

# Einterz '77 returns to Student Health Center



Dr. Bob Einterz '77 is the latest addition to the Wabash Student Health Center — he joined the Center following a career in the medical field that took him across the globe.

JACKSON GOODYEAR '27  
STAFF WRITER

Amidst this busy portion of the semester, with flu season on the rise, the student health center team was given a morale boost. This week, the staff were pleased to welcome Dr. Bob Einterz '77 as a new colleague.

Nurse Practitioner Chris Amidon is the only full time nurse that works in the health center. Accompanied by two other part time nurses, Rene Cook and Ellen Warren. These three are assisted by the main physician, Dr. Eric Poplin, who came to Wabash from Franciscan Health after the longtime alumni doctors, John Roberts '83 and Scott Douglas '84 retired this past summer.

With more than 40 years of experience at the top of the health field, Einterz is now stepping back into the Wabash community to provide much-needed patient care.

Einterz graduated from Wabash as a Chemistry major and then proceeded to attend Indiana University (IU) for medical school. Once Einterz earned his M.D., he began to gain quite the track record in the world of medicine.

After medical school, Einterz completed his res-

idency in internal medicine and completed a two year research fellowship program. Throughout his career, Einterz worked for the IU School of Medicine, served as a primary care physician for multiple hospitals and was the founding director of the IU Center of Global Health.

One of his biggest accomplishments was help-

**“Dr. Einterz is volunteering because he wants to give back to the College, which is really amazing.”**

- Nurse Practitioner Chris Amidon

ing create the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) program in Kenya, a project that was first set into motion more than a decade before it was officially founded. In 1988, Einterz and others from Indiana University went to Eldoret, Kenya, and partnered with Moi University to create the second medical school in Kenya.

The following year, Dr. Einterz served as the first American team leader overseeing the first class of

medical students to come through Moi University. The partnership between Moi University and Indiana University attracted the attention of many in the U.S., prompting other universities to join the partnership.

In the next decade, the HIV/AIDS epidemic became a major problem in Kenya. In 2001, Einterz and the schools partnered with Moi University made an agreement with the Kenyan Ministry of Health to create the AMPATH program in response to the HIV/AIDS outbreak.

“It was a pretty huge community based program under Kenyan leadership,” said Einterz. “We went there as clinicians, but also as educators and as researchers.”

Over the years, AMPATH has expanded its healthcare to a variety of health issues in Kenya. Einterz’s work with AMPATH is now responsible for providing healthcare to over 24 million people in western Kenya.

Dr. Einterz retired from Indiana University in 2020. But just a few years into retirement, Einterz

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# College expects limited impact from DEI rollback

Wabash remains committed to its mission

ELIJAH WETZEL '27  
FEATURES EDITOR

The first month of President Trump’s second stint in the Oval Office has disturbed the federal government and its various partners more significantly than any other first month of a presidency has in years. He granted clemency to all those charged in connection with the January 6, 2021 insurrection attempt, moved to levy steep tariffs on the country’s two closest geographical allies and initiated sweeping cuts to budgets and staffing across the federal government.

Among the slew of executive orders and presidential directives was a memo from the White House which ordered federal departments and agencies to absolve their offices of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and fire the workers in those departments. The memo built on Trump’s initial efforts to dismantle DEI at the federal level, which also includes encouraging private sector groups to follow suit and end their own DEI initiatives.

This swift pullback from DEI efforts and the push for private companies to do the same has obscured the future of DEI efforts in the private sector. Groups and institutions which receive federal funds are under-



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Nicholas Green '27 places a Non-Binary pride flag along a brick pathway on October 21, 2024, on The Mall during LGBTQ+ History Month. The flags are placed on The Mall yearly by 'shOUT.

standably worried that their funding could be cut should they maintain programs that encourage diversity, equity and inclusion.

However, while worries may abound, it is highly unlikely that Wabash College will incur any direct ramifications from the Trump administration’s demolition of DEI in the federal sphere and its aims to subvert it in the private sector.

According to Professor Jill Lamberton, Associate Professor of English and Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the College’s programs that may fall under the umbrel-

la of diversity, equity and inclusion are opt-in programs that are devoted to helping students feel more comfortable when they arrive at Wabash.

Programs like the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP) and Pathway to Your Future, which could be included in the catch-all of DEI, are optional programs for students based largely around economic mobility. The idea that Wabash has quotas for underserved or minority-group students or is providing undeserved benefits to certain students and not others is false.

**Continued page 2**



COURTESY OF REUTERS

President Donald J. Trump sits at the Resolute Desk — the same desk where he signs many executive orders — on January 30, 2025, in the White House in Washington D.C.

# Campus prepares for Scarlet Honors Weekend II



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Admitted students talk to members of Kappa Sigma during Admitted Students Weekend (ASW) on March 12, 2024, on The Mall. ASW is the other opportunity organized by the admissions office for prospective students to visit Wabash.

OWEN VERMEULEN '28  
STAFF WRITER

For many current students, Scarlet Honors Weekend marked the start of their time at Wabash. With the second installation of the event this academic year set to begin on February 16, the admissions office aims to fill out the class of 2029 while fraternity members are set to begin rushing their next class of brothers.

Wabash has been doing Scarlet Honors weekend for over 20 years under one name or another. It’s an opportunity for prospective students to visit the College, potentially earn scholarships and participate in the rush process for the various fraternities on campus.

Associate Director of Admissions Tyler Wade '12, provided insight into Wabash’s goals for this Scarlet Honors weekend

as well as their admission goals for the year.

“We set out for 150 students as our goal for [Scarlet Honors Weekend II],” said Wade. “We’re currently around 111 students that have deposited for this year, but we like all entering classes to be between 250 and 285 students.”

Fortunately, the admissions office has outdone their RSVP goal for the upcoming Scarlet Honors Weekend II.

“We are fully ready for [Scarlet Honors], we already have 175 prospective students registered for the weekend,” said Wade.

However, with so many students visiting campus in a short time period, one of the major parts of Scarlet Honors is getting prospective students organized into student housing.

While the main goal of figuring out housing for prospective students is to find them a place to stay for the weekend, almost as important as this is getting the prospective students involved in the fraternity rush process.

Assistant Director of Admissions, Conner Taylor '24, spoke about the importance of rush for Scarlet Honors and the efforts the admissions team makes to promote fraternity life

to incoming students by communicating a strategy to Wabash’s fraternity men.

“We always say, ‘sell Wabash, sell Greek life and then sell your fraternity,’” said Taylor. “[It’s important] for guys to realize that we are focused on getting guys to Wabash, and improving your chapters as well.”

Sacrifice is an essential element to improving any Greek chapter, but sacrifice can be seen in full display when chapters begin recruiting their future members.

Admissions has been working to make sure there is enough room for every visitor coming for Scarlet Honors, however there will need to be some flexibility from the students.

“It may require students to make sacrifices,” said Wade. “That might mean that you might have to give up your space or your bed for a prospective student to stay the weekend.”

“The goal every year is that we’re rushing 65% of the incoming class,” said Interfraternity Council (IFC) President Lucas Carpenter '26. “However, it goes from Sunday to Monday for Scarlet Honors, so getting engagement from students is a little bit harder.”

Carpenter voiced his concerns for the weekend, saying that dirty rushing — an active fraternity member negatively speaking about another fraternity to a prospective student with the goal of persuading them to join their own fraternity — would not be tolerated and that limiting dirty rush is IFC’s main challenge for the weekend.

“All [dirty rushing] does is hurt the fraternal system as a whole,” said Carpenter. “The IFC is here to provide whatever support we possibly can, just to make sure guys stay in bounds.”

In addition to having the opportunity to participate in the fraternity rush process, prospective students have an opportunity to earn scholarships as well.

“A big selling point for Scarlet Honors is the scholarship opportunities for the high school seniors,” said Assistant Director of Admissions Cooper Sullivan '24. “However, for a lot of guys it’s about getting familiar with Wabash for the first time.”

So with around 175 students traveling to Wabash this weekend, students and the admissions office alike will be busy with recruiting efforts.



# Einterz '77 returns to Student Health Center

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decided that he would like to get back to seeing patients, one of the aspects of healthcare he missed the most.

“Dr. Einterz is volunteering because he wants to give back to the College, which is really amazing,” said Amidon.

Einterz’s presence in the Student Health Center is appreciated because of his accomplishments in his field but especially because he is doing the work for free.

“He is driving over from Zionsville two to three days a week to see students, just because he

wants to have that human contact with people,” said Amidon.

The Student Health Center now has five different healthcare professionals to treat students, and with Einterz’s presence, one alumnus among them. Having an alumnus physician is even more beneficial because they can relate to what the students are going through in a more personal way. Einterz believes that the doctor-patient relationship is important and his status as an alumnus will only deepen his connections with students.

