

Continuing to build community



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Wabash College President Scott Feller rings in the class of 2028 at Pioneer Chapel on August 17, 2024.

SAM BENEDICT '25
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the familiar sound of Caleb Mills' bell echoed off the historic wooden beams of the Chapel, a new class of students were welcomed into the Wabash community and a new year began. The ring of the bell symbolizes not only a new year or a new class, but a clean slate ripe with opportunity for the future.

The 2023-24 school year was marked by the conclusion of the Giant Steps campaign, the announcement of historic capital projects and exciting initiatives to improve the Wabash experience. However, 2023-24 also included instances of vandalism on campus, uncertainty surrounding new academic requirements and another year without the Monon Bell.

"I think the number one accomplishment in my mind from last year was I did feel that we added more joy to the Wabash experience," said President Feller. "I think that's happened each year post pandemic, but I just felt like last year, the mood on and around campus, the decibels in Chadwick court, participation at events like the Celebration of Student

Research and things like that just felt more joyful to me."

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, community has been at the forefront of administrative goals as a means to re-ignite the Wabash culture, which

in 'how do we embrace that broadest sense of a Wabash community?'"

This year, Wabash College will have a Director of Latino Partnerships for the first time, an example of a tangible way that the College is working to

about doing that in a way that we're proud of the day after."

Looking beyond this year, the next major milestone for the College will be the 200th anniversary of the College's founding. Initial planning has already begun as the College prepares to celebrate the historic achievement and celebrate the storied history of Wabash.

"I think, you know, we've kind of demonstrated that the COVID-19 period is behind us and we should be thinking about our future, thinking about the 200th anniversary of the college in 2032. We're not very far away from recruiting the students who will be here for our bicentennial."

This year will feature construction across campus and disruptions as multiple capital projects continue to take place, an election that has the opportunity to divide and the usual unexpected circumstances that will undoubtedly arise. However, it will also feature exciting opportunities for students to interact with each other in new and unique ways, a glimpse into the future, and the traditions that make Wabash special.

"I think the number one accomplishment in my mind from last year was I did feel that we added more joy to the Wabash experience."

- President Scott Feller

has historically seen high participation in things like intramural sports, all campus events and sporting matches. Efforts by the Student Senate, individual clubs and Wabash faculty have contributed to the re-emergence of participation by the student body, but have not been able to reach levels seen prior to COVID-19.

"The more that we've been talking about community, the more I see that as a theme for us to explore and, frankly, do better on," said Feller. "I think that we have both a Wabash community and we have many communities within that. I'm just particularly interested

improve community at Wabash. Furthermore, the construction of the Community Center has begun, although behind schedule, and will be one of the centerpieces of the campus. Lastly, President Feller hopes that the community cultivated on our campus will extend to people outside of Wabash.

"I would love for us to make some progress this year on the Monon Bell game and just reminding ourselves that these are our rivals and our friends," said Feller. "Obviously we're going to beat them and we're going to bring the bell back at the conclusion of the football game, but I'd like us to think

Class of 2028 fills independent housing

JAMES WALLACE '26
NEWS EDITOR

While living units across campus are struggling with fitting six men to a quad, students have been left scratching their heads wondering why the class of 2028 is so large. However, this class of Wabash men is by no means extraordinarily large, according to Dean of Enrollment Management Chip Timmons '96.

"I'm optimistic we can get to that 60 percent fraternity 40 percent independent balance, or even exceed those numbers."

- Residence Life Specialist Mike Lynn

"There were 267 new students who were here on Saturday," said Timmons. "That's not our best year, but it's probably our third-best in the past 10 years. The class that enrolled in 2022, the class of 2026, will probably be a couple of students larger than this one."

Continued page 3

Global Health Initiative welcomes first class of direct-admit students

BEN DOUGLAS '27
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash class of 2028 is surely different from the current classes of Wabash students, but one aspect it has that is truly unique rests within the Global Health Initiative. This fall, the Global Health Initiative is welcoming seven new freshmen through a direct-admit program. This is the first group of Wabash men who were directly admitted into Wabash after being selected for the Global Health Initiative (GHI).

Previously, to join the GHI, it was necessary to apply through the program director Eric Wetzel or the program coordinator Jill Rogers after getting into Wabash.

However, now students are able to apply before getting into the college, and in fact reserve a spot for themselves in the upcoming class after doing so. However, the direct-admit program does not do away with allowing current students to join after getting into Wabash, it just allows rising freshmen to also be allowed to join.

The direct-admit program is attractive to prospective Wabash men, particularly with the several opportunities that



COURTESY OF WABASH COLLEGE
Members of the Global Health Institute work in with local officials in Peru.

are provided to GHI fellows, such as guaranteed internships.

"Internships can be very competitive... and I thought that opportunity was great."

- Hugh Ford '28

"I saw the opportunities that were present, and I also met with Dr. Wetzel, and he was very friendly and informative about the

program. Something that really stood out to me was the guaranteed internship after my second year," said freshman Hugh Ford '28. "I know internships can be very competitive, especially in certain fields like pre-medicine, and I thought that opportunity was great."

Because the program accepts so few students, the candidates need to set themselves apart by showing diversity in their involvement before coming to Wabash.

Continued page 3

Community Center on standby

Obstacles delay demolition of Sparks

JAMES WALLACE '26
NEWS EDITOR

While the Wabash community thought that the last they would see of the Frank H. Sparks Center would be in spring 2024, when Wabash began filling up with students, faculty and the local community this fall, many were surprised to see the center still standing.

"It has very much been like an onion that we peel back, where we think we're at one place, but maybe we're not quite there."

- CFO Kendra Cooks

"I had hoped that we'd be a little farther along before students arrived," said Wabash College President Scott Feller. "But in a way that is fairly standard for a big, complex project, we've hit a few unexpected things."

Among these problems is the road construction that stretches through about five miles of Crawfordsville, which delayed the completion of the temporary kitchen, Grub Hollow. While the interior of Grub Hollow is now complete, the exterior connections to utilities are still waiting for state approval.

"We received the last of our modules on August 12," said Kendra Cooks, the College's Chief Financial Officer. "We are [currently] working with the state to get final approval for actual utility connection."

Until the plumbing, sewage and electricity connections can be made, Grub Hollow will remain closed, which makes the delay to the Sparks Center almost convenient, as the building can still be used for meal service until Grub Hollow is ready to operate.

However, while construction delays to Grub Hollow contributed to the lack of progress on the Sparks Center, a unique opportunity that College leadership found in late fall 2023 through a specific program through USDA Rural Development has also caused a halt on construction.

"The USDA loan program allows us to fill the gap between what has been raised for the building and the total cost," Cooks said. "And it would provide up to 40-years to repay at a subsidized rate."

The program is only made possible by a few unique requirements that the Community Center project meets, particularly with the College's location in Montgomery County and the future impact that the building will have not only on the Wabash community, but on the Montgomery County community as well.

"It's kind of a perfect storm," said President Feller. "We are in a rural community. We are in a community that could benefit from the construction of a multi purpose facility on

our campus...[and] Wabash and Crawfordsville have always worked together."

Outside of the requirements to qualify for the USDA program, the College also needs to work through the Sparks Center's federal protections for facilities in historic districts. Federally funded construction projects for buildings in a historic district like Sparks need to be cleared by the Division of Historical Preservation.

"The Sparks Center and all of the buildings on the Mall are in what's labeled as a historic district," said Cooks. "So though a specific building is not on the national registry, it's still in a historic district. Because the facility is 50 years or older, it is a contributing facility."

Fortunately, College leadership had already planned to repurpose aspects of the building, including re-using the beams in the Great Hall, which honors the history of the Center. But why is the College adding an additional obstacle to the funding of the Community Center?

"This program allows you to refinance existing debt up to the amount you are requesting," said Cooks. "We are seeking \$32 million from USDA Rural Development... and we happen to have \$32 million in existing capital debt."

"I had hoped that we'd be a little farther along before students arrived."

- President Scott Feller

While the USDA Rural Development loan is causing the holdup with construction of the center, it is only half of the equation as to why the College is looking to secure this loan. By refinancing the College's existing debt at a lower, fixed rate, it will help to secure the College's financial future. However, the program doesn't offer a clear timeline of when Wabash will be able to secure the loan.

"There's not that many people who have gone through the process," said Cooks. "It has very much been like an onion that we peel back, where we think we're at one place, but maybe we're not quite there. But the USDA team really wants this project for us and are really working hard to help support us."

Regardless of where in the onion the College is with completing all requirements with the loan process, Cooks and other leaders are confident that the project will be completed.

"This project is happening, there is no question it is happening," said Cooks. "President Feller, the Trustees, and I know that it is in our financial best interest to work through this very unique opportunity that many institutions wouldn't even qualify for."



COURTESY OF WABASH COLLEGE
A rendering of the East Patio of the future Community Center.

What you missed this summer in US politics

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

American politics, especially in the age of social media, is a fast-paced sport driven by controversy and personalities continuously competing for the public's attention. In a presidential election year, the happenings of politics can be particularly difficult to stay on top of. While our campus slowed down for three months, D.C. and its political players did not. If you have no clue how we got to where we are now, fear you may have missed a major development or just need a refresher, here's a brief timeline of the major political events this summer that shaped our current landscape.

May 30: Former President Trump convicted on 34 felony counts in his New York hush money trial

The trial and subsequent conviction of the former president grabbed headlines across the country. Trump became the first former president convicted of felony crimes when a 12-person jury found him guilty of all 34 counts in a hush money plot designed to shield his public image before the 2016 presidential election. Republicans framed the trial as a corrupt weaponization of the courts by Democrats in a supposed effort to block Trump standing for election in 2024, while Democrats maintained that the trial was the law being applied justly to a private citizen. Even though Trump was found guilty, the trial proved to influence voters' opinions little. The former president's campaign reported donations of over \$50 million in the hours after the verdict was announced, most of which was from small-dollar donors.



COURTESY OF NPR

Former U.S. President Donald Trump sits at the defendant's table on May 30, 2024 at the Manhattan Criminal Court.

June 27: President Biden and Trump face off in their first debate of the 2024 presidential cycle

The candidates debated on CNN with no studio audience present per the campaigns' pre-agreed rules. The debate sorely lacked substance at various points — in one viral clip Biden and Trump bicker about who is better at golf — but proved to be impactful. Biden's performance was seen as lackluster by many Democrats, and immediately following the debate some began to break ranks and pose the idea that Biden was too old and not sharp enough to beat Trump and therefore should bow out of the race. Trump's performance was viewed as average, but it was undoubtedly a victory for the GOP.



COURTESY OF NORTHEASTERN GLOBAL NEWS

Former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden debate on June 27, 2024.

July 1: The Supreme Court releases its decision in Trump v. United States, closing out a term filled with controversy

In a 6-3 decision split, the Supreme Court held that Trump was immune for many of the official acts that took place on January 6 and remanded-sent back to lower courts — certain nitty-gritty factual questions the Court wasn't in position to decide. While this case was significant for many historical and legal reasons, its primary political impact was making it impossible for any trial that could potentially rule Trump out of the election to happen before November. The decision frustrated Democrats immensely, especially those who raised questions about whether two of the justices — Justice Samuel Alito and Justice Clarence Thomas — should be allowed to rule in the case. Alito was involved

in controversy over flags now synonymous with the January 6 insurrection that were flown on two of his properties, and Thomas drew criticism over his wife's political ties to groups working to overturn the 2020 election results in addition to ongoing condemnation over ties to billionaire GOP financier Harlan Crow.

