unspent.

Increasing the budget to counter many of the issues previously mentioned is not looking possible for the 2024-2025 school year.

“The trustees, unfortunately, have already locked in the student activity fee for the next year with a \$75 increase in student life fees,” said Grennon.

While this will increase the budget, it will be minimized due to most of the additional fee going to health services and not the student budget.

The student budget has been a difficult process the Senate has wrestled with for the majority of this year. With negative events stacking together to increase the difficulty of hosting memorable community events, the health of Student life at Wabash coming into question. The men of Wabash have been and will continue to overcome the adversity that has come our way, and like any other problem eventually find an agreeable solution with collective community effort.

## This week at Wabash



### Saturday, Oct. 28

12 p.m. | Beta 175th Anniversary Celebration

1 p.m. | Wabash Family Day

### Monday, Oct. 30

12 p.m. | Gender Studies Conference

### Tuesday, Oct. 31

4 p.m. | ‘shOUT Halloween Party

### Wednesday, Nov. 1

8 p.m. | “Something Rotten!”

### Thursday, Nov. 2

11:15 a.m. | Chapel Talk

### Friday, Oct. 6

5 p.m. | Swimming and Diving @ UChicago

## Wabash Club of Indianapolis

### Break a Leg for the Bard



Proud to help promote *Something Rotten!*, the first musical in a decade by our top-ranked Theater department.

**Get Tickets at [wabash.edu/boxoffice](http://wabash.edu/boxoffice)**



## Scott Pazera: Making music more welcoming



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**JACOB SITZMAN '25 | STAFF WRITER**

• For Scott Pazera, music is an obsession. There is a strong emotional element of music that draws him in. To him, this emotional element makes music therapeutic.

"It's like medicine," said Pazera. "It's just there. It's ready for you to choose what you need to listen to today."

Pazera sees his introduction to music as similar to most people who start music when they are kids. In middle school, Pazera's friend needed a bass player, so for his 12th birthday he got a bass guitar and learned how to play. He then wanted to learn the guitar, so the same year he learned that. Soon though, music became more than just a hobby.

"I was one of those kids that was obsessed with it," said Pazera, "I played for about seven hours a day for four years."

Despite his dedication to the art, Pazera did not always intend to make it his career. He got a master's degree in public administration, wanting to make a career of catching serial killers, another interest he had at the time.

However, he found that the job was not at all what he wanted to do and interfered with his passion for music. Working a nine to five does not fit a musician's schedule. Pazera found himself having to stay up late, drive several hours back from a gig and then wake up early for a job he had no love for. Pazera quit his job, pursued music full time, eventually got a master's degree in music and has been teaching music ever since.

Pazera began teaching music when he was only sixteen and has since worked with many musicians, ranging from private lessons for all skill levels, to directing Purdue University's jazz ensembles and since 2012, teaching and directing at Wabash.

Pazera loves teaching because it allows him to share what he loves about music with others.

"What I'm always trying to do is get the person in front of me as excited about this stuff as I am," said Pazera. "At 51, I get as excited about hearing something new and figuring it out as I did when I was twelve."

His excitement strongly resonates with his students, who love Pazera's teaching style and energy.

"It's due to his energy and raw passion for jazz that I find myself so excited for Tuesday rehearsals every week," said Jazz Band and Chamber Orchestra member Dane Market '26. "His musical knowledge and confidence is very clear, and he always finds ways to involve himself and stay engaged in the band instead of simply just leading it."

The point for Pazera is not just to teach

those wanting to become professional musicians. In fact, most of his students today are just learning it as a hobby. Pazera believes a person does not have to have a desire to be a professional musician to make teaching them meaningful.

"Not everybody is taking gym class because they're going to become a PE teacher," said Pazera. "It's just part of making you a whole person. It's just as important for me to help somebody who needs a break from their job to be able to unwind and get the emotional attachment to the music that they like and make it on their instrument."

This is the environment that Pazera finds teaching at Wabash. Most of his students in the Jazz Band or Chamber Orchestra do not want to become professional musicians and none of them are there to become music majors or minors. Pazera finds this as a benefit in that everyone who is there is there because they want to be, not to fulfill a credit.

Wabash's small size is also a unique element that plays into this. Not having enough students to fill an entire band, Pazera turns to local community members to pick up instruments and join them.

"They're here because they want to participate and they want to be part of something," said Pazera.

There is also not a lot of time for practice at Wabash. The Jazz Band only meets once a week for two hours, yet they are able to pull it all together for their concerts.

"We still take it seriously," said Brewer. "We do our best to represent the art form."

Pazera and the jazz ensemble hope to

pull it off again for an upcoming concert on Thursday, November 16.

Even after all his years of experience, Pazera is still taking on new challenges. In one week, he will be conducting the orchestra for the musical "Something Rotten!" in Ball Theater next week. This is his first time directing a band for a musical and he says there is a very limited amount of practice for the orchestra before the show.

It is a tight turnaround, but those who work with him are confident in his ability. Professor of Theater Michael Abbott '85, the director of "Something Rotten!", knew he needed Pazera for this show.

"Scott is one of most respected bass and guitar players in the Midwest," said Abbott. "He has breathed vital life into our Jazz Band. The audience has grown too, because students know they will get a fun, lively concert from the Jazz Band. I heard them play last year and immediately knew I wanted Scott to lead the orchestra for "Something Rotten!". We're lucky to have Scott Pazera teaching and working with students here at Wabash."

"Something Rotten!" opens Wednesday, November 1, and runs through Saturday, November 4.

Pazera feels that music has something for everybody. For him, it is an obsession that he pursues every day of his life, but he recognizes that for others it may just be a way to unwind and relax from a stressful day. Either way, music is important, no matter how we enjoy it.

## Professor Szczeszak-Brewer talks Polish upbringing, healing power of literature

**CHRIS ZIMMERMAN '25 | STAFF WRITER**

• Part of the appeal of a Wabash education is the ability to work alongside students and faculty of incredibly diverse backgrounds. One of the best ways to foster a sense of inclusivity among increasingly diverse students and faculty populations is to learn about issues and experiences that deviate from your own.

A perfect opportunity to learn about a unique and diverse perspective occurred on Friday, October 20th at the Carnegie Museum in Crawfordsville, when a celebration was held for Professor of English Agata Szczeszak-Brewer, as her memoir titled, "The Hunger Book, A Memoir from Communist Poland" was released. After completing her Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina in 2006, Brewer had the idea to write this piece, and began the writing process around five years ago.