“Anyone’s health and any community’s health is determined by social factors,” said Einterz. “These

social determinants of health, everything from one’s habits to one’s culture, sometimes determine your health. I think understanding the milieu here at Wabash College can help me better understand some of these determinants that influence the students here.”

Dr. Einterz is looking forward to treating the Wabash College student body for the rest of the semester. The administration and the Student Health Center are more than grateful to have him around, the epitome of a wabash man.

## This week in U.S. News

SAM BENEDICT '25  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

### War in Ukraine

Amidst a flurry of executive orders, cabinet confirmations and judicial rulings, President Trump announced on Truth Social that he had engaged in productive dialogue with both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky concerning the current conflict between the two. By bringing the two sides to the table, Trump hopes to bring the war to a swift conclusion.

“It is time to stop this ridiculous War, where there has been massive, and totally unnecessary, DEATH and DESTRUCTION,” Trump declared on social media. “God bless the people of Russia and Ukraine!”

### U.S. Senate confirms Gabbard

Following a spirited committee debate that eventually led to a full Senate vote, former Democrat Tulsi Gabbard has been confirmed as Director of National Intelligence. The 52-48 vote solidified another victory for the Trump Administration who has yet to have a nominee fail their confirmation. Gabbard faced criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike for her refusal to acknowledge whistle-blower Edward Snowden as a “traitor.” Although Republicans were able to gather the necessary votes to confirm Gabbard, Senator Mitch McConnell (R) voted with Democrats against her confirmation, citing that he felt she was unqualified for the position.

### U.S. and U.K. refuse to sign artificial intelligence declaration

At a global summit in Paris, a declaration was proposed that would encourage “ethical” and “open” use of artificial intelligence (AI). The statement was signed by dozens of countries, yet notably did not include the United States or the United Kingdom. The proposal brings AI regulation to the forefront of the conversation, with regulatory concerns being a key reason the United States did not join the list — according to Vice President JD Vance. The sentiment is in stark contrast to French President Emmanuel Macron who argues that more regulation is exactly what society needs to handle the growing AI industry.



COURTESY OF WASHINGTON POST

**President Donald J. Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands during a news conference in 2018 in Helsinki.**



COURTESY OF NPR

**Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard answers a question during her confirmation hearing on January 30, 2025, in Washington, D.C.**



COURTESY OF ITPRO

**Global figures and world leaders attended a global summit on February 11, 2025, in Paris, France, in a discussion surrounding artificial intelligence.**

# College expects limited impact from DEI rollback



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Dean for Professional Development and Director of Malcolm X Institute Steven Jones '87 shakes a student's hand during the 10th Annual WLAIP (Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program) Listening Party on July 29, 2024, in the Lilly Library.**

Continued from page 1

“Wabash does not admit, nor has it admitted, students based on demographic indicators, but rather based on their academic qualifications,” said Lamberton. “Full stop.”

While many people perceive DEI programs and efforts as handouts that deprive more deserving individuals of opportunities for advancement, that is a misrepresentation of DEI, especially at Wabash.

The College, Lamberton said, remains as committed as ever to its founding goal of providing an elite education to young men who want to learn but can’t afford to do so at swanky schools. Part of sustaining that mission is identifying areas with sufficient population growth to offset the declining rate of men who matriculate to higher education after high school. And when those students get on campus, the College — for its own survival as much as its commitment to liberally educating young men — needs to retain them.

“If the College is going to maintain its enrollment, we need to ask, ‘Who are the students we need to enroll, and how do we make sure that this is a place where they find the support and belonging that they need?’” said Lamberton. “That’s how we’ve asked the question. We haven’t said, ‘Let’s go get X percentage of this

group and X percentage of that group.’ What we’re trying to do with these programs is just say, ‘Where can we meet more students and get more students through [college].’”

Ensuring that students feel welcome and that they have the ability to succeed in an environment and local cultural atmosphere that may be entirely new to them is a key concern for David Leal '26, president of 'shOUT, Wabash’s LGBTQ+ student organization.

Finding community among peers helped him

**“I think Wabash has and will support us as much as they can in the best way possible.”**

- President of 'shOUT David Leal '26

acclimatize to the College as a freshman and remain an outlet for him as a junior. The beauty of the student groups, he said, was that they were even more resistant to outside forces looking to curb DEI efforts.

“I think that Wabash has and will support us as much as they can in the best way possible,” said Leal. “And our clubs like 'shOUT, La Alianza, Asian Culture Club and all the others are student led, so I think we will continue to stay strong and support each other.”

Leal remains commit-

ted to diversity, equity and inclusion because he knows first-hand the sense of belonging that can come from intentional efforts to include one’s peers.

“I think that’s what DEI does,” said Leal. “It makes us sure that we all feel like we belong.”

Despite the widespread apprehension that many people have as a result of the Trump administration’s hostility toward DEI programs, the federal policies in that area will likely have no tangible effects on the College.

However, other Trump administration goals likely will. Cuts to federal and state financial aid programs could feasibly impact the College’s ability to remain affordable to students, pricing out potential students from reaching Crawfordsville.

Limiting college applicants’ avenues for financial aid would dissuade students from attending college across the board, further shrinking Wabash’s pool of potential students. Such repercussions would likely affect the College’s recruitment strategies and cost it money in the short and long-term. Wabash could become more monolithic and more expensive.

Consequently, while the College remains a safe and relatively affordable place for students, potential policy maneuvers at the state and national levels could cause more consternation than has been felt thus far.



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## INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY





# Billups '25 represents at NCAA Convention

HAIDEN DIEMAR-MCKINNEY '26  
STAFF WRITER

At Wabash, students are encouraged to take initiative and immerse themselves in experiences that shape their futures beyond the classroom. Student body Vice President Jonah Billups '25 embodies that mindset, as he recently represented the Little Giants at the 2025 NCAA Convention in Nashville. From Tuesday, January 14, through Friday, January 17, Billups joined a group of 40 students from across the country in the Division III Student Immersion Program to engage in discussions on governance and the future of college athletics.

"The NCAA convention is an annual event in Division III that every institution is required to attend," said Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney '05. "It's a business-oriented convention with lots of meetings about national issues and legislation that has to be conducted for the NCAA as part of their governance process to get things done."

The selection process for the NCAA Division III Student Immersion Program is highly competitive, as it's not a guarantee every student can represent their school. However, Billups took the initiative to express his interest in attending, leading to Matt Tanney and Dean of Professional Development Steven Jones '87 nominating him for consideration.

From there, Billups formally applied and was able to secure a spot at the convention with his strong resume as a Political Science, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) major and a passion for college athletics.

"Jonah had some conversations where he expressed his interest in working for a collegiate athletics program and we believed he would be a good representative of the College," said Tanney.



COURTESY OF LINKEDIN

Jonah Billups '25 poses with Athletic Director Matt Taney '07 and Associate Athletic Director Allison Manwell at the 2025 NCAA Convention in Nashville.

"The number one criteria the NCAA currently puts its focus on is persons of color," said Dean Jones. "So that was a key identifier that made Jonah come to mind. I already had conversations with him about his interest in compliance, and he had also shared that with a couple of other people."

Throughout this convention, Billups gained first-hand insight into the NCAA's governance process and operation.

"I was able to learn how the rules at the NCAA are made," said Billups. "I got to experience their voting process, with new

legislations that they decide on each year, one of which being the eligibility on transfers for Division III, specifically. It was cool to see how the ins-and-outs really work."

As the student body vice president for the College, Billups is no stranger to participating in meetings of high importance. And similar to his role at Wabash, the senior absorbed the NCAA's complexities of coming to final decisions.

"There's a lot more discussion that goes into these topics than what I originally understood," said Billups. "Everyone's sitting in a big circle ready to discuss and get their point out. At first it seems the process of voting on things appears easy, but then one idea is brought to the table and now everything must be reevaluated."

Billups has spent his college career analyzing ethical decision-making, allowing him to naturally engage in these discussions. His academic resume along with his extracurriculars made him the ideal candidate to represent Wabash for this event.

Although Billups doesn't have a postgraduate position lined up yet, the ability to make new connections and set up his future at the convention were the top priorities.



COURTESY OF LINKEDIN

Jonah Billups '25 pictured with two of his fellow student representatives from the North Coast Athletic Conference.

"Jonah can walk away from this experience knowing he's created a network," said Jones. "Not only can he talk very succinctly and accurately about the governing process, but he's also identified individuals who are in the position to either help him land that first job or at least get a conversation with the person who makes the decision."