July 13: A man attempts to assassinate Former President Trump, wounding him in the ear at a rally in Butler, PA

The latest installment in America's chronicles of political violence stirred an outpouring of support and solidarity for the former president among voters. Images of Trump defiantly shaking his fist towards his supporters took social media by storm and drew a sharp contrast in the minds of many with Biden's faltering debate performance. While some in the GOP perpetuated the falsehood that the assassination attempt was in some way linked with Biden and the Democrats, Trump himself announced that he had been impacted greatly by the attempt on his life and would strike a more unifying tone than he had planned to in his speech at the upcoming Republican National Convention.



COURTESY OF AP

Former President Donald Trump pumps his fist in the air after being shot during a speech at a rally on July 13, 2024 in Butler, PA.

July 15-18: Trump is officially named the GOP's nominee and chooses Senator JD Vance of Ohio as his running mate at the Republican National Convention.

Optimism and an expectation of victory was in the air at the RNC in Milwaukee. The party's candidate recently survived an assassination attempt, and while a growing number of Democrats were expressing their doubt that Biden would be able to get the job done in November, the Republicans were rallying around their leader. Every Trump appearance threw those in attendance into a frenzy, and many delegates expressed satisfaction when Trump named Vance as his running mate. Young and relatively unknown on the national stage, Vance is one of a younger generation of post-Trump Republicans providing the intellectual vigor and policy proposals of the GOP. Trump delivered the final speech of the convention and seemed to attempt to strike a more unifying tone in a speech that lasted more than an hour and a half. Bolstered in a tight race by a unified and energized party, Trump's polling numbers began to creep above Biden's.



COURTESY OF THE ROLLING STONE

JD Vance pumps his fist in the air during a speech at the Republican National Convention on July 17, 2024 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

July 21: Biden announces in a letter posted on X that he is ending his run for a second term.

Biden's exit came after weeks of increasing pressure from Democratic allies to step aside for the good of the party. Although many who called for Biden's exit weren't sure that any other Democratic candidate would poll better in fact, most polls revealed Biden was still the most popular Democratic candidate — the overwhelming worry was that Biden staying in the race would hurt Congressional Democrats in their races. After losing the support of some of his oldest allies in the party, Biden stepped aside. The President quickly announced his endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic nominee, and she quickly accepted his support and began the process of consolidating support within the party. Any possibility of a nasty mad-dash for the nomination was squashed early

by the Harris campaign's securement of key endorsements from Democratic leaders. After weeks of uncertainty and disunity, Harris's step onto center stage offered a breath of fresh air to Democrats and record fundraising numbers followed in the days after Biden's announcement. Biden's age, a huge sticking point for many voters, was suddenly a non-issue, and while the tides of the race were not turning dramatically in that moment, Democrats felt optimistic the change in personnel would yield dividends soon.



COURTESY OF CNBC

President Joe Biden walks to deliver a speech on July 1, 2024 in the White House.

August 6: Harris picks Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate.

The announcement that Harris would be the Democratic nominee launched an audition within the party among individuals hoping to be her running mate. The consensus among most commentators and pollsters was the Harris campaign would look for a well-known white male to fill the role in an effort to water down the Harris ticket and make it more palatable to undecided voters. Extra consideration and attention was likely given to those from key battleground states like Arizona and Pennsylvania, pivotal stepping stones in most paths to 270 electoral votes. Among the frontrunners for Harris's VP pick were Governor of Pennsylvania Josh Shapiro, Arizona Senator Mark Kelly, and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. Ultimately, Harris went with Walz, a former National Guardsman and teacher notable for his "give it to 'em straight" attitude and passionate attacks of both Trump and Vance. Democrats will hope Walz can boost their numbers in Minnesota, a key swing state, and fill the traditional "attack dog" role of the VP pick in election season.



COURTESY OF NPR

Tim Walz gives a speech on August 13, 2024 in Los Angeles, California

The summer was full of ups and downs for both parties. The Republicans and Trump surged following Biden's debate disaster, the general outrage surrounding Trump's attempted assassination, and a stellar convention. Biden's replacement and several media gaffes involving Vance and Trump in recent weeks have dimmed GOP enthusiasm for November to a nervous glow. Alternatively, the Democrats spent most of the summer wallowing after the June debate and the obvious lack of confidence shown by party leaders in their candidate. Harris resuscitated Dems and brought in huge donation numbers to the campaign she took over from Biden, uplifting spirits within the party and bolstering confidence that a win in November is possible.

Harris currently leads by an average of three points in most national polls, but that is well within the margin of error for predicting any race, let alone the presidential contest. Polls of swing states, vital to both Trump and Harris ascending to the White House, are even closer. In some states, like Michigan and Wisconsin, Harris leads by a 2 to 3 point margin. In other states, Georgia for one, Trump leads by about the same number. There are also a number of states where Trump and Harris are tied. Plenty of time remains before Election Day, but barring any groundbreaking scandals — which is not entirely out of the question in this race — the presidential head-to-head will come down to the wire.

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Class of 2028 fills independent housing



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Students and their families move into College Hall during Ringing-In-Sunday on August 17, 2024.

Continued from page 3

The reaction to so many students is in part because both the classes of 2024 and 2025 had lower-than-usual recruitment and retention numbers due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This lowered the overall student body, but with the class of 2024 gone, the classes of 2026, 2027 and 2028 represent “normal” recruiting numbers, raising the population to a level where living units fill up much quicker.

“The conversion rate for admitted students who attend [Admitted Students Weekend] is over 50 percent.”

- Dean of Enrollment Management
Chip Timmons '96.

The normal class was by no means easy to get, however, as the admissions and financial aid departments had to deal with issues from FAFSA, otherwise known as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

“One of the big changes to FAFSA this year was that students were able to start completing the FAFSA in December, but we didn’t receive the results until the end of March,” said new Director of Financial Aid Nathan Lohr. “There was some delay between when students submitted their information and when we could start providing financial aid packages to our students.”

However, the connection that Wabash makes with its prospective students proved that the delay of financial aid had a limited, if not negligible impact. These connections are made through unique events such as Scarlet Honors Weekend or Admitted Students Weekend, where prospective Wabash men get the chance to experience life at the College.

“The conversion rate for admitted students who attend [Admitted Students Weekend] is over 50 percent,” said Timmons. “If your overall yield on your admitted class is one in four, you’re probably in the top ten percent of colleges in the country.”

However, while the admissions department is treating the class of 2028 like any other year, it hasn’t stopped the housing department and students from feeling the crunch of the student body population increasing.

“It’s great for the campus to have students coming to Wabash,” said Kappa Sigma President Phenix Carney ’25. “But it’s kind of a negative on the houses to have to host these independents, because it’s hard to live a fraternity lifestyle.”

This semester Kappa Sigma has 12 independents living on their second floor, similar to Phi Kappa Psi’s situation last year. This is due to the imbalance between occupied fraternity and independent beds across campus.

“[The main obstacle is] just the number of independent beds versus fraternity beds,” said Residence Life Specialist Mike Lynn. “It normally shakes itself out, but ultimately my main goal is ensuring that independent and fraternity students have a good move-in experience.”

This difference in beds has created pressure from different departments across campus to rush as many students as possible this fall, emphasizing that only a few more students to every fraternity can alleviate

the pressure from independent housing units.

“Fraternity rush seems to be going very well,” said Lynn. “I’m optimistic we can get to that 60 percent fraternity 40 percent independent balance, or even exceed those numbers.”

Carney seems to agree with the sentiment that rush can continue to improve across campus, particularly in his house, which has a capacity of 52 brothers.

“I believe that we can get 52 brothers in the house at some point,” said Carney. “But right

now, it’s in limbo because of how the moving situation [with independents] is going.”

However, while Wabash students may try to explain the housing difficulties felt across campus by pointing to an exceptionally large class, they should expect this as the new normal.

“We have some work to do again next year to get [267], but repeating this year puts the College in a good spot,” said Timmons. “With the fall census, it could be over 900, which it hasn’t been in a while.”

GHI welcomes direct admit students

Continued from page 3

“I think extracurriculars were asked to list some things that we’ve done. They were looking for a broad base of activities that we had done or participated in previously before college,” said Ryan Bartley ’28. “They talked about how Wabash is a school heavily focused on involvement where all of its students strive to be involved on campus, and I think that if you’re involved in a lot of extracurriculars in high school, it will prepare you well for the Wabash experience.”

To stand out as a GHI applicant, it is crucial to be actively involved both academically and in extracurricular activities. The GHI places significant emphasis on a well-rounded profile, where a broad range of extracurriculars can set you apart from other applicants. The two recent admits highlighted that embracing the ‘Wabash mentality’ a

commitment to both academic excellence and extracurricular involvement- is key in making a strong impression during the admissions process.

When asked about what they planned on doing in the future both had similar goals.

“I would eventually like to attend graduate school and hopefully be able to go to medical school,” said Ford. “I have done shadowing in ophthalmology, and over the summer, I worked at a pain clinic. They administered injections for people with chronic pain, things like epidurals and branch blocks.”

Bartley also expressed his interest in Medical School.

“I also plan on being able to apply for Medical school,” said Bartley. “Right now, I’m very interested in cardiology, but I know once you get into medical school, you are open to a wide range of options, so I am still going to keep my mind open.”



COURTESY OF WABASH COLLEGE

Jacob Ramirez '25 works on a GHI trip in Peru.

This week at Wabash



Saturday, Aug. 24

8:00 p.m. | Wabash Always Laughs @ Ball Theater

Monday, Aug. 26

6:00 p.m. | Bending the Arc @ Hays 104

Tuesday, Aug. 27

12:10 p.m. | Senior Pre-Law Society Call Out @ Baxter 114

Wednesday, Aug. 28

7:30 p.m. | Wally’s Bookshelf w/ Dr. Tobey Herzog

Thursday, Aug. 29

11:15 a.m. | Chapel Talk

Saturday, Aug. 31

12:00 p.m. | Back 2 Bash @ The Mall

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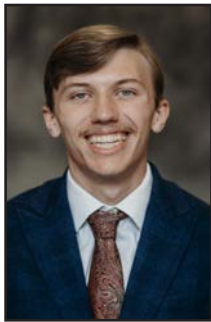
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Welcome to Wabash, now let’s talk: Freshman advice



Nicholas Green ’27
Reply to this opinion at njgreen27@wabash.edu

By the time you’re reading this, you will have been at Wabash for your first week. You’ve sat through four days of speeches and presentations and three more of your first collegiate classes. You’ve met Deans, Advisors, Professors and about two-hundred other Wabash men.

You’ve toured seven academic buildings, numerous living halls, fraternity houses and other buildings you’ve forgotten the names of. You’ve shaken countless hands and walked the entire campus end to end three times. The sounds of cicadas and country music have become permanent fixtures of your evenings.

Your life has changed. New routines and habits are slowly starting to form. You’re slowly getting to know your roommate better. Your inbox is beginning to fill with emails. The heat, both outside and in the classroom, is beginning to rise.

I remember this heat. Exactly one year ago, I was in the same situation. Same orientation week, same tours, same pressures. I remember the stresses of my first assignments, and the exhaustion of my first week. I remember the anxieties caused not just by my classes, but also the friendly, but ultimately unfamiliar environment. I remember the feeling of being pulled in so many different directions, unable to decide what to do. I remember all of it.