"I learned that I had to pace myself while writing about trauma, to give myself time to process some events, grieve and sometimes simply take longer breaks to replenish my energy," said Brewer.

Set against the backdrop of a totalitarian

government, the text highlights traumatic childhood experiences and emphasizes the importance of nurturing and resilience. Brewer noted the autobiographical nature of the text and drove home the message of promoting understanding as opposed to proving a point.

"It's okay if your prose meanders or splits, but what's important is trying to make sense of these fragments of our lives, and it's okay to take the readers on this sense-making journey with us," said Brewer.

Brewer also expressed gratitude for her grandparents and her books, or her "underground system of nurturing," which acted as an escape route for her to recover and move on from these traumatic events. In addition to these sources of comfort assisting her along her road to recovery, Dr. Brewer recognizes the importance of taking on a nurturing role as an educator.

"As a teacher and mentor, I realize that every student has a story, sometimes traumatic and difficult, and my job is to help them thrive despite that story," said Brewer.

In addition to her educational and research roles on campus, Brewer also volunteers in town to help immigrants and refugees, as well as children living in homes with addiction issues.

Aside from her work on this memoir, Brewer is also working to complete a book regarding gender and nationalism in transatlantic literature, after which she hopes to return to her work with personal essays and memoirs. While students are in the midst of the class registration period for the Spring 2024, Brewer will be teaching a course on memoir writing, which is intended to "help students explore both traumatic and seemingly mundane moments in their lives."

Through the hard work of Brewer in her academic and extracurricular pursuits, members of Wabash and the Crawfordsville community have a resource to cope with traumatic past experiences and develop into a better version of themselves.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Professor Agata Szczeszak-Brewer reads from her new work, "The Hunger Book", on Friday, October 20, at the Carnegie Museum in Crawfordsville.

## Behind the scenes: Wabash theater gears up for 'Something Rotten!' debut



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Scenic Charge Artist Benjamin High '24 paints the backdrops of 'Something Rotten!' The huge, but intricate, scenery faithfully depicts Elizabethan London.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Language intern Max Hsu and Luke Fincher '24 look over their lines during a brief moment of downtime. Hsu and Fincher portray Shylock and Nigel Bottom, respectively.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Director Michael Abbott '85 communicates his vision for staging while vocal instructor Colleen Pingel looks on intently.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Stage Manager Drew Johannes '23 demonstrates appropriate prop handling technique to Assistant Stage Manager Jacob Graden '25.







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## Blowing away the smokescreen shrouding Israel



Elijah Greene '25

Reply to this opinion at  
eagreene25@wabash.edu

For weeks, I didn't know how to say what I felt about the violence and lawlessness occurring in Israel and Palestine. As an Orthodox Christian halfway around the world, this issue affects my life more than I ever thought it would. Watching my fellow Orthodox Palestinian brothers and sisters in Christ weep for their loved ones, who are being displaced from their homes and killed without mercy, is an injustice that I cannot let pass by. So, I will attempt to spell out the issue at hand to educate people on the underlying truths and change the narrative surrounding the murk of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

War is never glorious. Death is never commendable. Terrorism is abhorrent. These are several universal truths that I sincerely believe. Please accept all of my arguments with these assumptions fixed clearly in your minds.

I knew I had to write this opinion after the St. Porphyrius Orthodox Church, located in the Gaza Strip, was bombed by the Israeli government on October 20, 2023, killing and trapping over 400 innocent Palestinians seeking shelter. At face value, I sincerely hope that you, readers, see the monumental problem with this action, which sets the stage for many of the atrocities occurring in Israel at this very moment. Churches have long been places of sanctuary for refugees in times of conflict. The powers-at-be taking it upon themselves to bomb such places should indicate the depravity of the current conflict.

Bleak events such as these bombings inundate social media feeds across the globe—often with a clear agenda. With everything that we have seen in the US from news outlets, social media, even in statements by government leaders and universities, the staunch pro-Israel stance is only too apparent. One could easily infer that the attack on Israel was unprovoked—the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas kick-started this conflict, didn't they?

No. They did not. This conflict stretches much further than these past three weeks. Since the United Nations recognized the new state of Israel in 1948, disputes over borders and human rights between Jewish Israelis and Palestinians have only escalated. And within three generations, we are witnessing another ethnic genocide—the total removal of Palestinians from Israel.

Since 1988, the number of Palestinians killed in conflicts with Israel total nearly 16,000 as of October 18 of this year, with more being tallied every day. Over that same time period, we have witnessed the deaths of just 3,200 Israelis, a staggering margin. Compounded with these death

tolls and ever-increasing restrictions on areas inhabited by Palestinians, the Israeli government has pushed Palestinians almost completely out of Jerusalem and condensed the vast majority of their population into a tiny sliver of land on the west coast of Israel—the Gaza Strip. On multiple occasions throughout history, the Israelis have forced mass exoduses of Palestinians out of Israel entirely. On the very first day of Israel being its own country, Jewish military coalitions forced Palestinian Arabs out of almost half of their agreed-upon landmass, starting a chain of increasingly-bloody nakba over the ensuing decades.

All of this oppression—including the recent building of border walls between Israel and Gaza, the military blockades by both land and sea, and now the large-scale invasion into Gaza—have been compounded for so long that the Palestinian political group Hamas felt the need to strike against the Israeli government at the start of October.

Let me be clear: Hamas is, at its core, a terrorist organization which has committed numerous war crimes in the past three weeks. I do not condone the choices of this jihad. But rather than describe the events or the ethics of this recent conflict, I want to explore the rationale behind this opening attack. In my opinion, this attack by Hamas is being treated by Western media as an isolated event, one with no possible motivation other than antisemitism.

I would encourage us as free-thinking members of society to look closely behind this media smokescreen. The truth of the matter is that the unalienable human rights of the people of Gaza have been irrevocably violated by the Israeli government. For their entire lives, these people have been oppressed, silenced and caged. Humans can only remain passive and nonviolent for so long when their very identity is under attack. So the Palestinian people feel that they have no option but to fight back against the regime that is threatening eradication.

As I have stated above, I do not condone terrorism. But, as a Christian and as an American who believes in the power and freedoms of thought and speech allotted by both the Church and the United States government, I understand why the people of Palestine felt the need to attack Israel once again. I hope you readers can also find this understanding in my words. Regardless of your stance on this issue and whether or not my opinion has swayed you, the humanity of the situation demands that we as outsiders observing this conflict from afar recognize the plight of the Palestinians and acknowledge that Israel's human rights violations against them are inhumane.