"Something that I really focused on was making those connections and having as many conversations as possible," said Billups. "I got to meet with a lot of athletic directors and compliance officers and a few of them said, 'hey we're looking for a graduate assistant spot and other roles that I feel like you'd be good in, shoot me an email if you're interested.' I know no matter where I start I'll have to work my way up, but I'm ready for that because I like to grind, work hard and all that stuff."

The sports industry professionals Billups met over the course of this four-day convention will provide guidance as the senior enters the next chapter of his life.

# Bracketology 101

Part one of a big dance breakdown

GAGE BUSINGER '25  
GUEST WRITER

As March approaches, the excitement for college basketball fans is building. Since November, 352 Division I teams have fiercely battled in multi-team invitationals, non-conference showdowns and conference games. Throughout each team's journey, players, coaches and fans alike have tried to gather as many victories as possible to be invited to the greatest tournament sports has to offer: the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

The pressure is intensifying, as only 64 teams will be playing in "The Big Dance" starting on Thursday, March 20. On March 16, the selection committee selects the teams with the best seasons and this finalizes the bracket. To help fans and teams understand their team's chances of being selected by the tournament committee, individuals like myself engage in "bracketology." This involves evaluating teams' performances throughout the season to predict their tournament inclusion and/or seeding, mirroring the official selection committee's process.

Let's evaluate two local Division I programs, Indiana and Purdue. A team's wins and losses column is the most simple way to observe the "resume," or performance of a team. I project Purdue as a "lock" into the NCAA Tournament thanks to their stout 19-6 overall record and 11-3 Big

Ten conference record. The Boilermakers are sitting pretty and will likely enter the field as a two or three-seed. On the other end of the court, Indiana is 15-10 and only 6-8 in Big Ten play. The Hoosiers are on "The Bubble" as an eleven seed, meaning they're right on the cutline of the projected field. The good news for Indiana is they just upset Michigan State on the road in East Lansing, a win that will undoubtedly improve their resume and chances of receiving an at-large bid.

There are 16 seed lines which each have four teams on it, equalling 64 teams. 31 of the 64 teams will be conference champions; therefore they will be automatically placed in the tournament. That leaves 33 teams that will have to lean back on their resumes to convince the tournament committee that they should receive an "at-large bid" to be included in the best 64 teams in all of college basketball.

Now that I have explained how this works, be on the lookout for next week's edition of *The Bachelor* to read some tips I have in projecting who is in the tournament as well as tips on picking the correct winner of tournament matchups. For now, let us review the top four seed lines and the bubble picture.

For daily updates, be sure to follow @cbbtbracketology on X (Twitter).

GRAPHIC BY ELIJAH GREENE '25



# 2025 Super Bowl halftime show review: More than music from Kendrick Lamar



COURTESY OF LOS ANGELES TIMES

Kendrick Lamar wposes during the 2025 Super Bowl halftime show February 9, 2025 among his dancers, who are arrayed in the design of an American flag.

CHRISTIAN GRAY '25  
GUEST WRITER

After the first half of the big game on Sunday, Kendrick Lamar delivered a highly anticipated halftime show. This caps off a dominant year marked by his complete victory over Drake, a long-running #1 hit with "Not Like Us" and five Grammy wins.

His thirteen-minute set featured tracks from three albums, with a focus on his latest release "GNX." Despite some audio is-

ssues, his performance was great. R&B star SZA, one of the show's two guest artists, provided a welcome highlight mid-show, showcasing the seamless synergy between two outstanding Black artists through their vocals and commanding stage presence.

If you've gotten into any conversation about this show, you most likely moved from the performance itself to the clear messaging within it. Kendrick dissects what it means to play the "American

Game" as a Black man, particularly a Black artist. He explores various facets of his career through an intentional choice and ordering of his songs. Each facet receives a reaction from American society, embodied by Samuel L. Jackson's Uncle Sam.

His stereotypically "hood" music ("squabble up" and an unreleased single) is seen as too ghetto, aggressive and unmarketable. When told by Uncle Sam to "tighten up," he switches to his social commentary tracks ("HUMBLE.," "DNA.," and "man at the garden").

Here he dips into clearly representative symbolism, forming the American flag out of Black bodies and bringing his "homeboys" to join him on the stage. Still, though, this is not enough to appease America.

His honesty and Black activism are low hanging fruit, a "culture cheat code." So he again switches, this time to something more accessible to the White majority: R&B hits ("luther" and "All the Stars"). Finally, America is happy. Kendrick is now "nice and calm," a sterilized artist who doesn't make you think or feel.

This narrative exhibits the reality that Black folk face in this country. You cannot be too loud, passionate and most importantly, you cannot make the White majority feel uncomfortable.

Kendrick ultimately refuses the "American Game" entirely, using his platform

to embrace and celebrate what Black culture is, rather than what it should be. "Not Like Us" and "tv off" are rejections of attempts to colonize outlets of Black culture, namely hip-hop. The show was an overall thoughtful display of Black ingenuity, talent and unapologetic culture. As a fan of Kendrick, I was not at all disappointed.

Given the trajectory of the political climate, a large majority of the Black community is anxious about our wellbeing. With this, many people expected Kendrick — an artist who has never shied away from addressing the community's issues head-on — to be more radical in his messaging. I felt the same. Although he managed to fit an impressive amount into it, it's crucial to note that this is only one halftime show. An artist bound by contract cannot grant us the political catharsis we hope to feel. It is up to us as leaders in our community to grant ourselves that catharsis through direct action.

FINAL VERDICT:  
4.5/5 WALLYS



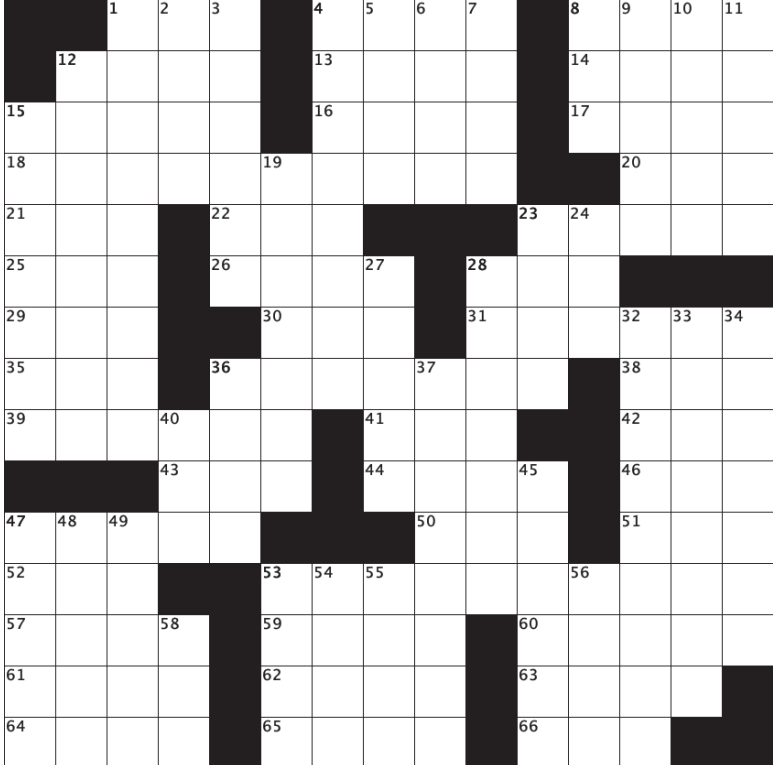


# 'Sweetums!'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

ACROSS

- 1. Apt name for a thief
- 4. Whizzed
- 8. Plus one, perhaps
- 12. Sample CD
- 13. Drivetrain component
- 14. Jumping figure on a sign
- 15. Places for runners
- 16. Gradient measurement
- 17. What's harvested by Musk's DOGE
- 18. In one's second term, say
- 20. "\_\_\_ Dere" (Art Blakey song)
- 21. Some serious hosp. cases
- 22. Sea eagle
- 23. Drip, slangily speaking
- 25. "2 Broke Girls" actress Denzings
- 26. "... tarnished with ashes and \_\_\_" (line in "A Visit from St. Nicholas")
- 28. Begin, with "off"
- 29. Reading, writing, spelling, etc.: Abbr.
- 30. Trumped-up story
- 31. Features of many March matchups
- 35. Maria, for the first few minutes of "The Sound of Music"
- 36. Metaphor for snowfall
- 38. Macadamia, e.g.
- 39. M&M's World, e.g.
- 41. Auntie, to mom
- 42. Outdated TV hookup
- 43. Justice Sandra \_\_\_ O'Connor
- 44. "All's Well That \_\_\_ Well"
- 46. 1950s GOP nickname
- 47. Broken, as a bronco
- 50. Dental problem corrected by braces
- 51. "Catch my drift?"
- 52. In the style of, on a menu
- 53. Sweet treat with a message ... both parts of which are needed to solve six of this puzzle's clues
- 57. Author of "Critique of Pure Reason"
- 59. Cookie with a Coca-Cola variety
- 60. Does some yard work
- 61. Border lake
- 62. Clothing connector
- 63. Richards of Marvel's Fantastic 4
- 64. Drug-dealer, in slang
- 65. Body art, for short
- 66. Apt final clue



DOWN

- 1. Word after heat, fire or water
- 2. Red sky, to a sailor
- 3. Michael Scott and Ron Swanson, e.g.
- 4. McCarthyism phenomenon
- 5. Way off the highway
- 6. Word in a vague threat
- 7. Homeowner's proof
- 8. Put two and two together?
- 9. "All systems go!"
- 10. "Heavy" music genre
- 11. 60-100 bpm, usually
- 12. Labyrinth designer
- 15. Cause of death for Romeo or Juliet
- 19. Londoner's tea cart
- 23. Citizenship Day mo.
- 24. Kelce and Gronkowski, for two, for short
- 27. Future perfect, for one
- 28. Day before Lent
- 32. Conceptualized
- 33. Worn (out)
- 34. Baker and Bourbon
- 36. Pitt of pictures
- 37. Animal and plant
- 40. "To a..." verse
- 45. Vegas venue, with "The"
- 47. "Relax!"