And I remember how I conquered these feelings. The bolded tips below are four pieces of advice I wish I had received during my first semester. You have probably heard some variation on these tips before, but these were the four that I found to be the most practically useful:

Go to bed before 1:00 AM: Late nights will happen. Maybe you and your roommate just found the meaning of life or maybe you misread that due date of that essay. However it happens, you will have a 3:00

AM (or later) night. That is fine. You have not failed because of a late night. What’s important is minimizing those late nights. Most (if not all) of your assignments are listed on your class syllabuses. Start planning and working now rather than the days before they are due. Start planning that first September paper now, rather than the Monday before its due.

Prioritize school work: Wabash thrives off its unique social life. Every semester has no shortage of parties and events to liven campus. However, there is no secret prize for going to every party. You should manage your schoolwork so that you can attend these weekend events. There will be another party next week, you won’t miss a thing.

Find something: Orientation bombarded you with information. Names, organization, clubs, houses and so much more. Try to find one thing to be involved with on campus. It doesn’t have to be huge. A club that meets once a week is more than enough, and it allows you to foster a deeper connection with campus. Wabash can be more than just the classes you take, you just have to find ways to let it in.

The process of getting involved can feel overwhelming. You probably got ten emails today about callout meetings, all at inconvenient times. Maybe you got yourself to one of these meetings, only to find that it isn’t what you wanted. All of these things are ok. You don’t have to find it tomorrow, but by the end of your first year, try to find at least one place.

Ask for help: There is utterly no shame in asking for help. We employ tutors of every grade level, for every subject. Your professors are ready and willing to help you within their office hours. Wabash is more than ready for any academic hurdle you could face in your four years here. There is no reward for struggling in silence. The sooner you ask for help, the faster your academic career can develop.

These four tips greatly improved my freshman experience, and I hope you also find them useful. All of this advice is easier said than implemented. Developing these good habits will take effort and time; however, any good habits developed now will greatly assist you in your semesters to come.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

‘WE LOVE THEM FOR THE SHOE’

Hi-Five to the Colts fan who has been dropping a new banger for each preseason matchup. Too bad the Glee Club already hired their new director.

TWISTER? I HARDLY KNOW HER!

Hi-Five to Glen Powell for taking over the tabloids this summer. Huge win for average-looking white guys.

WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER

Hi-Five to Colin "The Missile" Baker for putting back 36 chicken nuggets in 5 minutes at the annual nugget eating contest. Somebody get this man a Vienna Beef endorsement.

NO RHINO PILL NEEDED

Hi-Five to Banksy for incorporating a broken down car into his new rhino-themed art piece. The installment allegedly came after London police reported a "car jack."

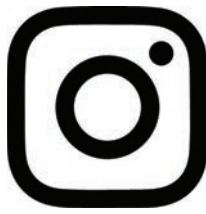
DEFUSING THE SITUATION

Lo-Five to the townie who took out his aggression on the new fountain Tuesday night. When admissions told freshmen Crawfordsville was "the bomb," we didn't think they were being literal.

Check out The Bachelor Online!



bachelor.wabash.edu

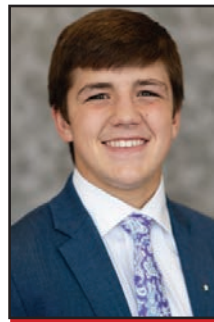


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Don’t be afraid to fill your plate: Sophomore advice



Evan Dickey ’26
Reply to this opinion at eddickey26@wabash.edu

The most important lesson I have learned so far during my time here at Wabash is that we are capable of much more than we lead ourselves to believe. At the beginning of my first few semesters here, I would look at the winding road that laid ahead of me; I couldn’t help but feel uncertainty wash over me.

Can I really do well in the classes I signed up for? Will I have time to devote to the clubs I’m involved in? How can I possibly handle all that I have on my plate?

Yet each semester I found myself in this position, what transpired was that I was able to overcome that uncertainty and succeed in an environment that I had previously found intimidating. Every semester I would then add more to my plate to a point where I was nervous once again.

I would work hard each day, and again I would return hungry to do

more. This process has repeated itself multiple times since I’ve been at Wabash. Now as a junior, I understand that sometimes those nerves that come with the new semester are a good thing.

As I signed up once again for all my classes, I began to think once again about all I would be responsible for this year. I felt uncertain. However, I embraced that uncertainty with the confidence that I would excel despite those nerves.

Now I also know that, to do so, I will have to work very hard for it. I know that I will need to spend many hours in the Lilly Library studying for my tests. I know that I will have to write my prelabs on Friday nights because I definitely love doing homework on Friday nights!

I know it will take a lot of hard work, but I truly do look forward to working hard this semester to achieve great things, and I hope you all are looking forward to it as well.

I know many of you freshmen and sophomores are worried about your schedules, club responsibilities, and all the other things you must do in the weeks to come. I know because I’ve been there. I also hear it from many people every semester, even in these last few days.

However, you must know that those

nerves are normal. Your plate may be full, but so long as you are willing to put in the many hours of effort needed into finishing it each day, you will learn that you were capable all along.

So, I encourage you to fill your plate. Embrace the nervousness that comes along with it. Also know that you do not have to deal with it on your own. There are many great people on this campus who are more than willing to help you. All you have to do is ask.

I strongly encourage you all to

make the most of the resources you have been given. QSC, SI, fraternity brothers, classmates and, most importantly, your professors are ready and willing to help you. We all want you to succeed. Please go to them for help! I personally want to see you succeed. For all my biology men, I urge you to come see me in the QSC if you need help.

Do not be afraid to fill your plate, and do not be afraid to share it with others!

Free small drink when you show your Wabash ID!
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Think ahead, apply timley, wake up early: Junior advice



Preston Reynolds '25

Reply to this opinion at
pcreynol25@wabash.edu

Juniors, good work getting over ‘the hump’. You’ve declared your major, (hopefully) gotten more than half your credits and settled down in our semi-permanent home in Crawfordsville.

At this point you might be tricked into thinking, “ok we’ve got this all figured out.” Or maybe you’re still reeling from sophomore year. You may even be in the difficult position of taking inorganic or organic chemistry. I had a front-seat-view to my roommate’s struggle in spring semester.

The advice I’ve got? Think ahead. If you’re still on auto-pilot, hoping to just cruise through college and slide into a job. Think again.

You’ve probably heard horror stories about ‘the job market’, that terrifying miasma haunting every news feed. Getting a four-year degree simply isn’t enough to live that middle-class dream anymore.

Personally, I didn’t buy-in to all the messaging coming out of Career Services until my sophomore year. I didn’t understand that, no matter what path you are pursuing, a bulky resume is a dire necessity.

If you haven’t had an internship yet, this is the time to get one. Start applying now, your opportunities only shrink as the months go by. If the due date for application is in February, get your application done by December. If you aren’t confident in a cover letter or resume, take it to career services or the writing center.

And, I’m sorry to say, while an internship

with Wabash is convenient and helpful as a sophomore, you need to diversify your options. Potential employers want to see that you worked for a firm, not just your alma mater.

And when (not if) you get that internship, show up on time, dressed decently and acting responsibly. Internships don’t just build your resume and wallet, they are foundational to your network. The ultimate goal is to get a letter of reference from a former employer or another opportunity for the summer of senior year.

I know you’re probably tired. You dread the weight of classes, extracurriculars and life. But this is not the time to phase out, this is the moment to set yourself up for senior year. Don’t stop.

With that said, you’re also at a unique place in collegiate life. Most likely, you’re no longer isolated. You’ve grown a network of friends and peers. Through your class, club, or fraternity, there should be an end to the things you can do.

Pick and choose. You will not, and should not be expected to do everything. Junior year may already be incredibly busy with classes and professional development, any freetime might evaporate before tired eyes. Find something to cut or else you will go crazy.

This is the time to keep going or get back on track. If you didn’t utilize our counseling center, try it out. Even if you don’t like it. It’s free. Therapy will set you back hundreds of dollars a month even with insurance. If an employer visits for Coffee and Careers that peaks your interest, don’t skip or sleep in.

Above all, ignore all the BS and keep grinding. Wabash can be a massive gossip mill, we’re much like a small town in that way.

Remember what matters, the bonds you’ve formed, knowledge you’ve gained and sacrifices you’ve made.

And at the end of the day, have a drink and

give yourself a break. Life can be hard, decompress, destress and get up the next day.

You should think ahead. You should apply early. But you can’t dwell on what happened yesterday. Each day is another chance to get

back on that track, or even figure out what that track is meant to be!

If you play things right, that light at the end of the tunnel might not be a train.

Wabash Club of Indianapolis

It's Coming Soon Enough, Seniors.



If You're Settling in the Indy Area after Graduation, Connect with Us Now.

facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis

More to come: New features in the Bachelor

Grueling academics aren't the only thing that Wabash has to look forward to when late August rolls around. Every year we get to relive the promise of fresh starts for our Athletics, and with that *The Bachelor's* sports section gets another chance to push the envelope of what the volunteer staff of a small school newspaper can accomplish. But that's not all! With election season rolling around, readers can expect a hearty breath of national politics. And, while we all might not be excited for it, the opinion section is braced and ready for any hot-takes from Wabash's most creative minds.

This year we hope to bring a fresh take on the same old tradition. Of course that starts with bringing back the best of what we've seen in year's past. Careful and informative weekly coverage of individual teams will continue to be the backbone of our sports operation. And we push to deepen our coverage and highlight the most essential elements of every story.

Bold sports features that highlight the best of what Wabash can accomplish aren't going anywhere either. Fan favorite specialty pieces like our team and player power rankings will continue to mix into our regular content.

On top of that we're broadening our scope to investigate issues that impact college sports beyond the confines of individual seasons. And we will revive old ideas like Team of the month and scouting pieces and to offer our readers as many creative ideas as we can fit on the page.

Our objective with sports is to double down on showcasing bold sports features that highlight the best Wabash is capable of, providing sharp analysis that gives the reader special insight into every aspect of the game and asking thoughtful questions that bring the experience of coaches and players to the forefront of our pages.

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A letter to my peers: Advice to the class of 2025



Ethan Lewis '24

Reply to this opinion at
lewisetan17@outlook.com

Wabash College Class of 2025, Like most of you, I too found myself in Little Giant Stadium on August 21, 2021. I watched President Feller ring us in while we all sat six feet from one another.

I write this not from a room at TKE but from my new apartment in Indy, a recent graduate too busy to realize how fast the time goes. I suppose that means this is as much for me as it is for all of you seniors.

You will no doubt be inundated with emails reminding you to go to career fairs, to talk to recruiters and to submit grad school applications.

You have been reminded to stay in touch with your connections from internships. But did you know you should also reach out to our alumni network? I thought so.

You have all worked tirelessly for the last three years to get to this point, and I know these are the last things you want to be hearing right now so, instead of harping endlessly on these points, I hope to present a way forward, a glimmer of hope for your post-Wabash life and a reminder that your efforts,

commitment, and sleepless nights were worth it.

You’ve just started your final fall semester. Aside from classes, your first priority is assessing your situation. MCAT and LSAT scores will be received alongside verdicts on full-time offers from your former internships.

For some of you, your next steps will be influenced in large part by those results and offers. For most of you though, the future is still unknown.

Step zero is understanding that, for better or worse, this is your reality. The sooner you understand and accept this, the sooner you can make progress towards the future you want.

Now, look directly ahead. The next eight months will not be glamorous. Many of you had the forethought, as well as the prior work ethic, to earn your way into two three-credit semesters, while others need to take five and two labs in the spring.

It is so incredibly easy to slack off and say these semesters do not matter, but the harsh reality is you are doing yourself a disservice by half-assing your way through these classes. There are not enough cliches in the world to fully demonstrate how much better off you will be if you just put in a little extra effort.