All of this clear-cut context begs two questions: why is this narrative so convoluted? And why do people feel so strongly that the Israelis are the victims in this situation? Since the new state of Israel has been established, the Palestinians have had their allotted landmass greatly reduced, been driven from their homes(many out of the country completely), had their rights stripped away

## HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### UNO REVERSE

*Lo-Five to Jonathan Major's girlfriend for getting arrested on assault charges this week after filing assault charges against him in March. They've clearly been watching Creed III too much.*

### NEXT CHANNEL

*Hi-Five to the Diamondbacks and Rangers for making it to this year's World Series. Lo-Five to the Diamondbacks and Rangers for having one of the most underwhelming matchups in the recent years*

### ROLLING OUT LOAN FORGIVENESS

*Lo-Five to Clarence Thomas for buying an RV with a \$267,000 loan from his friend that just happened to get "forgiven." Apparently loan forgiveness is only unconstitutional when it comes to poor college students.*

### WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS...

*Lo-Five to the composite thieves who chose the week leading up to Wabash Family Day to steal 13 composites from three different houses, breaking a display case in the process. Be prepared for the highest concentration of lemonade stands since second grade.*

### "IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY"

*Hi-Five to the French winemakers who recreated the Boston Tea Party with imported Spanish wine to protest unfair prices due to imports. It's just too bad that they chose to do it with wine...*

and are now confined to the Gaza Strip with no means of escape. Every part of this issue screams that what is happening in Israel is an ethnic cleansing.

I implore each and every one of you to think very carefully about your stance on this issue and whether or not you have been blinded by this media smokescreen. People have been fighting over this land for thousands of years. Why is an entire society being removed from it? And why does the US seem to be supporting this genocide?

Innocent people in Palestine and Israel are dying, for no reason. Israel is an apartheid state. This genocide must end. Now.

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Wally’s Wall: Holiday Season

The Question:

When does it finally become okay to start Christmas celebrations?

Andrew Dever ’25

After Thanksgiving, no exceptions. People who put up decorations beforehand are wrong.

Shane Zabinski ’27

I feel Christmas should start to be celebrated after Thanksgiving because then you don’t have any other holidays before Christmas. In my family, Thanksgiving weekend was the weekend where we put up all the Christmas decorations.

Jacob White ’25

The first day in which it is appropriate to celebrate Christmas is the day after Thanksgiving. Clearly, celebrating it anytime in October is depriving Halloween of its glory. Similarly, celebrating it anytime in November before the 4th Thursday would be to overlook the second-best holiday, Thanksgiving. Thus, the correct time to start the celebration of Christmas, the best holiday, ought to commence the day after Turkey Day.

Connor Craig ’25

December 1st precisely at 12:00am. Nothing earlier, nothing later. Christmas decorations in November is just cringe man!

Albert Bernhardt ’26

Man, just let people celebrate Christmas whenever they want, even in the middle of June or something. It may be a tad eccentric, but early Christmas celebrations don’t hurt anyone, so why should anyone else care? I believe that we have more pressing matters to discuss in the world right now rather than pondering when it’s ‘acceptable’ to begin celebrating the holiday season.

Brady Largent ’26

The holiday season is one of the most exciting times of the year. The sights, the songs, the smells—they all bring us that Christmas spirit. As someone who listens to Christmas music year-round, I firmly believe that anytime in the year is a great time to celebrate! We should not confine such joy to a timeframe! Just celebrate whenever you want to.

Hayden Kammer ’24

I personally begin celebrating Christmas the day after October. At midnight I change the music from “Monster Mash” to “All I Want For Christmas is You.” But my family also keeps our tree up till March.

Don’t overcapitalize on Marx



Ethan Wallace ’25

Reply to this opinion at ewallac25@wabash.edu

Dear Professors,

It is with great sadness that I pronounce Karl Marx to be not cool. Now before you start burning your copies of “Das Kapital” to regain your status as hip with the youth, I will remind you that fashion trends come and go and in a few decades Marx might earn the coveted status of “old-school.”

In all seriousness, this is not an argument that we need to stop teaching Marx or that it has no educational value. What I am arguing is that too many classes are spending entire weeks teaching Marx.

In my time as a student here at Wabash, I have been asked to read Marx more than twice as much as any other source. This is no doubt the result of many professors deciding to “do something different” and tackle Marx in their classes.

Or maybe, professors consider Marx to be such a fundamental and relevant source that his work cannot be skipped within their class. Either way, Marx gets taught a lot, and I find myself spending

an entire week once again studying a source that I am familiar with.

While there is always more to learn by re-reading any particular source, I am an advocate of the liberal arts education. And I think that studying a breadth of topics should apply across fields and within certain fields of study.

Personally, I would, rather than taking an entire week out of a sixteen-week semester to review a source for the fifth time, prefer to accept the fact that most students will already be familiar with Marx. Instead of devoting extra time to Marx, I believe it would be more efficient to allocate Marx to a review day, where the work can be distilled and then applied across the course without taking away time from studying other thinkers and writers with new perspectives to tackle.

Of course I hope that my quips haven’t offended anyone or made anyone believe that I don’t see the educational value in Marx. On the contrary, I think Marx is worth studying and that most people have done so already. I think that Marx has valuable frameworks for analyzing topics across several fields of study, but it is already so ingrained in our culture that it could be dealt with in a more time efficient manner.

So as you plan your next class this upcoming semester, ask yourself, “Does this course really need Marx in it in order to properly address the topic or can it be distilled into a framework to make time for new sources?”

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SOCCKER

WABASH: 0  
KENYON: 2

SOCCKER

WABASH: 0  
WITTENBERG: 2

Swim exercises early DIII dominance

Strong finishes and a new assistant coach puts swim in a strong position to win

NICK WANGLER ’27 | STAFF WRITER• The season is fully underway after the Wabash swimming and diving team competed in their two opening meets. Heading into this new season, the swimmers are looking to improve their personal times and compete for a top spot in the NCAC.

On Saturday, October 21, the team competed in the Dan Ross Indiana Intercollegiate Meet at Purdue University, where they placed fifth out of 10 teams and first amongst DIII teams. Ethan Johns ’25 outswam all other DIII opponents in the 200-yard freestyle. Quinn Sweeney ’27, continuing an excellent start to his freshman season, outperformed the DIII field in both the 100 individual medley and the 500 freestyle. This was a trend matched by many members of the swim team, who didn’t win their races but did finish ahead of all other Division III athletes.