- 48. Eye-opener?
- 49. Reaction to the Beatles in 1964 or Justin Bieber in 2010
- 53. Register ring-up
- 54. Realtor's measure
- 55. Uncluttered
- 56. Apple site that was running perfectly until a couple of people violated its terms
- 58. Number on Messi's jersey



Scan for solution!

# Guthrie '05 finds hope amidst the flames



A motorcyclist looks upon what is left of Jacob Guthrie '05 and his family's home as it burns down in the January Southern California wildfires.

TY MURPHY '27  
FEATURES EDITOR

Just a little over a month ago, there was a disaster located in California that would be talked about throughout the nation. That is the wildfires that engulfed neighborhoods and homes in the Los Angeles area. For Wabash students who live in a small, rural town in Midwest Indiana, the number of people affected by these fires was few. But this was something that would hit close to home. For former student and current director at the Los Angeles Unified School District Jacob Guthrie '05 this was an issue that took place right in his backyard.

"On the evening of Tuesday, January 7, I got home from work in the evening," said Guthrie. "A few minutes later, my neighbor knocked on the door and frantically let us know there was a brush fire in Eaton Canyon. I would later find out that the fire broke out about three miles from my home, in a densely populated residential neighborhood. We began watering the roof, repairing broken rain gutters and collecting debris that was out from the windstorm. I fell asleep later that night, planning to rest before continuing preparations. I woke up around 2 a.m. and immediately noticed a strong odor of smoke in my living room. When I looked outside, I could see that the fire was close and approaching. I grabbed a few photos, work clothes for the rest of the week, two document boxes, and we evacuated. I left work at approximately noon to attempt to go see the house. I had learned that my home was still standing, but the majority of my neighborhood was gone. I drove up to my house engulfed in flames."

It was an absolute disaster for Guthrie and his family as they had lost their dream home that had been so special to them. But they could not dread it for too long because then they had to figure out where to stay and what to do. In the midst of tackling this difficult situation, there came a moment of hope from a few familiar faces. One of those faces was a fellow former student. When Mark Cross '05 heard the news he immediately did his best to help.

"JJ's (Jacob's) sister-in-law created a GoFundMe for those looking to support the family," said Cross. "Before that GoFundMe was even created, there was a text thread of Wabash alumni sharing the news and brainstorming on how we could help. I created a LinkedIn post sharing my personal story of how JJ impacted me and immediately the Wabash community responded. Fellow classmates, professors, coaches and their families immediately responded with incredibly large and generous donations but also personal messages of care and support. I began keeping a list of donors from the Wabash community but lost count as after only a few days we had over 20. Together, friends, family and the Wabash family have helped raise more than \$80,000 to help them piece their life back together."

Guthrie and his family had been staying with his parents in their home nearby. It would have been easy to feel defeated during all of this, but the support he has gotten from all around him has kept his head high.

"This tragedy has brought out the best in people," said Guthrie. "I have had outreach from former classmates and teammates at Wabash. I had professional colleagues from years past checking in on me. Professional organizations I belong to have blessed my family financially and pointed me towards resources. My parents and sisters have welcomed my family into their homes for an extended, and indefinite period of time. My wife and two children have been solid, and kept me on track. It is with their love and support that I am able to continue to lead our family through this difficult chapter."

And it was not just a special moment for him, but also for some of his closest friends. It was a testament to just the type of person that Guthrie is to those around him.

"To me, it's a reflection of both how incredible JJ is as a person and how awesome the Wabash family is," said Cross. "I've told my kids that JJ is proof that if you are a kind person, who genuinely cares about others, when an inevitable tragedy strikes the community you've built will respond. He's the rare friend who always stays in touch by calling and texting 'just because.' The support he's receiving now is deserved and it makes me incredibly happy and proud that the Wabash family responded in the way they did."

What started out as a devastating moment has turned into a story of inspiration and new beginnings. And funny enough, even after being 2,000 miles away, this moment spurred Guthrie's memory of just why he went to Wabash College in the first place.

"It reminded me of why I went to Wabash," said Guthrie. "Always means always. When I visited as a high school student, the sense of community was different than anything I had experienced and was palpable. To have folks call even if they didn't know what to say, just to let me know that I was loved, and that I would be okay meant everything. It made me further cherish my memories and relationships with different students, and especially my Wabash football family. There really isn't another place like Wabash."

# Senior Spotlight: Jojo Carter '25

Positive defines Wabash experience



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Despite being far away from home, Carter has embraced Wabash for everything it has to offer, being remembered by faculty and students alike.

BRYCE KINNAMAN '27  
STAFF WRITER

Jojo Carter '25 is a senior born in Fayetteville, North Carolina that can proudly say that Wabash lived up to everything he wanted it to be, and more.

"I chose Wabash because it gave me a chance to play football, something I didn't want to give up yet, and the College gave me the best offers in terms of academics and future outlook," said Carter.

Even though Carter's family and friends back home, including those at his high school in Bradenton, Florida, didn't want him to attend an all-male school, Carter had made up his mind.

"I wanted to go against the grain," said Carter. "Wabash was perfect because I realized that you must be cut from a different cloth to go here."

Carter has dipped his toes in almost every crevice and corner of Wabash College. Just in the athletic department of Wabash, the chemistry major and economics minor has competed for the Little Giants in football, track and rugby. Carter is a proud brother of Beta Theta Pi.

"I put my hat into as many things as I could," said Carter. "I feel like that is what it means to be a true Wabash student. You can't just be a loner. Do as many clubs as you can and give as much as you can."

The consequences of Carter putting his name in almost every hat are widespread.

"I know basically everyone," said Carter. "I love just seeing people on the mall and calling their names and saying, 'What's up!' Anything to make their day a little bit better."

By no means does this personality cease when Carter walks into an academic building, especially a chemistry lab.

Walter Novak, Carter's academic advisor and chemistry professor, smiled when he talked about Jojo's personality.

"He brings a certain energy to the classroom and to his work in the lab," said Novak. "Jojo has an attitude that few others can match."

Carter knows how much it is needed for some Wabash men to see a simple smile. The senior hasn't passed through Wabash without his own testing and emotionally troubling times. Early into the last year, Carter's mom, Juanita Freeman, was diagnosed with interstitial lung disease. It was both progressive fibrosis with volume loss and progressive bronchiectasis. Freeman was told there was a possibility she would not live longer than five more years.

"Seeing how much she wants to live for me has made me so much more willing to take the extra steps," said Carter. "Whether it is taking and preparing for classes, pushing through a workout or watching videos to take that extra step, she gives me that."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Senior "Jojo" Carter '25 always puts his peers first, doing his best to make sure he can be seen on campus with a smile.

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

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Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 800 words.

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# Touch Grass: Sentiments on finding meaning through engagement



Henry Chilcoat '27  
Reply to this opinion at hcchilco27@wabash.edu

About halfway through high school, I found myself in a rut. I didn't truly enjoy my life. My days had fallen into a routine of monotony of indifference and self-indulgence. I didn't enjoy school and didn't participate in any youth organizations, sports or clubs. I stayed at home most nights playing video games and watching TV. A viral plague had hit the earth, and after it subsided, I was left to pick up the pieces and reform. I knew I needed to change not only my behaviors but my outlook on life. I needed a new source of motivation to shove me out of my room and into the world. And I knew I wasn't the only one experiencing this.