I know that reminder is not something you want to read, but stick with me. I would encourage each of you to consider what you get out of each of the classes you take. Yes, mastery of the material is important for your grade, but I would argue that that is less valuable than the intangibles that a Wabash education

forces you to develop.

On the surface, Prof. Ross’s Astronomy class teaches you about the world and greater universe we inhabit, yes, it is much more challenging than you’d expect, and yes, I still remember the order of spectral classes of stars (O, B, A, F, G, K, M), but I gained so much more from that class than a budding appreciation for astronomy.

I was reminded of the value of persistence, humility and teamwork. Similarly, my time in philosophy and political science classes did in fact drive me to read endless texts and to pit them against one another, it also gave me a greater appreciation for discussion and debate, and forced me to find a willingness to consider views that did not align with my own.

The most valuable skill I earned in my time at Wabash though was my work ethic. Ask any professor I had, and they will surely tell you I was not always a good student, especially at the beginning of my tenure. Even still, I was shown a constant and overwhelming level of support.

Because of that support, I developed the motivation to excel at all I attempted. It is this motivation that, above almost anything else I have learned from my time at Wabash, has served me so well in my albeit short professional life.

Wabash helps to build professionals. But the most valuable lessons we learn from Wabash are undoubtedly found in our personal lives. The relationships you forge with your fraternity brothers, classmates and even with your professors, drive you to be a better man

in all that you do.

If you only take one thing from my message, I hope it is this: Surround yourself with others that want to guide you towards being better tomorrow than you were today. You are in a place where such people are in abundance, so it is up to you to find them. Join a club or take a class in a department you have been desperately trying to avoid. Push yourself to make the most of the next eight months.

There is an old saying, however cliché it may be, that says “If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life.” This is partially true though that may be a discussion for a later time when I truly love the work I do.

Luckily for you all though, you are surrounded by faculty and staff that love what they do. Professors like Prof. Ross in physics, Prof. Snow in PPE and Prof. Tucker in modern languages are all professors that truly love what they do, and it shows.

While you may not have a vested interest in the fields they teach, you can surely find inspiration in the passion they bring to their work and the positive influence they have on campus. That positivity, that excitement and that genuine passion is what I urge each of you to first see in others and then seek out for yourself.

Class of 2025, you are in the home stretch. The class periods will go slow and the weeks will fly by. Hold yourself accountable, challenge yourself in broadening your horizons and earn a future you can take pride in.

W.A.F.

Wally’s wall: Freshmen Q&A

The Prompt (sent to freshmen):

Give us your best questions about college life! We’ll answer them.

Owen Vermeulen ’28

What are some essential things to make your room feel more like home?

Bringing furniture like a rug or light strip can make your dorm feel less like a hotel. Physical pictures of loved ones can be helpful for homesickness. The top room decorations, by far, are controversial or wild flags. If you can place them in a public area, even better. Go to Goodwill if you need cheap furniture.

Diego Vilasenor-Sagrero ’28

What is the best place to eat in town?

Francis and Mount. That’s where you go when Mom comes to town. Don’t try to go their regularly on a college student budget, though. Creekside is popular, but you’ll need a driver

Benjamin Church ’28

Are there any nice food spots around town? Hidden gems like a small shop or quiet coffee shop?

Second City Cafe and Joshua Cup are both nice cafes. Try them out and see if you like them. If you have a car, take a trip to the Parthenon on the road to Walmart, the owner is a cool guy.

Ryan Bartley ’28

What is the most cost-efficient restaurant in town?

Breakfast Co. and Brothers are both cost effective. Getting groceries and cooking will be your cheapest option in the long-run.

Colin Sutter ’28

What are some of the better breakfast and dinner places to eat? Also, what are some tips on time management?

Breakfast Co. is the usual spot, but I’d recommend Forum. It’s a taste of old Americana, breakfast and dinner food as the founders intended. Greasy and Cheap.

For time management, make a calendar through Outlook before class really gets started. Try to find a ‘work day’ and clear your schedule. Or, block out time periods. Get started and figure your work style.

Advice to Freshmen



Prof. Michael Abbott ’85
Reply to this opinion at abbottm@wabash.edu

Welcome Wabash class of 2028! When Preston Reynolds 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. 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.

Good luck, new Wabash students!

Dueling Opinions

or



Now is the perfect time to rush

Matt Lesniak ’25

Reply to this opinion at mlesnia25@wabash.edu



As the President of the Interfraternity Council at Wabash College, I stand as both a passionate advocate for Greek life and a living example of the opportunities it offers. Greek life is more than just a social choice, it’s a pathway to personal growth, academic excellence and professional advancement. While I respect the individualistic approach fostered by the Independent Men’s Association, I firmly believe that fraternity life presents unparalleled benefits that significantly enhance the Wabash College experience.

One of the most pervasive myths about fraternities is the stereotype of a party-centric culture. At Wabash College, this couldn’t be further from the truth. We are dedicated to excel in academic achievements. In fact, fraternity members consistently maintain higher average GPAs compared to their independent peers. This success can be attributed to the academic committee in each house, where brothers monitor their brothers’ grades and provide guidance to those struggling academically.

Beyond academics, fraternities at Wabash play a crucial role in nurturing athletic talent and building camaraderie among members. The structure and ethos of fraternity life closely mirror those of a sports team—both are built on unity, shared goals and mutual support. In this setting, fraternity members develop essential qualities such as resilience, leadership and commitment, which serve them well both on and off the field.

The influence of Greek life extends far beyond academics and athletics. Perhaps its most significant contribution is the strong sense of belonging it fosters. College life is an exciting yet challenging journey, often marked by new experiences and expectations that can lead to feelings of loneliness.

Fraternities provide a reliable support system during these times, offering a ‘home away from home.’ Within this community, young men find acceptance, build meaningful connections and forge lifelong friendships. This sense of belonging enriches their undergraduate experience, making it more positive and memorable.

Moreover, fraternity life is a catalyst for personal growth and leadership development. Membership in a fraternity is not just about being part of a group; it’s an opportunity to take on leadership roles and responsibilities that cultivate both personal and professional skills. These experiences shape fraternity members into responsible, confident and community-conscious individuals, better preparing them for life after college.

Fraternity life also opens doors to an extensive network of alumni and professionals across various fields. These connections go beyond mere networking—they offer mentorship, career guidance, and often lead to internships and job opportunities. The relationships formed in a fraternity extend far beyond our campus in Crawfordsville, Indiana, providing a nationwide support network that members can rely on throughout their careers.

Of course, the decision to join a fraternity or remain independent is a deeply personal one. Every student should have the freedom to choose the path that best aligns with their values, aspirations, and needs. Independent life has its own unique set of benefits and opportunities. It’s important to recognize that fraternity life is not a one-size-fits-all solution.

However, in my experience, the fraternity structure at Wabash College offers a comprehensive support system that nurtures academic and athletic success, fosters a deep sense of belonging, promotes personal development and facilitates professional networking. For any young man seeking to maximize his college experience and prepare for life beyond Wabash, Greek life is a choice worth serious consideration. It’s an opportunity to be part of something larger than oneself, to grow in ways that extend far beyond the classroom and to build a foundation for lifelong success.

Brotherhood has no bounds

Ryan Papandria ’25

Reply to this opinion at rlpapand25@wabash.edu



To all the upperclassmen, welcome back boys, it’s great to see you again. For the freshmen (to whom this opinion is directed), welcome home. I hope you all have had the chance to settle in and sponge up the hours of orientation materials you have received the past few days. I know how hectic the first week or two here can be, but it will surely get better and soon enough, you will settle into a rhythm.

First, I want to highlight my thoughts on housing. While my role as Independent Men’s Association (IMA for short) President may appear that I wish no one would rush and everyone should stay independent, that is quite the opposite of my mindset. I believe all freshmen should take a look at Greek life, even if one initially does not think they want to rush.

For starters, checking out each house gives you the opportunity to meet more people and learn more about others on campus socially. Secondly, it is important to have all information available to you before choosing to rush or remain independent. Although it is not intuitive, living independent should be a conscious decision. You should be choosing the lifestyle of an independent and involve yourself on campus in a diverse level of ways. If it helps, talk to upperclassmen, both Greek and independents, and see why they chose which path. For me, choosing independence allowed me to set my own schedule, create my own path at Wabash, and spend more time with some of the friends I had made already to that point.

A common misconception of independent living is that it can be difficult to have a social life and much

easier in fraternities. While it may take some adjustments and discomfort initially, most if not all Wabash men are willing to get to know you and have a good time on the weekends, it is just up to you to seize the opportunity when you can. Getting to know your peers through your classes, living units, and other organizations will allow this process to be much smoother. Put yourself out there and be confident in yourself!

In the second part of this opinion, I want to offer you all some advice on navigating these first few weeks at Wabash.

Although it may be stressful to make many decisions that could influence the rest of your Wabash experience, do not let the fear of making the wrong choice deter you from putting yourself out there. Getting out of your comfort zone and creating memorable experiences is what college is all about, and Wabash provides a substantial amount of opportunities to help you find your place.

As a freshman myself, I struggled to involve myself on campus, and it took me until the next year to finally break out of my shell and join different organizations that interested me. Finding your place can be a process, so don’t worry if you can’t find it immediately. For myself and many other Wabash men, it took some time.

Which leads me to my second piece of advice: it is never too late to get involved here. Even if it feels like you are running behind the rest of the pack, there are always fraternities, clubs, and groups to join well after freshmen year. Go to the events, become a regular, and create a unique experience for yourself that you are happy with.

To conclude, you cannot go wrong with choosing either Greek life or independent life. The Wabash brotherhood extends far beyond whether or not someone has a few letters in their Instagram bio. Each option can provide you a unique experience that you could never find at any other school. If you have any questions about independent living, the IMA or Wabash, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

Final note for the independents, you

Sorensen-Kamakian named Indiana Academy of Science fellow



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Associate Professor of Biology Erika Sorensen-Kamakian listens to a student's question during lab.

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25
MANAGING EDITOR

Associate Professor of Biology Erika Sorensen-Kamakian was named a 2024 Academy Fellow by the Indiana Academy of Science (IAS).

According to the IAS, "A fellow is a member of the Academy who has demonstrated service to the Academy and to the advancement of science in Indiana, service to education in science, and achievements in scientific research."

"Being a part of that organization has been important to me, and so it was really nice to be recognized for my contributions, especially as a newer member," Sorensen said.

"[Sorensen-Kamakian] spends a lot of time making thoughtful commentary and edits, and the end result tends to be not only a better poster, but a better understanding of how to be an effective scientific communicator."

- Tom Oppman '25

After earning a B.S. in biology and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a Ph.D. in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology and genetics from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Sorensen arrived at Wabash in 2016. In 2018, she joined the IAS and immediately made an impact.

From 2019–21, she served as the vice chair and chair of the cell biology section, and from 2023–25, she is serving as member-at-large on the Academy council and as a member of the committee for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Her crowning achievement, however, was helping found the Emerging Scientist Research Poster Competition committee.

"I was really looking for an opportunity

for my students that work in my laboratory to have chances to present in a more professional atmosphere," Sorensen said. "We wanted to make a competition for the young presenters, so they could be recognized for their exceptional contributions in research or their ability to present work to a variety of scientists not directly in their field."

Since then, Sorensen has taken pride in mentoring students and helping prepare them to present their work in professional settings.

"I gained a real sense of agency and responsibility from presenting my work," said Tom Oppman '25, one of Sorensen's students who presented at the IAS poster competition she helped create. "I had put in the hours from experimental design to presenting data and had been the driving force in my project. It felt good to be able to share my enthusiasm with others."