Two Wabash relays beat out small school opponents. Nickolas Plumb ’27, Eddie DeMata ’26, Connor Craig ’25 and Gavin Pizarek ’27 finished 11th in the 200-medley relay. Johns, Sweeney, John Allen ’26 and Daniel Streeter ’27 posted a DIII best time of 1:28.65 in the 200 freestyle relay to close out the dominant performance in West Lafayette. With their early success, the team has high aspirations for this season as the potential is there, but it must be used.

“We want to be one of the top three teams at the NCAC Conference Championship meet in February,” said Head Swim Coach Will Bernhardt.

To help push the team closer to achieving their goals, the coaching staff will look a little different this year. Assistant Swim Coach Kieth Gill was hired a few months before the season in August of 2023.

The team is excited to see how Coach Gill can contribute to the



Assistant Swim Coach Kieth Gill gives instruction at the Indiana DIII Meet on October 14, 2023, at Wabash College in the Class of 1950 Natatorium .

team’s success. He has already made an impact on the team with his innovative coaching style. The swimmers feel that by listening and learning from him, they can make a serious run at the conference meet.

“We want to be one of the top three teams at the NCAC Conference Championship meet in February.”

- Coach Bernhardt

“He can give you very technical, detailed input, which is extremely hard to find in most coaches,” said Ethan Comeyne ’25.

Transitioning into a new team can often cause problems for a new coach. This has not been the case for Coach Gill, as his mov-

ing in process has gone smoothly thus far.

“I was especially intrigued by the reputation that Wabash has as a welcoming community to its faculty, staff, students and alumni that I had heard about through acquaintances prior to being hired,” said Gill.

The coaching staff is focused on helping the swimmers maximize their potential as the season progresses. The team is competing with only one senior and a handful of juniors, so they will be relying on the guidance from their coaches. The squad seems amped up and ready to get better.

“There is passion in these guys’ hearts and our spirit has been unparalleled,” said Gill. “I think we’re going to have a pretty fun year as a team and I’m excited to be a part of it as it unfolds, and these guys achieve what they set out to.”

The swimmers are beginning to adjust to the new face on the coaching staff. With almost the

entire season ahead of them, the team has plenty of time to prove they are a top team in the North Coast Athletic Conference this year and for years to come. By pushing themselves to become better swimmers and putting in the required work, the team can make that jump into the conference title conversation.

“There is passion in these guys’ hearts and our spirit has been unparalleled.”

- Coach Gill

The Little Giant swimmers have their next meet on Friday, October 27. The head-to-head meet against Rose-Hulman will be held at Wabash in the Class of 1950 Natatorium. Following that the team will travel to Hillsdale, Michigan to compete against Albion College.

Thompson ’24 named finalist for NFF Campbell Trophy

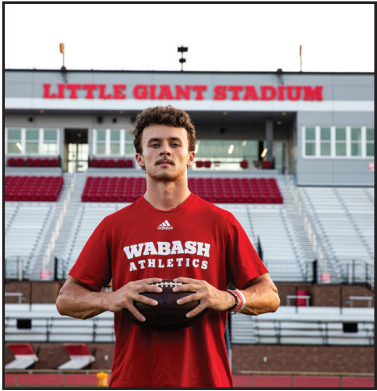


PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE ’25  
Liam Thompson ’24 at Little Giant Stadium.

ETHAN WALLACE ’25 | SPORTS EDITOR• On top of his historic on-field performance, quarterback Liam Thompson ’24 is an accomplished academic. For his dedication on and off the field, Thompson has been selected as one of 16 finalists for the 2023 William V. Campbell Trophy by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. As a finalist’ Thompson has differentiated himself from athletes in Division I, Division II, Division III and NAIA, 201 of which were semifinalists.

Almost halfway through his senior year at Wabash, Thompson is a rhetoric major, double-minoring in film and digital media and Spanish. He boasts a 3.87 cumulative GPA. He is a member of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies.

On the field Thompson has established himself as one of the most talented athletes in Division III football. From the pocket, he has earned a spot as the second all-time leader in career passing yards both at Wabash and in the North Coast Athletic Conference.

On December 5 the Campbell Trophy winner will be announced at the ARIA Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.



# Rugby squad prepares for the Monon Keg Game



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

*The Little Giants celebrate their win in the snowy Monon Keg Game against DePauw University on March 25, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.*

**TREY SCHEUB '26** | STAFF WRITER • After the loss to Taylor's A team, Wabash rugby's B team won the game over the Taylor A team. Assistant Coach Tanner Quackenbush '26, and players Hunter Otto '25 and Silas Mills '27 noticed important takeaways and areas of improvement to gear up for the notorious upcoming Keg Game versus DePauw.

Coach Quackenbush and Mills honed in on their lack of communication and conditioning during the Taylor game, which inevitably led to their defeat in the first game. The lack of conditioning led the team to attempt unnecessary plays and drawing more penalties.

"For the first half, we were ok," said Quackenbush. "There was a switch after halftime where our guys were just a little more winded than theirs. Because of that, we made stupid plays, got penalties, and they took advantage of it by being more conditioned."

"You have such a small field and such a small amount of guys that everyone needs to really do their job," said Mills.

The lack of conditioning was

not the only thing the rugby team missed out on during the Taylor game. To compound the disadvantage of conditioning, Taylor capitalized on Wabash's inability to communicate and execute.

"Just overcomplicating things, instead of keeping it simple and playing hard," Quackenbush said, while stressing the importance of communication and sticking to fundamentals.

With these acknowledgments and takeaways from the Taylor game, Quackenbush is ready to prepare for the Keg Game. The team plans to spend most practices practicing fundamentals and conditioning.

"We are a young team, and we want to make sure that the basics are down and ready," said Quackenbush.

The B team saw major success over Taylor when sticking to the fundamentals. Silas and Quackenbush believe conditioning will be their key to success over Depauw.

"We definitely some more conditioning, and then along with that, conditioning first, then practicing while we are tired so that when we're in the game when we're

tired, we can still think clearly and straight and not get too confused and down in the chaos of it all," said Quackenbush.

"I'm staying in the gym, just trying to stay in shape," Silas said.