The COVID-19 pandemic had greater impacts on our generation's long-term mental health than many would like to acknowledge. To this day, college students in particular are struggling to find motivation to interact with their peers and within their communities. However, it's not just social isolation; it's social apathy. Even social extroverts who engage constantly with productive work seem to seldom enjoy the company of others. We live in a society that prioritizes forward momentum above all else and, yet, many of the highest social climbers have no love for the work they do. They engage with other people and organizations for the sole purpose of benefiting themselves in the future. While some may argue that this way of life seeks out long-term happiness instead of short-term pleasure, completely embracing this mindset can lead you to be miserable, never finding any comfort in your current circumstances.

During my junior year, I made more of an attempt to put myself out there. I joined my school's wrestling team, quiz bowl team and newspaper staff, and quickly

found my schedule filled with challenging and engaging activities. While I was on the right path to personal fulfillment, I knew I was still missing something. Participating in these organizations tired me out more than anything and I still didn't feel completely satisfied with the work I was doing. All that was needed was a change of perspective.

It was only when I examined my relationships with others that I realized the key to happiness is to savor the people, places, sights, sounds and moments that make your life yours. You must not only get involved but get involved with purpose. Do so with the intention to create lasting memories and build yourself and others up. Your sense of joy isn't hiding in your room and it's not exclusive to your future. It's found in your participation in the present and your willingness to be considerate of others.

Wabash gives its students the perfect opportunities to fight the trend of apathy sweeping the nation. You, as a Wabash student, have nearly endless opportunities to involve yourself with the school's student body and culture. We have plenty of clubs, student organizations and sports on this campus, yet not enough people are taking full advantage of this. More than that, however, the culture of Wabash inspires us to care more deeply about and for others, and thus, ourselves. If you go through life seeing others as means to an end, then you will see yourself as an object, one incapable of finding true gratification.

I challenge you, dear reader, to go and fill your days with ventures that will leave you breathless from the amount of effort you put into them and the amount of fun you get out of them. Most importantly, when you're doing these activities, make sure that you're taking them in and savoring every moment. Don't think about how this can forward your life in the future, but rather, appreciate the intrinsic value of events and people that make you happy. And for God's sake, get out of your room. It is never a good thing to play several hours of COD on a weeknight. Live actively and passionately and I promise you will be rewarded bountifully.

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK  
**GETTING CENSORI'D**

*Lo-five to Kanye for selling merch with actual swastikas on it. When Elon Musk kicks you off X, you know it's bad.*

**"HE HAD A LOT OF ENEMIES"**

*Lo-Five to Musk's DOGE cuts for getting rid of America's most iconic institutions. First the Department of Education and now the Duolingo owl? Where does it end?*

**TRADE OFFER**

*Hi-five to Denmark for offering to buy California after receiving 200,000 signatures. We will give you Hollywoodland if you give us "Red, White, and Blueland."*

**THEY WERE GONNA DO IT WIN OR LOSE**

*Lo-five to Eagles fans for destroying Philly after winning the Super Bowl. Was beating Taylor Swift's boyfriend really that big of a deal?*

**WAKE UP CALL**

*Hi-five to Coach Morgan for doing what he does best, giving students some of the greatest advice ever. Seriously it was an absolutely amazing talk.*

# The lost elegance of hardcore music



John Silas Mills '27  
Reply to this opinion at jsmills27@wabash.edu

In the late 1970s, the United States musical scene was flooded with intensity, speed and an aggressive sound that terrified parents and teachers alike. Despite its niche status in today's mainstream culture, hardcore music provides a voice to marginalized communities, emphasizes community building and promotes the questioning of societal norms.

What you may have heard about the hardcore scene is simply of its demonic undertones and promotion of vio-

lence, however what lies beneath the aggression can be quite the sight. Your local city will without a doubt have a sketchy building blaring strange guitar riffs.

However, I would encourage any and all to attend a hardcore/punk show. Not only does it provide an avenue to release emotion, it is seen by many as the birth of the straight edge movement. Straight edge is a term used by many to describe the abstinence from drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Having the youth of today admiring those promoting abstinence is unfortunately a lost art, with many of those involved in music today preaching the value of worldly pleasures. Similarly, many hardcore bands advocate for protections of those who are marginalized by society.

For instance, many hardcore bands illuminate the issues that members of the LGBTQ+ community face in society

today, whereas several other bands advocate for political change through the advocacy of solidarity and questioning of authority. This homemade ethos promotes active involvement and rallies support around a given cause with the common simple love of sound.

Many of these hardcore anthems highlight very real world problems, yet preach releasing your negative energy. Here's where you can find your space in these hardcore shows... the mosh pit. Rather than coping with your problems with a bottle or a substance, enter the mosh pit, and your sorrows will be washed away with the movement of others like you and the trouncing of a double bass drum.

The unfortunate stereotype of hardcore music is the claim that those who listen to hardcore are simply sweaty angry kids. While this claim is not completely incorrect (and I may be

a member of this demographic) the diversity of an audience that you will see at these given shows shows how boundless and free the realm of hardcore music can be.

Although the hardcore scene in Crawfordsville may be negligible — if not nonexistent — I would strongly encourage any and all to make the journey to Indianapolis or your hometown to view one of these shows and be immersed with this beautiful chaos. For decades now, hardcore music has inspired audiences beyond just these sounds to question authority, unify and approach real world situations intentionally.

Ultimately, hardcore music and the embrace of aggression through the platform of sound remains a powerful unifier in an increasingly diverse world, and I hope for this movement to gain more traction within the public scope.

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# Leeper’s lunch: Poppin’ off at the Parthenon



Jackson Leeper  
'25  
Reply to this opinion at  
jcleeper25@wabash.edu

What up, bozos? It’s your man, Jackson Leeper, back at it with another review. This week, I had to change the lineup. I fell ill this past weekend and didn’t want to spread germs while being in public. However, while being in this sorry state, there was a restaurant that came to mind that allowed me to not interact with people and still be a gluttonous creature.

This week’s review is The Parthenon-Good to Go Xpresso. This restaurant is a combination of two things: a coffee shop and a Greek restaurant. This little hut of coffee and gyros is across

the street from Arbys and next to Laserwash.

Now, the reason why I chose this restaurant while being sick is because it is a drive-thru and only a drive-thru restaurant! So if you are feeling lazy and don’t want to be in public, this is a solid place.

Another reason I chose this restaurant is because I’ve eaten there once before. During sophomore year, I was doing a weight-loss program because I bulked too hard over the summer (I was a behemoth). One of my brothers at TKE suggested I try this place as they have cut-friendly greek salad. I drove over the speed limit (not by much for legal purposes) to get this salad. I was pleasantly surprised with my experience as it was loaded with gyro meat and not-important salad stuff.

However, I’m currently not cutting and currently in-season for volleyball so I can gorge myself but to an extent as I was still ill at the time. So, I drove myself to The Parthenon-Good to Go Xpresso to get their well-known item

and something from their coffee shop. For their coffee shop, they got a lot of options. Lots of hot drinks like lattes, mochas and coffees as well as a bunch of cold drinks like italian soda, iced coffee and smoothies. The Greek side of the restaurant had a very small menu: a gyro sandwich, Greek salad, a gyro platter and baklava, which is a type of pastry dessert.

After exploring my options, the haul was this: a medium strawberry smoothie and a gyro sandwich. This set me back around \$13, which might seem expensive but just wait. The smoothie was good, nothing special, but nothing bad. They used strawberry syrup and milk. You also get the option of whipped cream on top as well. There is no protein scoop option (If you couldn’t tell, I like the 1832 Brew).

The sandwich, however, was something to talk about. This thing was a brick and almost looked like my burrito order (Chipotle fears me). The gyro comes with mountains of spiced lamb meat with tomato, onion and tzatziki

sauce, all wrapped in warm pita bread. It was a little messy but it was worth it. The gyro meat was delicious, the onions gave a nice snap and acidity to it. The pita bread was great but it wasn’t big enough to hold all the contents of it, which is a good thing for me because I’m getting my money’s worth.

My biggest surprise was the tzatziki sauce. I’ve always stayed away from condiments as restaurants put too much on it in my opinion. However, the amount of tzatziki was perfect and enhanced my experience. Also, the wait for my food in the drive-thru was not long, 2-3 minutes max (McDonalds could learn a thing or two).

With that being said, my review is 8.0 of 10 burbers (knowers will know). This restaurant is very unique to the rest of Crawfordsville so definitely an option to try if you are feeling something different! Stay tuned for next week as I actually will try a cuisine that seems to be very popular and abundant in Crawfordsville!

## Staff editorial: Signing an “editorial order”

Bachelor readers,

To start, thank you for supporting us through yet another semester of publication. Whether student, parent, alumnus, faculty or trustee, whether you read *The Bachelor* in print, on our website or on social media, we thank you for being engaged with us.