"She really helped get our posters to a point where we felt confident they were thorough and accurate," he continued. "She spends a lot of time making thoughtful commentary and edits, and the end result tends to be not only a better poster, but a better understanding of how to be an effective scientific communicator."

Sorensen hopes that her recognition will encourage her colleagues to join the Academy and help connect their students to a broader network of scientists in Indiana.

"A regional meeting is a wonderful opportunity for our students to get professional experience they can use to build their resumes," Sorensen said. "It would be really wonderful if more of our students made an appearance and gave presentations at the Academy meeting."

Sorensen believes the most important part of her involvement with IAS is helping create a supportive environment for students and professionals alike.

"Serving on the diversity, equity and inclusion committee has been especially rewarding, because that's also about making people feel included and welcomed," Sorensen said. "I hope to be a person who can encourage other members to take on leadership roles to really keep the society moving forward with fresh perspectives."

Editor's note: This article first appeared on July 8, 2024 at wabash.edu/news.

Drury returns from deliberation fellowship

ANDREW DEVER '25
STAFF WRITER

In the spring of 2022, Associate Professor of Rhetoric Sara Drury received an opportunity to lead the deliberation department for Unify America, a nonprofit organization that strives to replace political fighting with problem solving. For Drury, this opening presented a seamless transition for the organization, since its aspirations aligned closely with her work at Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse, where she served as the program's director for eight years.

Seizing on the appearance of a global deliberative moment, she quickly started at Unify America with the goal of researching practical and efficient ways to design an online deliberative platform.

As Unify America looked to implement its goal and new technology into the deliberative world, the organization was sought out by a possible collaborator to help structure and facilitate a series of deliberations with the community.

After receiving the representatives of the community of Montrose, Colorado, Drury, along with Unify America's founder, Harry Nathan Gottlieb immediately flew to Montrose to commence discussion in the rapidly changing rural Colorado county.

During her time in Colorado, Drury talked with residents across the local community, listening to the comments and concerns of Montrose's citizens regarding how their community had struggled with affordable and accessible childcare. According to Drury, the citizen assembly started with over 200 volunteer community members eager to deliberate about the childcare crisis. The cohort was eventually reduced to 50 participants, prioritizing balance and representation.

Drury noted that "demographics, in terms of age, gender, the rural and urban divide and a number of other factors became our delegates," producing a demographically representative sample.

By the time the deliberations had concluded, their positive ramifications were so widespread that the county joined together to recognize the tangible process made during the deliberations in 2023.

"In 2024, Montrose County held a celebration, elevating the deliberative process and how change is already happening in order to help address some of the needs in the community" Drury said.

Furthermore, the county has continued

to prioritize deliberative processes to discuss important community topics, founding a new organization to help this important effect. Paying homage to the work done by Drury, Gottlieb and their facilitators, the county named the organization Unify Montrose.

Additionally, this past summer, before returning to Wabash College, Drury received a subsequent offer to help Campus Compact write a Kickstarter guide for higher education this fall. Primarily, she focused on encouraging college campuses to think about how they can improve discourse over the school year and take actionable steps to put the necessary resources in place to make this a reality. For Drury, this provided a great segue to her return to Wabash, as it prompted her to reflect on the work that Wabash does to promote civil deliberation.

"Wabash is a place where discourse has always been such a vital part of the liberal arts education," Drury said. "It really fills me with excitement and enthusiasm for the coming semester."

Now that she has returned to Wabash, Drury is excited to transfer the knowledge and experience ascertained from her time with Unify America and Campus Compact back into the classroom. This fall semester, she will lead three classes as part of the rhetoric department. First, she will teach the rhetoric department's senior seminar course, which will engage in discussions on difficult ideas ultimately culminating in those students developing their own personal projects on specific topics of interest to them.

Drury's return could not come at a better time for the department, as rhetoric has seen a marked increase in popularity, with an especially large senior class this year.

"Dr. Drury's advisees can look forward to great mentorship and students across the major should look forward to inspiring course offerings," said Professor Chris Anderson, Director of Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse. "Dr. Drury is a deeply passionate faculty member who contributes heavily in the classroom, in the department and across committee appointments for the College."

Additionally, Dr. Drury will lead rhetorical science and public policy, focusing on strategies to discuss difficult issues in medicine, health, public health and classical rhetoric, which investigates the roots and origins of modern rhetoric in classical antiquity.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Associate Professor of Rhetoric Sara Drury lists key concepts for her class.

Review: 'The Great American Bar Scene' an ode to life's quiet moments



COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

NOAH MCROBERTS '25
STAFF WRITER

Harnessing the nostalgia of many local dive favorites, the traveling troubadour Zach Bryan returned with "The Great American Bar Scene," his third studio album in three years, this time released on Independence Day. With his absurd rise to stardom after the release of the sizable 34-song album "Great American Heartbreak" and the eponymous "Zach Bryan," expectations were high in 2024. Unlike the latter album, the singer-songwriter released a short series of singles as a buildup to his new project. The first of the two, "Pink Skies," had a quiet initial release on May 24 before

exploding in popularity a few weeks later, and, to this day, it remains his second most popular song on Spotify, sitting behind Kacey Musgraves collab "I Remember Everything." Once he released "Purple Gas," a collaboration with then-unknown singer Noeline Hofmann, who penned the song, fans figured a new album was imminent.

Though I waited expectantly for the album, I held off listening to it for three days after the release, so I could put the album on repeat for a road trip with a friend. I probably played it seven times over the course of that weekend. As I reeled through the track listing, I quickly identified a shift in tone in the album as a whole. Where "Zach Bryan" and "American Heartbreak" have a host of powerful, driving songs in lyric and sound, his new project certainly has a more laid-back sound. This initially left me feeling as though the album was lacking compared to its predecessors; however, I experienced a somewhat similar sensation when his self-titled album released in 2023, so I figured I'd have to let it settle, taking some time to really listen to the lyrics.

Certain songs did stick out pretty early, however. The fourth song on the track is a notable example. "28" tugged at the heartstrings very quickly. From the outset, it was easy to discern how personal it was for the military vet as it "took twenty-eight years of blood [he] was lost in to

feel loved on [his] own birthday." Powerful lyrics seemingly referencing his romance with Brianna LaPaglia are accompanied by passionate piano, serenading strings and expressive electric guitar.

Some of the themes of the song permeate his new project. The superstar continually wrestles with growing in age and character in a shifting world. A personal favorite, "Mechanical Bull" reminisces about "the old ways" and "Graham and Lucas...having kids...while [he] climbs out a hole [he] never dug." "Purple Gas" is a story about a beatdown "flatland boy" as the "world blurs past...[his] horizon line's static." "Boons" laments about that "talk downtown" that misses the simple things in life, like a "girl deep in the city...that don't mind sittin' with me."

However, the lament is paired with a sense of hopefulness best embodied in "Pink Skies." A eulogy-like song, there is a tone of sadness about a loved one gone past, but the chorus ends with a bold proclamation of "I bet God heard you coming." This sense of hope frequents Zach Bryan's grief-stricken songwriting as "them better days always come back around," he says with John Mayer strumming away. I feel this sense of hope the most in his collaboration with little-known John Moreland, "Memphis; The Blues" features soul-lifting acoustic guitar solos separating verses from

Zach and John. There's "cold wind comin' and the heat quit runnin', but you keep my candle lit," belts Moreland about the lover, who like "Memphis; the Blues," is sublime yet sad.

While the album as a whole lacks the power of albums past, this relates to our life experience. There aren't always massive ups and downs in our lives. Most problems and hopes are small, yet not lacking significance. Sometimes the thing that lifts us is a simple handshake and hug after a long summer apart or a simple evening with the boys around a bonfire. Other times, we just wake up a little down without much cause. In the end, "If [we're] lucky enough, we'll remember the shaky things we've seen, [so] grab your beers through tears and fears, the great American bar scene."

FINAL VERDICT:
4/5 WALLYS



Freshmen DOs and DON'Ts

DO get your W at Chapel Sing.

DON'T wear gold and black under ANY circumstances.

DO complete the reading for any Professor Himself course.

DON'T go home every weekend. You joined the brotherhood for a reason.

DO write for *The Bachelor*.



DON'T disregard basic hygiene just because the Rhynes are doing it.

DO respect campus property (trust us, it had to be said).

DON'T wait to eat at Sparks one last time. You'll be a part of history.

DON'T be the guy who has wayyyy too much fun at his first tailgate.

DO go to Chapel — but that's the only time you should listen to a Rhyme.

Q&A with Student Body President Donahue

The Bachelor: In an Instagram post on July 24, you described your goal “to enhance [Wabash’s] renowned sense of community and create a more accepting, lively and positive environment where everyone feels welcome.” What events, policies, or services do you intend to bring to campus to accomplish that vision?

Anthony Donahue '25: To achieve this, we are implementing a range of initiatives and fostering dialogue designed to promote more engagement and inclusivity from the student body. We have actively sought input from diverse groups across campus, including MXI, La Alianza, 'shOUT and members of fraternities, independents, sports teams and even clubs such as the DJ and Dork Club. Moving forward, we will continue to prioritize this inclusive dialogue and integrate feedback into our planning processes. Our approach includes regularly

measuring engagement through various metrics, ensuring that our efforts align with the needs and desires of the student body. By expanding activities and creating new opportunities, we aim to build a more dynamic campus experience for everyone. We've had a plan since the beginning to be proactive in our planning, and by doing so, we are able to include and collaborate cross-functionally with as many groups as possible.

Bachelor: What has your summer looked like in preparation for this year?

Donahue: Following the conclusion of last year's election, Vice President Jonah Billups and I hit the ground running. We actually began planning what was next prior to the election results coming out — driven by our confidence in our platform and our commitment to its successful implementation. We

selected committee heads, met with them and made sure they met with their respective members multiple times prior to summer break. Over the summer, we held frequent meetings with committee leaders and even engaged in productive discussions with counterparts at DePauw University to explore any potential collaborations. Overall, our objective was to finalize the fall semester's calendar to maintain momentum and ensure a continuous flow of activities. This preparation has been meticulous, and we have set the stage for a vibrant and engaging semester from the outset.

Bachelor: You have announced plans for events through August 31. How do you intend to keep up the momentum after those events?

Donahue: Our planning efforts throughout the summer have been dedicated to creating a robust and engaging calendar for the entire fall semester. We have developed a preliminary schedule packed with events and activities designed to sustain student involvement and enthusiasm well beyond the ini-



COURTESY OF ANTHONY DONAHUE '25

tial events scheduled through August the first two weeks. While I am eager to share more details in due time, I assure you that our strategy is focused on providing a steady stream of engaging opportunities throughout the semester. We have experienced the lulls in time where it feels like nothing is happening on campus — where we are just waiting for Bell Week or National Act to finally arrive — but that sort of thinking will now be a thing of the past due to our proactive approach and commitment to bringing excitement back to Wabash.

Bachelor: What's your message to students returning for another year at Wabash?

Donahue: To all students returning to Wabash, I want to express my enthusiasm for the year ahead. I am committed to working diligently, actively listening to your feedback and ensuring that this year is both rewarding and memorable for everyone. Together, we will build on our strong foundation and create an exceptional campus experience for all. I have not lost the desire I had last spring to create a better Wabash, and I have been — and will continue to — work to create an environment here in Crawfordsville that every Little Giant is proud to call home.