Quackenbush expects all the players to be active in conditioning, getting stronger, taking care of themselves and recovering.

With impending practices, having a set focused on the team's weaknesses. The team still remains unphased with their confidence in the Keg Game.

"If we don't blow them out, it will be a loss for us. We want to kill them," said Quackenbush.

While the team is confident in their success in the upcoming match versus Depauw, they do not plan to underestimate their opponent.

"We have to prepare for like its any other opponent though. Just envision success and it will come," said Mills.

The Keg Game will take place during Bell Week. The date has not yet been determined.

"We're focused up and ready to dominate this year's Keg Game," said Otto.

# In conversation with the rugby squad

**SAM BENEDICT '25** | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Without the usual school-sponsored recruitment system, Rugby finds many of its members through unique avenues. *The Bachelor* sat down with three key members of the Wabash College rugby team in anticipation of their upcoming tournament and defense of the Monon Keg.

**When did you start playing rugby?**

**Derek Miller '24:** "I started playing my junior year of high school by playing "fifteens" up in Fort Wayne. I was running track at the time and the rugby guys wanted me to come out, which is how everybody starts. And you know, I just got thrown into a game and I loved it. So that's why I carried on when I came to Wabash."

**Matthew Brooks '24:** I started playing in sixth grade, so this is my 11th year of playing rugby. I love the discipline. I love the attitude that comes towards the game. I was born in South Africa where rugby is a popular sport. But when I figured out that rugby was offered in my hometown (in the United States) through a club scenario, I jumped at it. And I've never looked back.

**Tanner Quackenbush '26:** I moved to Indianapolis and joined a new baseball team. Baseball was my sport growing up and I realized that I didn't love it anymore. The new team, new area and new environment didn't really fit me. I went around looking for different things and found this weird sport called rugby, gave it a shot and I haven't looked back since. I've been playing since fourth grade.

**After being here for four years now, Wabash rugby has changed significantly. What has it been like for you to be on the forefront of these advances?**

**Brooks:** When my freshman class came in, we still had quite a few star players. But it was that period coming out of COVID where we weren't really conditioning, we hadn't touched a rugby ball in about a year because of restric-

tions and social distancing had an impact on team chemistry. The one thing that transcended that was the passion for the sport. The alumni that have reached out to us and the faculty members that have played or knew someone that played showcase this level of passion, understanding and love for the game. That has been really, really cool. Right now, we're catching one of the strongest periods of growth this club has ever seen in its 30 years on campus.

**Because you're not a varsity sport, what does recruitment look like for your team?**

**Miller:** Our biggest thing is coming to club fairs and using social media or word of mouth. People love the game of rugby if they're shown it, but a lot of people don't really know what it is. So it's just getting them to come out and try it once. Friends bring out friends and it goes all the way down the line. Luckily, with this past season where we did very well at Nationals, we started off the year high. A lot of people knew who we were, especially incoming freshmen, which had them coming out on the very first day to our call out practice. I expect for years to come that we start getting more rugby guys who are former football players coming to practice immediately in the fall.

**Quackenbush:** A lot of former football players who like really hated the rigor and time constraints of football and couldn't stand it anymore decided to give rugby a try. Once Brooks gave me the call that I would have a leadership role, I started hitting up guys saying 'this will not be like football where you're under so much pressure, it's gonna be really fun. It's a weird sport, but just give it give it one practice and see if you like it.' From that point, it's just been a domino effect where a guy will see a close friend of his go out and think, 'maybe I should try it.'"

# Coach McCreary: We're going to run to win it

## XC confident heading into NCAC Conference Championships at Denison

**ETHAN WALLACE '25** | SPORTS EDITOR • In a highly competitive North Coast Athletic Conference, it is difficult for any team to suddenly jump from the bottom of the conference to being amongst the top teams in a single year. But that is exactly what Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary knew he wanted his team to do after their seventh-place finish in the 2022 NCAC Conference Championships.

Early in the season Coach McCreary laid out a goal to finish in the top three at the conference meet. Now as the 2023 NCAC Conference Championships approach, McCreary says that the team may outperform that goal in a big way.

"Our real goal is to win," said McCreary. "We're going to run to win it. We can look at the breakdown with our conference. There's a few teams that are contenders. There's no one in the conference who's just an outright favorite. And knowing our team and seeing what we've been able to do all year, we're certainly one of the teams that can win it."

The conference meet will be held at Denison University in Granville, Ohio on Saturday, October 28. The team enters the meet with high hopes. While there are few points for comparison between Wabash and the other NCAC squads, Wabash's performances in the last half of the season paint a promising picture for the Redpack.

**"Knowing our team and seeing what we've been able to do all year, we're certainly one of the teams that can win it."**

- Coach McCreary

Normally, the NCAC preview match, which was held on September, 9, would serve as the metric to measure the team's odds. However, the Little Giants

were down several of their top runners at the meet, so their seventh-place finish, fifth amongst NCAC teams, doesn't offer a clear projection for where Wabash will finish in the upcoming race. The only thing that can be gathered is that Wabash should do better in the conference meet now that they are fully recovered and ready to compete.

The biggest win of the season took place in the Greater Louisville Classic when the Little Giants placed second out of 48 teams. This is the event from the season that best demonstrates how effective the Redpack can be when they are healthy and well rested, as they will be at the NCAC Championships.

"When you look at each of our races, except for Louisville, where everyone was present and you insert the guys that we didn't run for one reason or another and assume they run you know, fairly well – not a great effort – but just a solid effort, our team beats a lot of the teams that we would want to beat

at this time of the year."

Now, heading into the conference meet the Wabash team has only to put up a strong performance to finish at the top of the NCAC. For cross country, most of the work is behind them. Their training regimen has put them in the place where they want to be to win. In their last week of practice, Coach McCreary hopes to emphasize the mindset that will set them apart from the competition at the meet.

"We're putting the fear of losing aside," said McCreary. "What it all boils down to is coming in with the idea that it's not going to take any kind of incredible effort to get the job done. Teams that feel like they have to do something really special are the ones that are usually a little bit more uptight. And then that creates some anxiety when they race. So we have the mindset that as long as all the guys on the team run solid races they will be in contention to get it done."

# Escalante '26 shows maturity in second season

**MISCHA DZUBAY '25** | STAFF WRITER • This season, the Wabash soccer team has been battling to reimagine their offense after their two lead scorers from the 2022 season—Alexis Delgado '23 and Caleb Castaño—departed at the end of the year. Now, starting striker José Escalante '26 is helping the Little Giants transform their offensive strategy.