For many people our age, the constant appeals to a mythical “time of civility” seem almost foolish. Since we as students came to political and intellectual consciousness, the only presidents in our memory are Joe Biden and Donald Trump. Both young liberals and conservatives should be careful what they wish for. In 2016, many Republicans learned very quickly that Donald Trump was not going to resurrect their neoconservative dreams. In 2020, Democrats promptly realized that “progress” moved much slower in the eyes of a 78-year-old man than it does to a young voter.

As of writing, Donald Trump has signed more than 60 executive orders in less than

a month, on track to exceed Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s record of 99. The confusion launched in the last three weeks — from the dismantling of federal diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives to freezes on education and health grants — received the brunt of media attention, while the codification of binary gender and birthright citizenship has sent individual communities spiraling.

*The Bachelor* editorial staff has never catered to a national audience. Most of our single-sex readers might not worry about how the federal government regulates gender, DEI or birthright citizenship. Even within the office, our editorial board disagrees on politics every night as we lay out the paper. What we do worry about is Wabash College.

In many ways, Wabash is exceedingly lucky compared to other institutions in higher education. We have traditionally attempted to segregate ourselves from outside control, relying less on federal funding. Unlike many other liberal arts colleges, our finances are in good standing. However, this has not insu-

lated us from recent events.

The tangibility of these national events became “real” only weeks ago. Youth organizations like College Mentors for Kids face the possibility of evaporated funds. Graduating seniors striving to research, educate and serve as teachers, doctors or public servants are suddenly seeking jobs that may no longer exist. Students reliant on federal funding to even afford Wabash are faced with the prospect of transferring or dropping out entirely.

Going forward, both at *The Bachelor* and in Wabash’s community, we must not lose sight of our common humanity. Despite the divisions in opinion and values present in all of us, we must come together as an institution that sees the necessity of an educated, united community. When we gather to celebrate life, either as a community or within our tight-knit groups, we should not forget that there will always be individuals ostracized from the Wabash community.

Coach Morgan showed us the reality of our community at the opening event of Wabash

United Week when he asked for students to stand if they didn’t belong. One brave student stood, creating a space for others to be vulnerable. By the end, more students than we at *The Bachelor* could even imagine stated that they didn’t belong. If we are a true brotherhood, then we must unite as a community to reverse the damage done, such as when pride flags were stolen off The Mall. That task applies to not only students, but every member of the Wabash community.

As we strive to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively and live humanely, we at *The Bachelor* wish to sign our own “editorial” order: stop pretending.

Wabash will not be immune to these issues coming from our federal and state governments. Their effects will be felt, and many of our Wabash brothers will feel them acutely. The most important things will be for us to stay open, remain kind and continue watching each other’s backs. Wabash is all of us. Let’s act like it.

## Being tolerant of the intolerant



Alejandro Cruz  
'27  
Reply to this opinion at  
aecruz27@wabash.edu

Recently, Wabash’s administration has rightly invested a significant amount of energy in training our students and staff on navigating conversations through tough situations. Although engaging in these conversations in safe environments is extremely beneficial, I don’t want us to lose sight of the effect of having conversations without filters, as those are the ones that can build lasting change. Conversations that break barriers, through grace, sympathy and friendship.

Daryl Davis, for example, has a combined 13.6 million views on YouTube, two podcast episodes with Joe Rogan and 200 Ku Klux Klan and Neo-Nazi conversions and counting. One of his talks is titled, “Why I, as a black man, attend KKK rallies,” and it opened my mind up to understanding tolerance through this different lens. The basis of Davis’ strategy is that of constant, long-term conversations or friendships. Achieving this occasionally means letting go of off-hand racist jokes, comments and ideas, to allow for a fostering of friendships. After enough of these conversations, and an occasional correction, the leader of the KKK in the state of Maryland (among many other powerful individuals), decided to fold up their robes and give them to Davis as a sign of respect for him and renouncement of the KKK.

A similar idea is portrayed in the movie, “Dallas Buyers Club” starring Matthew McConaughey. The movie, based on a true story, pins an extremely homophobic bull rider (Ron Woodroof) next to a transgender woman (Rayon) as they are both diagnosed with AIDS and attempt to launch a drug business to help treat people with AIDS. The start of the acquaintanceship was filled with disparaging looks and comments that should’ve pushed Rayon away, but they didn’t. By the end of the film Ron becomes a fierce defender of his homosexual friends and defends them with the same ferocity he once displayed against them. I believe that if, instead, Rayon had chosen to ignore Ron or chastise him for his points of view (as horrendous

as they were), Ron would never have come around.

Finally, I want to talk about one last, personal, anecdote. This past fall semester I had a conversation with a fraternity brother of mine. Knowing some of my background, he asked me, “If one of your friends started calling you the f-slur would you keep hanging out with them?” I responded, “I have a friend who has called me the f-slur multiple times.” I chose to look over the hurtful comments because 1) he didn’t know any better, but more importantly, 2) I knew that I could do more by being his friend than by pushing him away. Growing up he never would have imagined having a friend that’s a part of the LGBTQ+ community, and now I have the privilege of proving him wrong.

This decision is by no means the obvious choice, nor the easiest, and it’s important to acknowledge that not every minority is equipped to respond this way. This is, however, the response that we should strive for. Not for superficial temporary “correctional conversations” that are meant to alienate, separate or punish people that didn’t know any better.

I want to emphasize, just as Ali did with Right to Be, that I don’t agree with encouraging the behavior whatsoever. What I do believe, though, is that punishing and pushing someone away for their behavior has a real risk of reinforcing that behavior. The expression, “he needs to have a conversation with DEI,” is more comparable now to a mom saying, “wait ‘til your dad gets home,” than the extension of an olive branch looking for common ground. It’s a threat that repels most intentions of changing and maturing in others. When my friend let that f-slur fly around, he didn’t need me to sit him down and explain to him why he was wrong, he needed me to remind him that he was my friend. Unfortunately, I’ve found myself in similar situations as my friend, and the “conversation” I was invited to generated even more anger and frustration in me. It was the friendships that I had developed that pushed me to mature and change my views.

Some of these efforts might end in failure and frustration. These efforts are also meant to be executed in the long-term, which means that they require a lot of patience. Nevertheless, if those of us that aspire to create change can develop a sense of comfort in the uncomfortable, we will create the change that Wabash is so desperate for.



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## This week in sports

ETHAN WALLACE '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

Whether they are just starting their season, right in the thick of it or bounding towards the finish line, Wabash athletes have been busy at work this week.

Three Little Giants shone in North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) play, enough to be named conference Athletes of the Week – Quinn Fitzgerald '26 for lacrosse, as well as Brayden Curnutt '25 and Sly Williams '26 for track and field.

For Fitzgerald, the honor came off a dominant force in the lacrosse season opener, tallying seven points off four goals and three assists. For Curnutt, it was setting his second school record of the season by finishing the 3,000-meter race in 8:22.22, easily surpassing the competition. Williams set the second-furthest long jump in the NCAC this season, surging forward at 6.73 meters.

Starting off the season strong, Wabash lacrosse picked up a 17-12 win over Hanover College. Led by Fitzgerald, the Little Giants outperformed their opponents in almost every category. They will celebrate their home opener on February 15 against Earlham College.

Two teams, battling through the early weeks of their season, found great success for the Scarlet & White. The volleyball team extended the best start in program history by defeating Greenville University, Maranatha Baptist College and Benedictine University to reach a 7-0 record. Although a fifth-set loss to Illinois Wesleyan University would end the perfect start, the team is poised to continue their season of success with their combination of athleticism and creativity on the court.

Tennis took a pair of 6-1 wins in their second week by defeating Hanover and Otterbein University at home. Despite some shifts in the lineup, the team was able to comfortably close out their opponents. Then on Wednesday, February 12, the Little Giants went toe-to-toe with a team ranked seventh in the nation for Division II. Rollins College served as a good indicator for how well the Scarlet & White could hold their own against extremely tough opponents. Wabash lost 7-0, showing room for growth. However the experience will give the team a better idea of how they need to develop.

“From the years I’ve been with this team, I know they do a really good job of responding in these types of scenarios,” said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett.

Heading through the middle portion of their season both wrestling and track faced tough competition over the past week. The University of Indianapolis Greyhound Open gave wrestling a chance to shine. At each weight class, Little Giants faced an elimination bracket of top talent. Chase Baczek '26 took home a first-place finish at 197 pounds. James Day '26, Daniel Uribe '25, Jaylen Young '28 and Titus Waters '27 each placed top three in their respective weight classes.

Track split up to send runners to both the Anderson University Invite and the Fairgrounds Invitational at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Four of the Little Giants’ top runners competed at the Fairgrounds where they tested themselves against some of the best runners in Division III. The star performance was Curnutt in the 3,000-meter race.