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WABASH ALWAYS LAUGHS

8/31, 1-2, CLUB FAIR
BACK-TO-BASH
5-7, DJ | 7-9, OVERLOOK

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'Inside Out 2' evokes new emotion: 'Meh'

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25
MANAGING EDITOR

When Pixar released “Inside Out” nearly a decade ago, it shook up the animation world. The emotions in Riley’s head spilled off the screen and into our everyday lives, sparking memes, inspiring new methods for child therapy and adding “core memories” to our vocabulary. With “Inside Out 2,” Pixar aimed to recreate the same magic with different colors... less successfully.

Most viewers of the original movie remember it for its ruthless attack on our heartstrings. (Composer Michael Giacchino’s opening track “Bundle of Joy” perfectly set the mood for the tender and precise story to follow.) “Inside Out 2” is no different. If you’re hoping to make it through the film without shedding a tear, I challenge you to make it past the first three minutes — I certainly couldn’t. Pixar has discovered the secret sauce to cranking out mostly effective narratives, I just wish they would have thought a little more outside the box.

Unfortunately, waiting a decade to release a sequel means you have to make concessions with casting, and the swaps from Bill Hader to Tony Hale and Mindy Kaling to Liza Lapira felt like downgrades. It mostly went unnoticed, though, since the second installment introduces five new emotions.

As Riley navigates the nightmare that is the combination of puberty and a new school, she encounters Anxiety, Envy, Embarrassment, Ennui and Nostalgia. Maya Hawke’s Anxiety is one of the most relatable characters in cinema I’ve ever seen. To quote Joy, “I don’t know how to stop Anxiety. Maybe we can’t. Maybe this is what happens when you grow up. You feel less joy.” Preach.

The other characters are each varying levels of “meh.” Envy is funny, Embarrassment is cute and Ennui might as well not be there. While I was highly disappointed that Bing Bong didn’t make a resurgence from the depths of the



COURTESY OF IMDB

memory dump, the unexpected team-up of Anger and Pouchy stole the show.

More than just not being super interesting, the biggest letdown of “Inside Out 2” was how the new emotions failed to capture the main message of the first film — that all emotions are important. In the first movie, we see how Disgust keeps Riley healthy, Fear keeps her safe, etc. Aside from Anxiety, who discovers her role to protect Riley from potential problems, the other emotions just don’t seem to add anything. Sure, teenagers feel envy and boredom, but the film never displays how those emotions can be healthy. Even when Embarrassment helps save the day, it doesn’t display something positive about feeling embarrassment.

Overall, the plot was interesting enough — it was cute and easy to follow — but when it came to wrapping it up, they took the easy route, rather than the realistic one. The pacing felt off and the ending felt rushed.

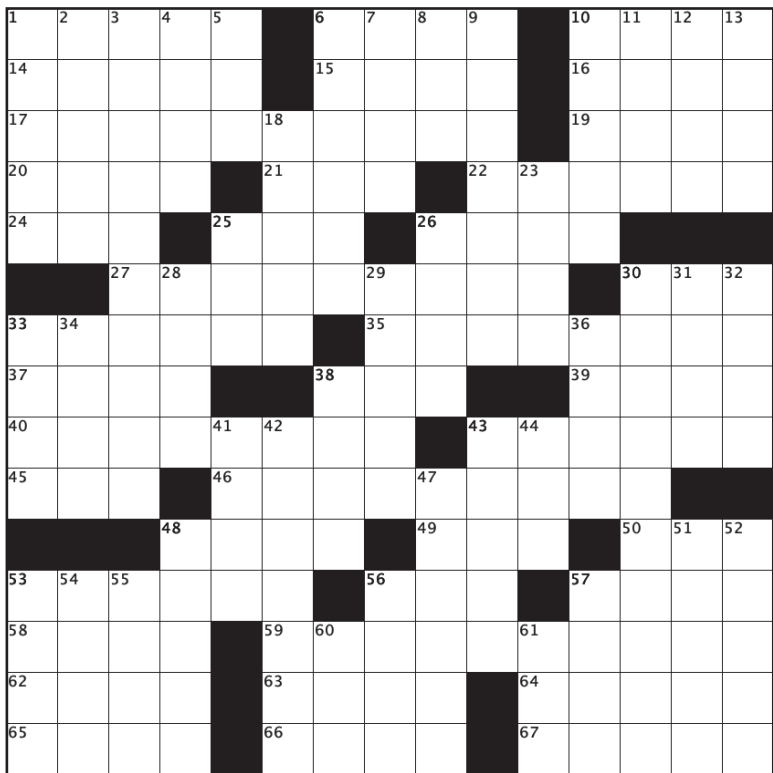
In the end, “Inside Out 2” was a perfectly enjoyable way to spend an hour and a half, but hardly worth the \$15 ticket to see it in IMAX. Final recommendation: Skip the theater, and wait to watch it on your roommate’s mom’s Disney+ account.

FINAL VERDICT:
2/5 WALLYS



'Where we're going, we don't need roads'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



Down

- Gratified
- Number one in drug testing?
- Depravity
- Bagful carried by a caddie
- Crawfordsville summer hrs.
- Honey-Maid cracker
- Prepares to race, in a way
- Summer beverage suffix
- Prop up
- Courtroom address (with "your")
- Word golfers don't like in their scores
- Swimming competition
- Scraps
- Bow application
- Catherine ____, Henry VIII's sixth wife
- Common casino installation: Abbr.
- Length of visit
- Debaucher
- Pass into law
- Preparing to race, in a way
- Curl one's lip
- Greek counterpart to Mars
- "Gimme a few ____"

- A gem of a name
- "It's ____!" (judge's cry)
- "Warmer," e.g.
- 1952 Winter Olympics host
- Spotted cat
- Blockbuster
- Production of Spiderman?
- Part atop the arch
- All the world, per Shakespeare
- To eat at a Mexican restaurant
- Hole-in-the-wall
- Great Salt or Great Bear
- Opera highlight
- Pigs' digs
- Otherwise
- "Set phasers to ____"
- Bit of baloney
- Many a Fulbrighter: Abbr.

Across

- "Presidential" hotel accommodation
- Catch hold of
- Corner of a diamond
- Dangerous pairing?
- What might be written atop a poorly written paper
- Bun baker
- *Common sci-fi trope, or what happens to the answer's first word across this puzzle
- Scholarship factor
- Son of Seth, in the Bible
- "Exes and ____" (Elle King song)
- Popular section of a college newspaper
- German article
- Butterfield of "Sex Education"
- What might denote a themed clue in a crossword puzzle
- *In-flight reading
- Where you might get into hot water?
- Like some vows
- Storyteller who can be "unreliable"
- "Gilgamesh," e.g.
- Part of a stable diet?
- Answer with a 50-50 chance of being right
- Un-Reformed?
- Term akin to honey or sugar
- Foxy
- *Greeting-card contents
- Piggy-bank feature
- Catch, as a crook
- Loops in, as an email
- Mac, e.g.
- Curve on a slalom path
- Clog or loafer
- l x w, mathematically
- *Without respite
- Ben E. or B.B.
- Courtroom command
- Prepared to play, perhaps
- "With ____!" (boastful reply)
- Thought-provoking
- Ticked off

Scan for solution!



'Vultures 1' review: From vultures to roadkill

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25
STAFF WRITER

Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, released his 13th studio album, “Vultures 1”, on February 10, 2024, nearly 900 days after his previous LP, “Donda”. This album is a collaboration with frequent featuring artist and melodic rap specialist, Ty Dolla \$ign. The project contains 16 tracks totaling 56 minutes, all previewed at two listening parties held days before the album’s release. This release is the first of their intended “Vultures” album trilogy set to release, with “Vultures 2” expected to drop in March and “Vultures 3” in April.

Sonically, Ye and Ty rely heavily on a house music approach in this album. As a result, this makes the album much more fun-sounding and more adaptive to what hip-hop sounds like today. Lyrically however, the album is relatively surface-level and lacks the introspection that Kanye has always been known for. The main theme that pops up in almost every song is relationships with women and his sexualization of them. The album cover of his new wife, Bianca Censori, highlights this theme perhaps better than the lyrics.

As for my opinion of the album, I will start with the positives. Many of the songs are flat-out hits. “CARNIVAL” shot up to number one on Spotify and Apple Music already for a reason, mainly due to its anthemic production and great vocals across the board, not to mention a sweet sample of “Hell of a Life” from “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy” halfway through.

Other notable hard-hitting bangers from the album are “HOODRAT” and “PAPERWORK.” “HOODRAT” is just extraordinarily catchy and juxtaposes melodic rap singing from

both Ye and Ty with a grungier Yeezus-esque couple of verses and production from Ye. “PAPERWORK” includes another crazy electric guitar sample and an awesome feature from Quavo.



COURTESY OF GENIUS

The album does not lack soft, flowing tracks either. “BURN” is my personal favorite performance from both Ye and Ty. This song feels as if it was pulled straight from 2007, as we get a true old-Kanye performance lyrically and production-wise. “GOOD (DON’T DIE)” includes a beautiful sample from Donna Summer and shares many similarities to “808s and Heartbreak”, and even has a bit of a Radiohead feel.

Front to back, this album has many great songs. My biggest gripe with the album, however, comes from its lack of cohesion.

Big picture, outside of the intro and outro (which are both perfectly placed in my opinion), this album feels more like a playlist of some great songs by the two artists. No two songs have much of the same sound, with some having soul samples, others being straight trap music and others that sound like true house music. There is no one direction that this album follows, and that hurts its rating.

The lyrical performance from Ye is good in some places, but many songs simply sound ridiculous. Sure, he sounds like he is having fun recording, but in songs like “F**K SUMN” and “PAID,” he sounds ridiculous and attempts to take the style of featured rappers, mostly not hitting the mark. Plus, the actual content of the lyrics in the whole album is alarming, considering how he talks about women and the fact that he has four kids.

Overall, I like the music from the album, but the album as a whole body of art just does not stack up to the rest of Ye’s discography. I rank this album just behind “JESUS IS KING” as his worst released album. Regardless, I will still listen to it due to its great replayability and I rank many of these songs highly standalone.

FINAL VERDICT:
2.5/5 WALLYS



Coach Gilbert '98 talks plans for future beginning with the present

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

In March, *The Bachelor* reported the hiring of Associate Head Coach Jake Gilbert '98, who will spend one year as the team's defensive coordinator before succeeding Head Football Coach Don Morel, who will retire at the end of the 2024 football season. This week, *The Bachelor* sat down with Morel and Gilbert to give their perspective about the fast-approaching 2024 season.

Planning in a year to transition the program is an uncommon scenario in sports, which opened the door for uncertainty. Coming from a wildly successful career as head coach at Westfield High School, Gilbert was not looking to move. But Gilbert was willing to take on the unique situation if it meant returning to his alma mater.

"When Coach [Morel] called me and asked me about it, it didn't take a whole lot [to convince me]," said Gilbert. "I had such an amazing situation. I wasn't looking for college jobs at all, but the opportunity to coach here was my dream. I thought—maybe in retirement—someday I could come back here and help again. But for me to get an opportunity to be the head football coach here, I could never say no to it."

For Morel, the chance to bring in a defensive coordinator of Gilbert's caliber and secure the future of his team even after his own tenure in one move was too good to miss.

"Wabash got it completely right," said Morel. "Jake's a great guy. He's a perfect fit for the job. It makes me very comfortable knowing I'm the head coach. I've got a great defensive coordinator, who will be the next head coach, and we're in a great position. I'm leaving this program in better shape than I got it."

For Gilbert, this season is a chance to set the table for when he takes over the program, something he is in no rush to do. Over the next few months he plans to develop



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25
Associate Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98 coaches a Wabash linebacker at training camp at Little Giant Stadium.

his vision for the future for the program firmly grounded in the present season.