A brother of Lambda Chi Alpha, Escalante moved to the US from Merida, Venezuela, seven years ago with a dream of playing professional soccer and supporting his parents financially. Knowing almost no English, he graduated from Speedway High School in Indianapolis.

"Speedway High School and the town around it opened their arms to me and my family," Escalante said. "Things were hard at first. I spoke zero English, so I was acting shy even though I am not a shy person at all. The teachers helped me a lot because they would translate anything or help me out in any other way I needed."

Not only did Speedway open their arms to him, but Escalante says that the school's soccer coaches Dean Heaviand and Bob Oeth helped get him one step closer to living out his dream.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Jose Escalante '26 dribbles the ball in the Little Giants' game against Ohio Wesleyan University on October 18, 2023.**

"[My high school coaches] helped me find a college that would prepare me for the real world and where I would be able to pursue my dream of playing professional soccer," said Escalante.

In his freshman year at Wabash, Escalante had an excellent rookie season, netting five goals. He was the Little Giants' third-highest scorer, but Head Soccer Coach Chris

Keller knew he was capable of more.

"My freshman year, Coach Keller and Coach Jesse knew I would come and play hard, but they [also] knew I had so much more potential," said Escalante. "I feel I have reached that level of play they knew I could. The José Escalante back then is not the one you see today."

A big reason Escalante feels like he has so much confidence coming into the 2023 season was because of the work he did with his trainer Pedro over the summer.

"He was just incredible. He knows the game well, he knows my weaknesses and my story on the field," said Escalante.

Assistant Soccer Coach Jay Klein noticed Escalante's exuberant confidence on his very first day practicing with the team.

"One of the first things you do as a new coach when you come in, is you try to figure out who's who," said Klein. "I was talking to Coach Keller when I first got here and I asked him who should I be looking out for? One of the first guys he pointed to is José. After watching him play the first day, I would have thought he was a senior. He walks like a senior, he talks like a senior. His attitude, his demeanor, the way he plays it all just

screams confidence and I think that's why he's been so effective for us."

The season has been hard fought for Escalante. He started out the season confident and it showed, scoring two goals and an assist in an exhilarating season opener. He followed this performance up with two goals and an assist over the course of the next three games. The next four games, though, Escalante went scoreless. Teams started to double team him, forcing him to pass the ball quickly.

"It didn't feel good," said Escalante. "I was getting in my head a lot, telling myself that I am not playing well."

Escalante was finally able to break this dry streak against DePauw, when he scored his fifth goal of the season to give the team a 3-1 lead.

"My favorite moment this season was the game against DePauw," Escalante said. "Seeing the crowd, seeing the stands, makes you play harder, makes you sweat. It makes you love Wabash more."

Despite their conference struggles this season, Wabash will look to Escalante to lead their young squad next fall in hopes of returning to the NCAC conference tournament.

# Soccer to finish strong against Oberlin

**ETHAN WALLACE '25** | SPORTS EDITOR • After an 0-2 loss to 23rd-ranked Kenyon College 13-3 (7-0 NCAC), the Wabash soccer team traveled to Springfield, Ohio to take on Wittenberg 6-4-4 (1-3-2 NCAC) on Wednesday, October 24.

Wabash 5-6-4 (1-4-1 NCAC) and the Tigers were close in the North Coast Athletic Conference standings heading into the game. The matchup remained locked at 0-0 for the first 27 minutes, until Wittenberg broke through for their first goal of the contest. Wabash ended the half down by one.

Early in the second half, the Tiger scored their second goal on a penalty kick. For the remainder of the half the Little Giants offense was stifled by the opposing defense. They only managed to find a single shot in the final 40 minutes.

"I think we started off strong," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "We didn't execute in the final third, which has been a common theme for us. So offensively we haven't clicked."

The Wabash squad was very careful with their shot selections, getting five shots on goal out of their six total shots. Goalkeeper Fernando Ramos '25 recorded four saves and two goals allowed. He has now reached 44 saves in the season. With that game in the books the Little Giants moved to 5-7-4 (1-5-1 NCAC).

The Little Giants will finish their season at home, when they take on Oberlin 3-7-6 (1-3-3 NCAC) on Saturday, October 28. The Yeomen will enter the contest after a hard loss to Kenyon, where the Owls outscored Oberlin 3-0. Oberlin is a solid conference opponent who will require the Little Giants' best efforts.

"The expectations are to out work Oberlin and play the last 90 minutes like it's a playoff game," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "And whether or not we get the result we want, at least we know we finished the season on a high note against a strong team."

"Our determination and positive mentality will determine the tone of our last home game, ensuring we leave it all on the field. It is easy for the team to become discouraged by our record leading up to our last game. The tone we set for the game on Saturday will set up the team's trajectory next season. The only thing we can control now is our mentality and willingness to end the season on a good note," said Hugo Garcia '24.



# Football records all-time offensive highs against Kenyon

**WILL MCKINZIE '26 | SPORTS WRITER** • The Wabash Little Giants traveled to Gambier, Ohio to take on the Kenyon Owls this past weekend. And to say that the Little Giants put on a show would be an understatement. Winning the contest 67-18. Wabash put up a ridiculous 776 total yards of offense compared to Kenyon's 278, with the Little Giants in the driver seat for the entirety of the game.

This 776 yards of total offense was enough to beat the previously-standing Wabash record of 711 set against Denison in 2000. Wabash's offense threw for a season-best, 363 yards with four scores. The 413 rushing yards put up is the sixth most in school history, with three different Little Giants having over 100 rushing yards.

"It's always good to have a big offensive performance especially going into a big game against Wittenberg this week," said running back Xavier Tyler '26 who rushed for 119 yards with two scores. "Weeks like that give the offense confidence in not only the players but also the signal callers, allowing the offense to hopefully establish this success for multiple weeks."

Liam Thompson '24 also made more history as a Little Giant, completing 30-of-39 passes for 354 yards, moving him to second all-time on the NCAC career passing list with 10,428 yards, passing former Kenyon quarterback Thomas Merkle



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Penn Stoller '24 (left), Liam Thompson '24 (middle) and Cade Campbell '24 (right) leave the field after a touchdown against Oberlin College on September 23, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.**

and only trailing Ohio Wesleyan's Mason Espinosa with 11,559 passing yards.