“Brayden has put together a fantastic indoor season up to this point,” said Associate Head Track & Field Coach Tyler McCreary. “The ultimate goal has been to put himself in position to qualify for the NCAA Championships in March.”

The rest of the team’s effort placed Wabash in third place at the Anderson meet. With several top-three finishes – including Williams’ long jump – the Little Giants showed growth as they are just over one week away from NCAC Indoor Championships. The team’s next outing was against DePauw in Greencastle for a head-to-head meet.

Wabash basketball suffered a 61-66 loss to Wooster, which officially ended their chances of winning the NCAC regular season. Down a starter in Gavin Schipert '26, they couldn’t keep up with the NCAC’s third-best team. The loss is ultimately unlikely to make a real impact on the season’s results, as Wabash would have to lose two additional games to sink to third in the rankings.

The Little Giants went on to defeat Ohio Wesleyan at home 84-74 on Wednesday, February 12. With three games left in

## Follow swim at the NCAC Championships

Wednesday, February 12- Saturday, February 15



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the regular season, Wabash needs to stay sharp to avoid any upsets before they look ahead to the NCAC tournament.

Busiest of all, Wabash swimming & diving traveled to Granville, Ohio for the NCAC Championships hosted by Denison. The meet scheduled from Wednesday, February 12 to Saturday, February 15 will be the ultimate test of the team so far this season.

The work continues for Wabash’s finest as conference championships and the start of spring season are both right around the corner. Little Giant fans can look forward to seeing their scarlet-clad athletes compete against the best that DIII has to offer.

## No time to reLAX

Coach Burke urges team to tighten up play even after a victory

ELIJAH GREENE '25  
PHOTO EDITOR

Regret isn’t usually an emotion associated with a road win against an in-state opponent for Wabash lacrosse, but after their 17-12 win against Hanover College on February 8, the Little Giants knew they had left their best effort still unplayed.

“I think we came out a little flat,” said Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke. “I don’t know whether it was nerves or what, we just came out and didn’t execute. And when you play teams that are a little bit more chaotic and have a little less skill than you, then they’re going to try and dictate the pace of the game. And I thought Hanover did a really good job of that.”

**“I think starting out with games like Hanover and Earlham is a really great way of pointing out what we need to work on.”**

-Charlie Rafalko '28

With the score 7-6 at halftime in favor of the Little Giants, the match was still too competitive for comfort. But, with five-goal efforts in both the third and fourth quarters, Wabash was able to stave off the Panthers’ attempts at stealing the game away. Veteran attackman Quinn Fitzgerald '26 led the way in points for the Little Giants with four goals and three assists, with Charlie Rafalko '28 supplementing an additional four goals. A recent graduate of Carmel High School, Rafalko will continue looking to contribute often to the Little Giants’ scoreboard this season.

“I think starting out with games like Hanover and Earlham is a really great way of pointing out what we need to work on,” said Rafalko. “It’s a great way to look at those small little details that may not mean that much in those games but will really be a game changer if we’re playing Wittenberg or DePauw. Starting right now is a great way to look at these small details that we need to work on through these games.”

One of the chief cornerstones of the winning culture Burke has been trying to create with his team is based solely on discipline and focus; the little details are things to be scrutinized, not passed over

flippantly. Mental lapses and overconfidence, even cockiness, can easily result in goals for opposing teams. Understanding how to break these bad habits and instill the discipline needed for the team to play to their full potential is at the top of Burke’s to-do list.

“Ultimately, we should have played with more discipline, because that’s how we usually play,” said Burke. “So, we have a goal this week to really hold our guys accountable. It doesn’t matter about Earlham. We’re not playing our best ball. And now we have to figure out why. We’ve got to attack that, we’ve got to rep it out and we’ve got to start executing.”

One important facet of that exploration will be to find the line between confidence and cockiness, as well as utilize its benefits correctly.

“I think we went into the game thinking we were going to win by a lot,” said Will Sorg '27. “Which is a good mentality to have, but you have to apply it. I definitely think a lot of the guys this year have seen how improved we are from last year. And so a combination of that, as well as expecting they would still be the same Hanover led to us coming out a little flat, a little cocky.”

**“There’s a thin line between confidence and cocky. Confidence is action. And I think we need to figure that piece out.”**

-Head Lacrosse Coaches Chris Burke

“There’s a thin line between confidence and cocky,” said Burke. “Confidence is action. And I think we need to figure that piece out. Action is going to be the key. We still have yet to play three good quarters in a game — which is crazy to even think about — so that tells me that our best game is still way ahead of us.”

Their minds firmly focused on ironing out the little details, the Little Giants will prepare in anticipation of their game on February 15, against Earlham College at Fischer Field. As a part of the team’s annual Military Appreciation Day, the game will feature an on-field flag presentation by the Purdue ROTC as well as a playing of the National Anthem and a halftime relay race. Festivities will begin at 1 p.m..



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '27

Josh Taylor '25 (left) and Cam Fecht '28 (right) jockey for position in practice. The practice, held on January 28, 2025, at Fischer Field was part of the Little Giants’ preseason preparation.



**Happy Valentine’s Day, Wabash.  
You Give Us So Much To Love!**



Photos by Elijah Greene '25

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# Another one bites the dust

## Track splits up to tackle season goals in crucial week

ETHAN WALLACE '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

With a pair of important meets behind them and a trip to Greencastle ahead, Wabash track & field is hitting a crucial portion of their season. On Saturday February 8, the team split up to visit two meets to better accomplish their season goals.

### Fairgrounds Invitational:

The Fairgrounds Invitational at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, put four Little Giants up against some of the best competition in Division III. The meet gave them a chance to see how they would fare when facing top competitors.

Brayden Curnutt '25, Will Neubauer '25, Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 and David Adesanya '27 represented the Scarlet & White in two events.

Curnutt dominated the 3,000-meter race, winning by over a second. Toppling the previous record set by Nick Boyce '15, Curnutt's time of 8:22.22 is the fastest any Wabash man has ever ran the event. It also marked Curnutt's second school record – he set the record in the 5,000-meter race in January – as his season rushes towards a competitive performance in the upcoming NCAA indoor nationals meet.

"Setting two school records and placing himself in a favorable position on the national list in the 5,000 meter very early in the indoor season gives him some breathing room to focus on training, conference and, hopefully, a big performance at NAAs," said Associate Head Track & Field Coach Tyler McCreary, who leads training for the distance runners.

For the third time in five weeks, Curnutt was named North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Athlete of the Week. Curnutt will be going individually to the Midwest Elite meet at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater on February 15 to continue his record-setting season.

Neubauer, Adesanya and Diemer-McKinney raced in the 800-meter run. They finished 4th, 7th and 26th, respectively. Each runner has demonstrated excellence in the event at some point and are hopefuls to make an appearance at indoor nationals. This meet will give them valuable feedback for where improvement is needed to reach their individual goals.

### Anderson University Invite:

The remainder of the team traveled to the Anderson University Invite. With a few of the top scor-



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Brayden Curnutt '25 set the Wabash record in both the 3,000-meter and 5,000-meter races during the 2024-2025 indoor track & field season.**

ers away, the team tied third in the meet with 92 points. The meet gave the Scarlet & White a chance to overcome adversity and it showed the team is prepared to make another run for a win at the NCAC Indoor Championships.

"I think [the meet] went well," said Sly Williams '26. "It was a moment for us as a team to see how adversity can hit at any moment – at Anderson that being our throwers

not being able to throw until about 7 p.m.. Seeing them fight through that gave me the confidence to not be afraid of going 100 percent after just recovering from an injury that happened in the same event I was competing in."

Williams finished second in the long jump with a 6.73-meter bound. His bounce-back effort was the second-best jump the NCAC has seen this season and was named NCAC Athlete of the Week as a result of his performance.

Wabash had a top-three finish across each of the jumping events — pole vault, long jump, high jump and triple jump. Hugh Ford '28 and Nate Joven '26 went third and fourth in pole vault, while Kannon Chase '26 and Morgyn Clark '28 did the same in the high jump. It was Mike Holsclaw '26 who took bronze in the triple jump.

Despite a late start, Wabash throwers were as dominant as ever. Quinn Sholar '26 and Evan Furuness '26 took second and third place in the shot put. Furuness's launch of 14.57 meters now puts him eighth on the all-time indoor list for the event. The team also took five of the top-10 spots in the weight throw, led by Sholar who finished fourth.

On the track, Wabash had just as many excellent performances. Two freshmen made an impact in the 800-meter race. Sawyer Lewis '28 had a personal-best finish at 1:59.62. Ethan Fleischhauer '28 came in two spots later with a personal-best of his own.