"As a leader, you always have a big picture vision you're marching towards," said Gilbert. "You're thinking of ideas of how we can improve this for next year or the year after, but you're firmly planted in the present.

And if you're a football coach, there's plenty going on in the present, in season, for sure."

It would be all too easy for Gilbert to look at the upcoming year as something to be gotten through before he inherits the team. Instead, he sees the 2024 season as a chance to learn from observing as much as it is to lead by

example.

"Any way I can serve or just help the team overall, I want to lead and do that," said Gilbert. "It's an opportunity for me to learn and grow. Usually when you're in charge, you don't get to watch someone else model the job for you. I get that opportunity this year, and I've been trying to

take that opportunity."

Rather than focusing on what he plans to do when he takes the head position, Gilbert wasted no time in explaining the way he understands his role in the upcoming season.

"Wabash got it completely right," said Morel. "Jake's a great guy. He's a perfect fit for the job."

-Coach Don Morel

"My job is to be the best assistant I possibly can be," said Gilbert. "Coach Olmstead tells me the job of an assistant is to echo the vision of the head coach. I think there's a lot of wisdom in that. I've been a head coach most of my professional life, so I appreciate that loyalty. I want to give that loyalty. I want to support Coach [Morel] with the overall program and the goals and the aims of the program."

Gilbert looks to usher in his time as head coach only after he has done what he can to help Morel make the most of his final season in the position.

"My goals are absolutely first and foremost about right now this season," said Gilbert. "I would love nothing more than to send him [Morel] out achieving another win at the bell game."

With the season fast approaching, Gilbert and Morel echoed each other's focus on utilizing the season to demonstrate how Wabash can pull off the transitional period to strengthen the program.

The summer gave Gilbert the chance to make his first big impact on the program. The unique circumstances surrounding the transition put recruiting in an awkward place heading into the summer, as prospective players needed to be convinced that

they would fit well with not only the College but two head football coaches over their time at Wabash.

Rising to the occasion, Gilbert took charge of summer recruiting to assure families that the change wouldn't negatively impact their collegiate career.

"The kids that are here right now are going to play for Jake for three years," said Morel, "Jake [Gilbert] went into almost every house, met with every kid, got in front of him and said. 'You get Don [Morel] for a year, but then I will be the head coach. This is what I'm about. This is who I am,'" I don't think any college in America has ever done what we're doing right now. And I think the parents of the kids find it completely bold and noble."

"My job is to be the best assistant I possibly can be... I want to support Coach [Morel] with the overall program and the goals and the aims of the program."

-Head Associate Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98

In a transition that was rife with obstacles to tackle, Gilbert found returning to Wabash to be refreshingly comfortable.

"There's a sense of duty and loyalty that is palpable," said Gilbert. "It's so real. Sometimes you drift and you just pay attention from afar, but when you come back and get connected with an alumnus or you come back to campus, it rushes right back. So just like riding a bike, that deep love and endearment you have for this place, it doesn't take much to remind you."

Hiram announces plan to exit NCAC in 2025

DAYDEN SALPIETRA '27
SPORTS WRITER

Following a wave of recent movement surrounding the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), Hiram has announced its plan to leave the conference. Hiram intends to re-join the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC), of which they were a member from 1971–89.

"Hiram will participate in the NCAC as a full member this 2024-25 academic year, with all rights and privileges," said Keri Alexander, a spokesperson for the NCAC. "However, Hiram men's volleyball will initiate competition in the Presidents' Athletic Conference during the 2024-25 academic year, as they were previously accepted as a PAC affiliate member."

According to President of Hiram College Robert E. Bohrer, the main reason for the switch is that joining the PAC will allow Hiram to compete with more local schools, giving fans the opportunity to support their team at away competitions. More local competition will also allow for less missed class time due to travel for student-athletes, which Hiram hopes will promote a better balance between academics and athletics.

The switch is mutually beneficial to Hiram and the PAC as a whole.

"Adding [Hiram] back to our ranks as a full member strengthens the league academically and athletically, as well as in terms of alumni and fan engage-

ment," said PAC Commissioner Joe Onderko.

The NCAC will see major changes entering the 2025 fall season, as John Carroll University will formally join the NCAC, replacing Allegheny College, who left in 2021. The loss of Hiram and addition of John Carroll will keep the NCAC at its current size of nine teams, but the conference will need to bring in another school to get back up to the 10-school roster it used to hold.

Hiram's absence will largely go unnoticed by the NCAC, as their men's athletic teams have failed to make significant headway in recent years. During the 2023–24 academic year, Hiram went a collective .077 in men's head-to-head NCAC competition. However an eligible replacement will be sure to shake up the conference standings.

"Our presidents are actively discussing membership options and have been doing so for quite some time," said Alexander. "Membership is one of the most important, and often most difficult, decisions a conference can make."

It will take time to find the right fit, as potential new member schools must fit the existing culture of the NCAC. The members of the NCAC are looking to find an institution that considers academics, athletics, and student-athlete experiences in the same way that current members do.

Golf commits to continue historic momentum

First tournament will showcase new-look team

SAM BENEDICT '25
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Following a record-setting year for the Wabash golf team, the squad looks to build off of their success. As the season begins, one of the team's main focuses for the year will be on improving the processes in daily routines. Following a fourth place conference tournament finish last year, the team has its eyes set on another strong performance. Improving daily processes is expected to be a strong contributor to that goal.

"This year, we're being a lot more process-oriented," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21. "Last year, we were setting a lot of goals, saying we want to win conference, win tournaments. This year's a lot more about the things we can control like getting to practice on time, being committed over golf shots and different things like that."

Over the summer, Kopp was in contact with the team as they individually worked to better their golf game.

"They're all showing right now that they're committed to getting better," said Kopp. "So I'm excited to see how high we can take their potential and how much we can use up all that potential."

"I played approximately 70 rounds of golf this summer," said Matt Lesniak '25. "It was more than I played last summer for sure. My schedule was—play golf in the morning during the first tee time,

go caddy at noon and then do my classes at night. So, I was able to play a lot of golf. My index is the lowest it's ever been."

Going into the season, the team has a glaring question mark: How will they fill the three empty starting spots left behind by graduated seniors?

"They're all showing right now that they're committed to getting better. So I'm excited to see how high we can take their potential and how much we can use up all that potential."

-Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21

"Lewis Dellinger '25 is going to be huge for us," said Kopp. "I think he can be the best leader vocally for us and then he can be our best golfer as well. So that's a rare position to be in to have both of those opportunities...Matt Lesniak is another guy that I'm really excited to see what he can do. He's been a guy who's been really consistent and on the verge of getting in those lineups, and now, with those guys gone, he can really kind of assert himself in the lineup... Robert Pruzin '25 has been a workhorse his whole time here and started to see the fruits of his labor. I'm excited to see him come out and have a lot of confidence to be a leader and continue to grab those top five spots from there."

The team will have their

first opportunity to showcase who is ready to step up on August 31 at the Transylvania University Labor Day Tournament. Currently, the team hasn't established a lineup for the future, so this will be an important moment for aspiring players.

"I think a lot of people do think that we've lost a lot of talent, which we did," said Lewis Dellinger '25. "The seniors that we lost last year were really, really good, but nothing would be better than to take our team to be even better than what we have been before. I think we can make a run at conference this year."

For Kopp, this season is different for him in an unusual way.

"This is my first year coaching where there aren't guys on the team who I played with, so it's a different dynamic where they only know me as coach," said Kopp. "I'm excited to build the culture from there."

When evaluating the team culture, Kopp identified burnout as one of the main issues affecting the

team's performance, especially at the end of the season. To combat this, the team will implement "reset Mondays" where players have the option to do whatever they feel is needed to improve their game. This could be anything from working on a certain shot at their home course to taking a three-hour nap. The goal is for the players to recognize what they need to improve their game and recognize that it may not necessarily be something that relates to golf.

"You can commit yourself on the weekends to golf strictly and not have something pulling you away from the golf course because there's nothing worse than being on hole 15 and you've been stressed out for the whole weekend," said Dellinger. "Then you're getting to the end of your round and all you can think about is that paper you have to get done on the bus ride home and the result is you can't focus on golf. I think 'reset Mondays' will be very good for that, especially the guys with the heavy class load this semester."

Embracing the process: veteran Redpack returns

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

The Redpack is back to follow up on their 2023 North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championship with another successful season. The team will take on their season one step at a time, leaning on the process-driven mentality of Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary and letting the results speak for themselves.

The team's training started in the summer, where the team put in their own personal hours to get ready for the intense fall season.

"The summer is the most important part of the cross country season," said McCreary. "It's a chance for a lot of mileage and tempo work, hill reps and things of that nature. Then we come back here in the fall, when we can start to fine tune things. Cross country is really unique in that a three month stretch by yourself is what makes or breaks your season."

This year, McCreary is more focused on seeing the team trust its process of getting gradually better over the season than focusing on repeating as conference champions—although their process leads in that direction.

"Ultimately, we would love to win another conference championship, but we've had a mentality of going through the process," said McCreary. "We just want to see how good



COURTESY OF THE NORTH COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Wabash cross country holds the 2023 North Coast Athletic Conference trophy and banner after finishing first in the NCAC conference meet hosted by Denison on October 28, 2023, in Granville, Ohio.

we can be, and we'll just let the chips fall."

With a roster he can put full confidence in, McCreary has added the Gil Dodds Invitational to the schedule this season to help push the team towards their next step.

"Ultimately, we would love to win another conference championship, but we've had a mentality of going through the process."

-Head Cross Country Coach tyler McCreary

"We chose a couple of new meets we don't nor-

mally go to," said McCreary. "That's because we just have a more veteran team that I think is ready to take the next step and compete every two weeks with some of the best competition in the region and nationally."

the team boasts a strong veteran lineup with a packed eight-man freshman class coming in. Drake Hayes '24 and Joe Barnett '24 both played significant roles in last year's conference title. However the team has a competitive set of returning runners who will look to fill the open spots.

"I am looking forward to building off last year's momentum from our successful season," said Will Neubauer '25. "We have an exciting freshman class this year so I am excited to see how they grow this year."

All four members of the senior class—Neubauer, Brayden Curnutt '25, Jacob Sitzman '25 and Justin Santiago '25—received all-conference honors last season along with Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26.

"Leadership will be the big thing that the veterans will massively help with," said Curnutt, who finished ninth overall at the NCAC meet last year. "The freshmen can learn from people who have been on the team and know how to run the longer distances of cross country. Along with that, the veterans have been around the program and

know how to race competitively and competently which will (hopefully) lead to satisfying results throughout the year."

With all the momentum of previous seasons and a summer of hard work behind them, the cross country team is in good shape to have a season well-worth remembering. The Redpack will run in the annual Wabash College Alumni Run on Sunday, August 25. Their first competition will be the Franklin College Invitational held at the Blue River Cross Country Course on September 7.



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Liam Thompson (left) and Evan Sizemore (right) pose in their Wabash scarlet on Chadwick Court, their new home for the upcoming basketball season.

Basketball brings in two new coaches

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College basketball team seeks to continue its dominance in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) with the addition of two new assistant coaches to its staff: Evan Sizemore and Liam Thompson. Under the leadership of Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett, the student-athletes, the faculty, and staff I got to meet throughout the interview process," said Sizemore. "I also could feel how special of a place Wabash was the moment I stepped on campus."

Liam Thompson spent two years as a graduate assistant coach for Illinois Wesleyan University before accepting this position at Wabash. Thompson helped IWU to a College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) regular-season title going 14-2 in

(NACC) in 2023 and 2024 as an assistant coach. Sizemore accomplished a combined 43-13 record during the two-year span, winning the NACC Tournament in 2024, and earning NACC Coaching Staff of the Year honors in 2023 and 2024.