With the offense putting on such an impressive show, it can be easy to forget about the defense. But the Little Giants defense showcased that they are also playing at a very high level. The Kenyon Owls came into the weekend with a dominant running game averaging 192 rushing yards per game. The Little Giants defense was able to hold the Kenyon running barrage to only 80 yards and one touchdown on 29 touches.

Kenyon also threw two interceptions for the only turnovers of the game. Defensive back Ben Netting '24 and cornerback Alex Ziats '27 were the culprits, snagging interceptions and helping the Little Gi-

ants win the turnover battle.

Looking forward to Wabash's matchup against Wittenberg this Saturday, the Little Giants are looking to tie the all-time record which is 12-13 in favor of Wittenberg. This is a very interesting matchup due to the similarities in the teams. Both teams are coming into this game with a 5-2 record overall, and a 4-1 conference record. This must-win game is the first of trio of games Wabash must clench to walk away with their season goal of winning the NCAC. Wittenberg is a daunting opponent that will require the Little Giants' full might to defeat. But a convincing win will put them in a good place going forward, as the 129th Monon Bell Classic looms on the horizon.

# Chasing history: Sullivan '24 on multiple all-time stat lists at wide receiver

**HAIKEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26 | SPORTS WRITER** • Wide receiver Cooper Sullivan '24 with a standout performance of seven receptions for 112 yards in the Little Giants win against Kenyon is approaching a third-place spot in two statistical categories. His senior year stat lines have totaled to 26 receptions for 411 yards and 2 touchdowns over the course of the season. This season has been his best for yards per reception, an impressive 15.8 yards per catch.

Sullivan currently sits at fourth in Wabash school history in both career receptions with 178 and career receiving yards with 2,670. Before he graduates, Sullivan will have a chance to overtake the two former players who finished third-place in both categories. Kurt Casper '01 is third in school history for pass receptions with 205 and is second all-time in career receiving yards 2,806.

One spot ahead of Sullivan in total receiving yards is Ryan Short '02, who is third on the all-time list with 2,773 career receiving yards and holds the school record for receptions with 243. Sullivan is grateful to be among the elite in Wabash school history.

"I am insanely blessed and honored to be among the elite names that have previously played here and paved the way for us who are players now," said Sullivan.

Even with these impressive career stat lines, Sullivan won't take all the credit.

"I feel like this speaks volumes about the teammates I have had around me over the last 4 years," Sullivan said. "I have been blessed to have an awe-

some quarterback (and essentially a brother) in Liam Thompson and a phenomenal offensive line throughout my time here to give him the opportunity to throw me the ball."

But according to Sullivan, being among the elite doesn't just happen, as it requires commitment, discipline and hard work.

"The timeless hours spent with Liam after practice or on off days running routes, watching film or working with my receiver coaches have truly shown to be beneficial," Sullivan said.

As with all Wabash men, Sullivan has reached his position in part by standing on the shoulders of giants. Mike Funk '89 is Wabash's all-time leader in receiving yards with 2,858. Despite graduating over 30 years ago, Funk has served as an inspiration for Sullivan.

"I have been a huge fan of Mike Funk for over two years," Sullivan said. "I have had his name taped on my shoulder pads the last two seasons because every time I put them on, it is a reminder that I want to approach the game and compete in the ways that he did."

Head Football Coach Don Morel expressed the impact Sullivan's character has made on the team and Wabash as a whole.

"Cooper has set a standard for work ethic on the field and in the weight room that future Little Giant wide outs will have to achieve in order to be as good as Coop," Morel said. "He is an elite player at Wabash College."



# Assistant student coaches continue to contribute



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Assistant student coaches Noah Kent '25 (left) and Justin Browder '26 (right) discuss strategy against Butler University on September 16, 2023 at the Bud and Jackie Sellick Bowl.**

**ELIJAH GREENE '25 | PHOTO EDITOR** • Wabash College is full of rarities. For such a small college, it provides its students with as many opportunities to be unique as they could envision. The wide variety of clubs and organizations across campus fulfill almost every student's wildest fantasy.

But, one of the most unique and impactful opportunities currently available is the relatively recent addition of student coaching opportunities with the Wabash football team. Most Division I universities hire students to help coaches analyze film for upcoming opponents and to aid in preparations for that week's game. But not Wabash.

On any given weekday, you could walk into the second floor of the Armory and find Justin Browder '26 and Noah Kent '25, where they spend their time outside of class breaking down film, gameplanning for upcoming opponents and devising drills for practice. Kent works as

the coach of the safeties and nickel linebackers on defense, Browder the running backs on offense.

Also, when Wabash plays Wittenberg on October 28, a keen-eyed observer will see both Browder and Kent in khakis and a Wabash jacket, headsets on, calling plays and working with players on the sideline in one of Wabash's biggest games of the year. This level of involvement in a football program from students, outside of office gameplanning, is entirely unprecedented at even the largest of colleges.

Both Browder and Kent found their way into coaching in a similar fashion after persistent injuries sidelined them for good.

"My coaching path stemmed from an injury," said Browder. "In my senior year of high school, I tore my ACL and my lateral meniscus. I was still fortunate enough to come to Wabash and play sports, but then my freshman year at Wabash, I actually blew out the same knee again."

Kent's story is eerily similar.

"As I went through high school, I ended up suffering season-ending injuries in my sophomore year, at the end of my junior year and at the end of my senior year, all to the same right knee," said Kent.

Browder and Kent found one another through football and became fast friends, bonding over their shared experiences with injury and faith in God. Both men seriously considered whether or not football was still the right choice for them. But, with the help of prayer, their families and one another, they both made the decision that they weren't finished with football.

"I was at the end of myself at the end of my first semester [at Wabash]," said Kent. "I wanted to add value in a special way and I didn't know what that looked like. At the end my freshman year, I was in this moment where I was praying and I was reminded of what God told me about playing football for the opportunity to have an impact on people. I had felt like I was ready to be done playing football, but God wasn't quite done with me. I had a lot more to offer."

Browder had much the same experience. After his career-ending injury his freshman year at Wabash, he too approached a crossroads. Did he stay on with Kent and coach, or shift his life's trajectory and step away from the game?

Ultimately, he chose football.

"I was faced with a difficult question of going through rehab again and and continuing to play or stepping into a different role," said Browder. "Noah's been one of my best friends since coming [to Wa-

bash]. He and I had a lot of those difficult conversations of what the next steps for me were. Through a lot of prayer and talks with my family and even my friends on campus, it was a no brainer to step into this role."