Jack Huidsen '28 came in fifth place in the 60-meter hurdles.

In the 4x400-meter relay, Owen Smith '27, Christopher Royal '26, Clark and Lewis finished second with a time of 3:30.52.

Next the Little Giants will travel to Greencastle on February 15 for an invitational at the School Down South. For many Wabash sports, the rivalry with DePauw is the defining day in their season. But for track, it is just a stepping stone to the real goals.

"Of course the rivalry is always in the back of my mind," said Williams. "But as far as my preparation and competitiveness, it is always the same; because every meet I get to compete in – no matter if it's against DePauw or any other school – I always come to compete and give 100 percent."

Wabash will continue its season course towards the NCAC Indoor Championships which will begin on February 28.

# Trial by fire: Tennis faces ranked DII opponent

ETHAN WALLACE '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

What was a Division II team ranked seventh in the nation doing at Collett Tennis Center? The answer probably has something to do with a John McEnroe quote hanging on the wall: "The important thing is to learn a lesson every time you lose."

On Wednesday, February 12, Rollins College from central Florida stopped in Crawfordsville to face the Little Giants while they were visiting Indiana to play in the ITA DII Indoor Nationals Tournament hosted in Indianapolis.

The match went about as well as anyone could expect with Wabash losing 7-0. But for Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett, the opportunity was too good to pass up.

"It was an opportunity for us to see a new level of competition," said Bickett. "They're very similar to the level at the top of our conference. That's a position we want to be in. And we have to face it to learn how to get better against it."

**"They're very similar to the level at the top of our conference. That's a position we want to be in. And we have to face it to learn how to get better against it."**

-Head Tennis Coach  
Daniel Bickett

For a team like Wabash tennis, there's tremendous value in playing a team they can't hope to beat. With a conference stacked with some of the best teams in Division III, the Little Giants will need to prepare for players of a similar level to Rollins. And having a match under their belts against a team who attacks early in a point, will create a more poised Wabash team when the conference schedule arrives.

"A lot of their ability to jump on us early really came down to their execution of the first four shots in every rally," said Bickett. If we can kind of work on some little details in terms of being a little more aggressive on second serves or trying to take control of a point when we're seeing opportunities, I think that's going to help shrink the gap [between us and them]."

Doubles was a tough endeavor, as the team immediately fell behind and lost all three matches. One of the things good doubles teams do is win points in under four to five shots. As an under-

dog team, it's really easy to get stunned out of the gate, instead of extending the point out where the skill gap can be less noticeable.

When the Little Giants were able to extend the point out, they fared much better and stayed competitive.

The match of the day was once again a performance by Cole Shifferly '26 who held his own at #1-singles. Against the top player on a Division II lineup Shifferly pumped energy into the fans at Collett as he kept his match down to the wire.

After a quick 6-2 loss in the first set, he claimed the second 7-5, battling against a brutal forehand barrage.

Shifferly took the match to a third set tiebreaker where he ultimately came up short, losing 8-10. Despite the loss, Shifferly demonstrated perfectly how to adjust to a higher level of play.

"At first I was a total mess," said Shifferly. "But I started to find my rhythm a little bit, started to find his timing a little bit. And then it was just a matter of making him hit enough balls for him to either miss or to give me a ball that I could attack. Usually he would hit four or five and then blow one out. So for me, it was just making as many balls as possible. And then even the ones that he's hitting winners on, run them down, because that's putting something in his brain."

Across singles, Wabash needed a few games to adjust to the level of play Rollins brought. However, through the middle of the matches, most players found a way to be competitive in points and stay poised against better opponents. Ultimately most were unable to close out games.

"I was looking for the difference between them and us and asking 'what makes them better than us?'" said Tharakesh Ashokar '26. "What I found was they were just more consistent physically, and at the same time, mentally strong... It's really important that we learn from this match."

After the loss, Wabash moves to 3-2 on the season. Their next two matches will come on Saturday, February 15, when the Scarlet & White host Anderson University and Earlham College at the Collett Tennis Center.

# Volleyball's undefeated streak ends, high hopes continue

NATE JOVEN '26  
STAFF WRITER

After their recent string of wins, the Wabash volleyball team continued to dominate at home last week, picking up two more victories against Greenville University and Maranatha Baptist University. Then, the Little Giants took to the road on Sunday, February 9 to face off against Benedictine University and the host Titans of Illinois Wesleyan.

A strong team, the Eagles of Benedictine promised to challenge the Little Giants in their first match of the day. Wabash felt the difficulty of the match ahead, losing the first set 21 points to 25. But after cleaning up a number of mistakes, they began to show their true colors, winning the next three sets to secure the match.

"We made at least 10 errors in the first set and still only lost by four points," said Head Volleyball Coach Ashuan Baker. "I think the team realized that all the hype about Benedictine was nothing special, and they closed out the match well."

In the following match, Wabash fell in a tight match against Illinois Wesleyan. The Little Giants began the match by giving up two sets. Though the game eventually ended in a loss for Wabash, the Little Giants drew the game out to a full five sets.

"This past weekend was a positive wake-up call for our team," said Baker. "Aside from some sloppy technique, we are aware that we have the capability to compete at a high level and win. As everyone can see by the scores – Wabash always fights."

This year, the volleyball team features two seniors who have become staples of Wabash's starting squad.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Matthew Stitle '28 and the rest of the Wabash volleyball team return to the bench after winning a set in the Little Giants' home win against Goshen College. The match was held on January 25, 2025, at Chadwick Court.**

Will Beikes '25 and Jackson Leeper '25 have seen the team grow substantially over their four years here.

"I was very pleased with our performance this week," said Leeper. "It made me realize we can keep up and beat the top teams in the country. The loss sucks, but it made the team realize we still have things to work on in practice and the court."

Both players have grown along with the team, developing teamwork and leadership. Together they serve as the foundation of the team.

"Over time I have learned how each hitter is different and where they need the ball so that they can do their job. Having played with Leeps for four years in a row now has allowed our connection to be crafted over an extended period of time," said Beikes. "I know how Leeps runs his routes and he knows how I set. In terms of pin hitters like Zev, Bawibawi, and Pat, it can be trickier because they are all dif-

ferent and hit the ball at different heights. The best way to find that connection is with repetition."

This season especially, the team has focused on devising creative plays to confuse opponents and improve attacking efficiency. The Little Giants have been implementing these plays more frequently which makes for a very fun game viewing experience.

"We try to implement designed plays early in games to surprise our opponents," said Beikes. "Once we've set their blockers' expectations, we run my favorite play, an X. The middle will go left and attack at the gap between blockers so the outside pin can cross inside to attack a wide open net right down the middle."

Complex plays such as this are only possible because the team is now composed of higher-caliber hitters and setters.

"There are multiple differences between today's team and the team four years ago," said Leeper. "One is the gym. Everyone is following the workout plans and it shows in their athletic ability. Another is the roster. Playing six on six in practice with a small team is never fun and we had to have everyone there to play. We have 16 guys this year so we can have more productive practices. Last is the freshman recruiting class. We recruited eight guys who are young, 'fresh' and love the game. The energy and commitment they bring increases our play exponentially."

Success does not occur overnight. It happens in the practices no one sees and the extra work that individuals commit to their growth.

"I attribute my success to the effort I've put in the weight room and the athletic training room," said Leeper. "I've helped the young middles realize that they need to be strong and healthy to play this position. I hope that my success, for the middles and for the other guys, is evidence that hard work pays off."

Strength, number and energy characterize the team this year. But so too do experience, familiarity and identity.

"Two key differences are that this year we are more cohesive than we have been previously and we have developed an identity as a team," said Beikes. "The starters, with the exception of Piotr, all played together last year in essentially the same rotations. We also know what we are good at and where our focus lies in our game. My freshman year we had no identity. This year, we are a team that is great at serving, passing and blocking."

Following several weeks packed with competition, the Little Giants have a rest period with only a few matches before diving into the brunt of the season. On Thursday, February 13, the Little Giants will host the Westminster Blue Jays on Chadwick Court in their only match of the week.

**"This past weekend was a positive wake-up call for our team. Aside from some sloppy technique, we are aware that we have the capability to compete at a high level and win."**

-Head Volleyball Coach  
Ashuan Baker

"We started off on Monday with a rest and recovery day," said Baker. "On Tuesday, we watched Coach Carter (many athletes had never seen before) as a team in light of Wabash United Week and to complement our culture sessions. Before and after game day, we will go light to help our team recover from sickness and the volume of competition."

Good things are happening for the volleyball team. As they prepare for the remainder of their season, not only will they benefit from work in the offseason, but they will also benefit from the groundwork laid by their seniors. While this season may be the peak of their Wabash careers, it is also the foundation for an even better future.