"I chose to come to Wabash because I was impressed with Coach Brumett, the student-athletes, the faculty, and staff I got to meet throughout the interview process," said Sizemore. "I also could feel how special of a place Wabash was the moment I stepped on campus."

Liam Thompson spent two years as a graduate assistant coach for Illinois Wesleyan University before accepting this position at Wabash. Thompson helped IWU to a College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) regular-season title going 14-2 in

CCIW play and 19-8 overall. Given Thompson just earned his masters from Illinois State University in 2024, he's just beginning his coaching tenure.

"In terms of me being a younger coach, it is easier to relate to all of our student-athletes given that I was a Division III athlete myself," said Thompson. "One of the most important pieces that I believe in is relationship building and maintaining, so I pride myself on getting to know our guys, their families, etc."

Although former Assistant Coaches Pat Sullivan and Aaron Jacobs are gone, Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett believes his new hires will naturally progress into the roles Sullivan and Jacobs once had.

"What's most exciting is they seem to work really well together already," said Brumett. "They're

both really into recruiting and have done their homework on Wabash and are excited to sell what we are. Coach Sizemore is taking on the role of Recruiting Coordinator and will focus a lot on the defensive side while Coach Thompson will take on strength and conditioning, alumni relations and probably work closely with me on the offensive side."

With the addition of Evan Sizemore and Liam Thompson to the coaching staff, the team is well-positioned to continue excelling in the conference. Their buy-in and commitment to the college's goals will guide the team to greater heights in seasons to come.

Sports Desk: Appreciate greatness whenever you find it

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

On the Olympic stage—under the brightest lights the world has to offer—athletes have a chance to demonstrate individual excellence and claim glory for their home country. But occasionally the athletes represent something greater. The gold medal ceremony can play more universal themes than the champions' national anthem.

From aging trio of LeBron James, Steph Curry and Kevin Durant that led USA men's basketball to gold, to the 37-year old Novak Djokovic winning the last accolade he lacked, to Simone Biles adding another gold medal to her total at an age when most gymnasts can no longer dominate globally, the 2024 Summer Olympics was a bittersweet send off to many of the greatest athletes of our generation. The elation of victory at their final curtain call

was only improved by the knowledge that we may never see these great athletes on the global stage again.

It stood as a stark reminder that greatness doesn't last forever, and we need to appreciate it before it's gone.

Over the last three years, Wabash fans have been spoiled with greatness on a more familiar scale. National Champions and contenders, semi-final runs, generation-leading talents and community-inspiring athletes have graced our historic halls with their commitment to make the most of the opportunities they have. The world might not have been watching, but the day-to-day excellence of athletes is worth appreciating while it lasts.

This year more than 200 Wabash students will take to the field, court, course, track, pool and mats to make the most of their college career. Gold medals

might not be on the line for all of them, but that won't make their journey any less unique. In the snapshot of life that a four-year college experience amounts to, brevity gives every athlete once-in-a-lifetime stakes. The fight can mean just as much as the win. Don't be afraid to appreciate the best that we have today.

Don't miss your time with Wabash waiting to win a national title. There will always be a better athlete in the future. And history will forget every champion. Celebrate greatness when you see it, no matter who else is watching.



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New year, new coach, new faces — same old goal

ELIJAH GREENE '25
PHOTO EDITOR

A new season of Wabash football is set to descend on campus; the excitement and expectation of another action-packed and successful road to the 130th Monon Bell Classic run rampant. This year, these emotions run especially high. With a whole lot of new to look for on the field, new players in the starting lineup bring a breath of fresh air to this year's football squad.

This new-look team comes as no surprise. As 5th-year eligibility for DIII college players wanes (a result of COVID-19), scores of veteran players have now left Wabash football for the world outside of college this offseason. As much as they will be missed, their departure realizes a dream of many current Wabash juniors and seniors, providing them the chance they've been waiting on for years: to finally play for the Scarlet and White on Saturday afternoons.

Chief among these Wabash hopefuls is new starting quarterback Blake White '25. White, who waited behind Wabash legend Liam Thompson '24 for three years is finally getting his chance to showcase his skills on the big stage.

"It's hard to put into words the excitement and relief to finally be named the starting quarterback," said White. "I'm very thankful for all I learned playing the backup role, but this year I plan to leave it all out on the field."

White leads a strong cohort of players who patiently have waited their turn, itching for the opportunity they are now presented with. Offensive players such as running back Xavier Tyler '26, tight end Connor Garrity '25,



As the fall season looms, Wabash football spends time running team drills (top left) in the shadow of the Chapel. The Little Giant offense looks to repeat as the top-performing offense in the NCAC, with quarterback Blake White '25 (top right, bottom left) and Head Football Coach Don Morel (bottom left) at the helm. The Wabash defense, anchored by lineman Will Olive '25 (bottom right), plans to stop opposing offenses cold.

PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

and wide receivers TJ Alexander '26, Connor Chase '26 and Tim Miller '27 have had some of Wabash's best athletes ahead of them in the depth chart over the past several years. Armed with motivation, they are poised to carve their names into the Wabash annals.

"It's fun to coach new guys," said Head Football Coach Don Morel. "I love [the veterans]. They were incredible players, but now it's time for these guys to leave their mark."

Along with new faces, this season of Wabash football is chocked full of newness. With the departure of former defensive coordinator Mike Ridings,

Wabash made an interesting decision. They hired new Associate Head Coach Jake Gilbert '98 to not one, but two positions. For the 2024 season, Gilbert will act as the team's defensive coordinator. At the season's conclusion, Don Morel will be stepping down as head coach of the Little Giants and Gilbert will assume the title.

This sort of hiring choice is unprecedented, but has created a sense of stability and continuity about the program's future, with players and coaches alike excited about the future possibilities.

"We made a statement that this program is in-

credibly special," said Morel. "I hired a defensive coordinator. There's nothing weird about that whatsoever, who, when I'm done, will become the next head coach. I think Wabash got it completely right."

defense. With two coordinators in three years and varying levels of success in that period, this unit has shown rays of promise. Gilbert plans to harness those rays and create a defensive force the NCAC will have to reckon with.

"It's fun to coach new guys I love [the veterans]. They were incredible players, but now it's time for these guys to leave their mark."

-Head Football Coach Don Morel

But before he starts his tenure as the head coach, Gilbert has to address the conundrum of the Wabash

"We need more belief and confidence," said Gilbert. "We don't need to cross our fingers that we

DIII football introduces new sideline technology

NICK WANGLER '27
SPORTS WRITER

With a new football season just right around the corner, fans should get familiar with what to expect on the field this year. At the start of some seasons, there might be minor tweaks to the rules, uniforms or officiating. However, this year the changes are tremendous, as the NCAA is now allowing Division III football programs to utilize previously restricted technology while on the field.

For the first time in Division III, all teams are allowed the privilege of eighteen electronic tablets during the game. Depending on the financial situation each program is in, some teams may be able to afford all eighteen or possibly none. Nevertheless, all teams could bring a new style of coaching and adjustments into football.

Wabash will look to utilize this new rule and advance the team's knowl-

edge during the game. The program has currently invested in six tablets to use on the sidelines and in the press box.

"We've made an investment in the technology piece, but it will be weird to see Wabash coaches with tablets on the sideline, but the game is evolving", said Head Football Coach Don Morel.

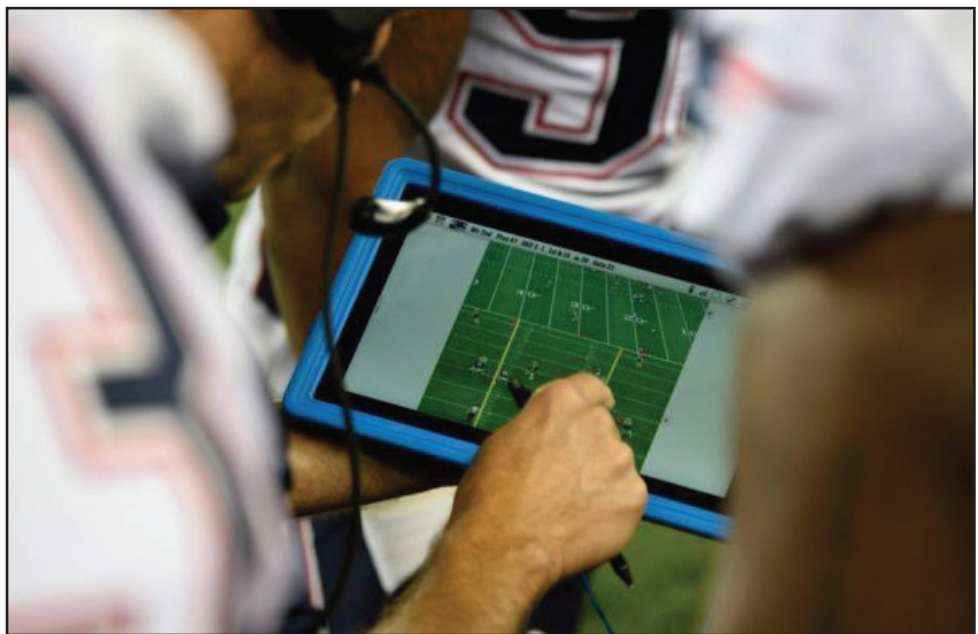
As for what the tablets will bring to the team includes a better understanding of what the opposing team is doing on both sides of the ball. Multiple camera angles will allow the coaching staff to pick up on different formations and personnel mid-game. The Little Giants plan to use most tablets in the press box as these will give a better visual on the recent plays that have occurred.

"The bulk of the work will be up in the box where they can see what's going on, then relaying it down to the field", said Morel.

"These give you a chance to have a visual to really know what just went wrong or how they are lining up, then you can give that information to the play caller". With this new style of analyzing plays, coaches will be able to sit down during the game with players, explaining a better way to make certain plays more effective.

There will be angles from the press box as well as views from the endzone; however, the teams will not be able to see angles from the broadcast feed. Teams will not be able to display any other information on the tablets other than the camera angles provided. The tablets have filters where staff and players can sort plays by play type allowing for quick access to certain formations or plays.

With a new blessing, sometimes comes a curse. Technology can be out of your control at times when you need it the most. It is



COURTESY OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL INTERNATIONAL

With the new rule changes, tablets will change how coaches approach in-game adjustments when talking to their players during football games.

bound to break down mid game due to a connection or battery issue. You also must account for the unpredictable outcomes that commonly happen during a football game.

"Technology can break down when you are used to having it," said Morel. "And you just can't dictate the time you need things

to happen. Sometimes it could be hard to get into a rhythm with it. This year it will be important to have a traditional coaching style still available when needed."

This upcoming season is bound to have a new look as these rules are just now being implemented. It is only a matter of time to

see how this technology can impact the offensive and defensive schemes for teams around the conference. But rest assured, if you see Coach Morel looking at what looks to be an iPad, he is not playing games.

NOV 16

FOOTBALL

130th Monon Bell Classic

Greencastle, IN

NOV 9

RUGBY

Monon Keg Game

Crawfordsville, IN

OCT 4

CROSS COUNTRY

NCAA Pre-National Meet

Terre Haute, IN

OCT 9

SOCCER

Match vs. DePauw

Greencastle, IN

SEP 23

TENNIS

JV Match vs. Marian University

Indianapolis, IN

OCT 7-8

GOLF

Wabash College Invitational

Indianapolis, IN

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