Both Browder and Kent not only have a passion for the game, but for impacting the lives of their players and peers. The opportunity for ministry through Christ and meaningful emotional connections to their players were themes that both men emphasized repeatedly.

"Somewhere along the road, we could definitely be coaching together," said Kent. "That's the dream. The biggest thing that we're driven by is the opportunity for ministry on the ball field, and it's a very unique opportunity to reach people and make an impact."

But Browder and Kent are not the first Wabash men to step onto the sideline as student coaches. That honor belongs to current Assistant Football Coach CJ Ramsey '20. Ramsey blazed this trail in 2016 when he first stepped foot in Crawfordsville with his father, former Wabash defensive coordinator Jeff Ramsey.

"I just love football, and I wanted to be around it as much as I could," said Ramsey. My dad was a football coach, and he helped me fall in love with the game. I never played [football] in high school. I just wanted to coach and be like my dad. When it came to coming [to Wabash], I didn't have a defined role. I wanted to be around the team and help out where I could."

Ramsey would go on to coach the safeties (much like Kent), then the linebackers and now his current position group, the wide receivers.

Ramsey also likes what he see in Browder and Kent, reminding him of the same passion and drive that kept him coming back for more as a student coach from 2016-2020.

[Browder and Kent] love football as much as I do," said Ramsey. "They are here every day and they want to get better and they want to see their teammates succeed. It feels amazing because I see myself in them at points. Their growth and their ability to help this team is so fun to watch. They're carving their own space like I was, but they understand they're just another part of the staff. Any any kind of worry I had about their dedication and their knowledge of the game is out the window because I know they love [Wabash] and they love football."

Browder and Kent put in as much work as they can for Wabash football, between classes, studying, and any other extracurriculars that they are involved in to do a job that most colleges hire full-time coaches for.

What Browder and Kent are doing behind the scenes for Wabash football is borderline heroic. The average student has enough to keep themselves busy with academics and extracurriculars. Browder and Kent are working the equivalent of a full-time job while going to school. And, with three to four years of coaching experience under their belts after graduation, they will be that much more competitive in a market that is as cutthroat as it comes.

"There's a running joke between us," said Browder, "that as soon as one of us becomes a head coach, the other person is our first call. I absolutely love [being a coach]. I couldn't imagine a better job."

# Wallace: NCAC Football Week 9 Power Rankings

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR** • **DePauw University 8-0 (6-0 NCAC)**

The Dannies were on their last leg against the Wittenberg Tigers, before they seized an overtime win to retain their spot at the top of the list. Blessed with a bye week just before the Bell Game, the Tigers only have to avoid being chased up a tree by the Hiram Terriers, before a cat nap leads them into an undefeated record entering the battle between the scarlet-and-white striped forces of good and the black-and-gold striped villains.

**Wabash College 5-2 (4-1 NCAC)**

Rumor has it Liam Thompson '24 will appear before a human rights tribunal after he knowingly aided in the Little Giants' 67-18 blowout against Kenyon College. He personally put up more yards than the Owls' entire team, as Wabash set a new school record of 776 yards of total offense in a single game in Gambier, Ohio. Next, the Wabash team has to face the Wittenberg Tigers. Wittenberg is a must-win game, a dangerous opponent and a chance to prove that Wabash really is the team to beat this season. While Wabash was upset by Denison, who lost to Wittenberg, the Little Giants are the only team other than DePauw who is still in the running for winning the conference.

**Wittenberg University 5-2 (4-1 NCAC)**

Wittenberg and DePauw were undefeated against conference opponents when they faced off on October 21. Ten plays, that's all it took for the Ohio-based Tigers to go from a seri-

ous contender for top team in the conference, to a hurdle that the Little Giants face on their way to the Monon Bell Game. The sad part is, they had it in the bag. After DePauw tied up the game late in the fourth quarter, Witt had 1:34 to go 55 yards and kick a field goal to put themselves on *The Bachelor's* coveted NCAC Power Rankings throne. Instead the tied Tigers took it to overtime and – drumroll please – lost in 10 plays. They played it safe and got what they deserved.

**Denison University 5-3 (4-2 NCAC)**

If they clinch their final game against Ohio Wesleyan, the Big Red will go down as one of the better teams in the conference. If they don't, they can brag about being the team who pulled an upset against the '23 Little Giants until their own sons turn in mediocre seasons for Denison.

**Ohio Wesleyan University 4-3 (3-2 NCAC)**

It doesn't really matter, but I think the Battling Bishops have a good chance of beating Denison this year. They still have to lose to Wittenberg before then, but OWU almost gave Wabash and DePauw a run for their money, so I'm saying there's a chance. While Wabash and DePauw are battling it out for the Bell, OWU and Denison will be scrapping over the title of second-best team in Ohio.

**College of Wooster 2-5 (1-4 NCAC)**

Things look worse than they are for the Fighting Scots. They haven't got a chance to pummel Kenyon and Oberlin like everyone else. Too bad, an out-of-contention Wittenberg will be looking to send off their seniors in a big finale at home against

Wooster in their final game.

**Kenyon College 1-6 (1-4 NCAC)**

Little Giants, Tigers and Big Red's Oh My! Kenyon got stuck playing three of the best teams late in the season. They almost let Wabash set a conference record for total yards in a single game. It would be really embarrassing to be the team who gave up the most yards in a single game in NCAC history. But Wooster's record of 791 still stands – oh wait – that record was against the 2004 Owls. The team hasn't been within 16 points for any of their losses, and that's not changing soon. Thankfully for the Owls, Oberlin is waiting to give a walkoff win at the end of the schedule.

**Hiram College 1-7 (1-5 NCAC)**

The last three weeks haven't been too bad for the Terriers, at least by Hiram's standards. Maybe this is building up to an upset against Wooster on Saturday? Who knows, crazy things can happen when nobody cares. At least they get to end a week early thanks to a Week 11 bye for Ohio's second-worst team.

**Oberlin College 1-6 (0-5 NCAC)**

A careful observer will note that Oberlin's conference record isn't 0-8, yet. I guess that means there's still hope for the Yeomen. They get to finish the season against the middling teams in the NCAC, so the scores might not be too bad. Out of conference contention since week 3, Oberlin's only hope for a win is to rout Kenyon in their last game and set up a potential three-way tie for last place between Hiram, Kenyon and Oberlin.