

# Wabash in the age of AI

Survey gathers data, short responses from students on AI views and behaviors

**NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26**  
 MANAGING EDITOR

*The following is the second installment in a series by The Bachelor focusing on artificial intelligence at Wabash College.*

While artificial intelligence impacts all of higher education, there is no group within a college or university more shaped by AI than students. From the advent of ChatGPT, debate immediately broke out over how AI would affect the central mission of higher education: preparing young people for their lives and careers. Yet despite how pressing the topic is to them, students and their perspectives remain underrepresented when it comes to debates on artificial intelligence in higher education.

Wabash regularly collects student data and even employs institutional research professionals. However, there has been little research on student views and behaviors regarding AI. Director of Institutional Research David Dalenberg hinted that students and AI will be researched further.

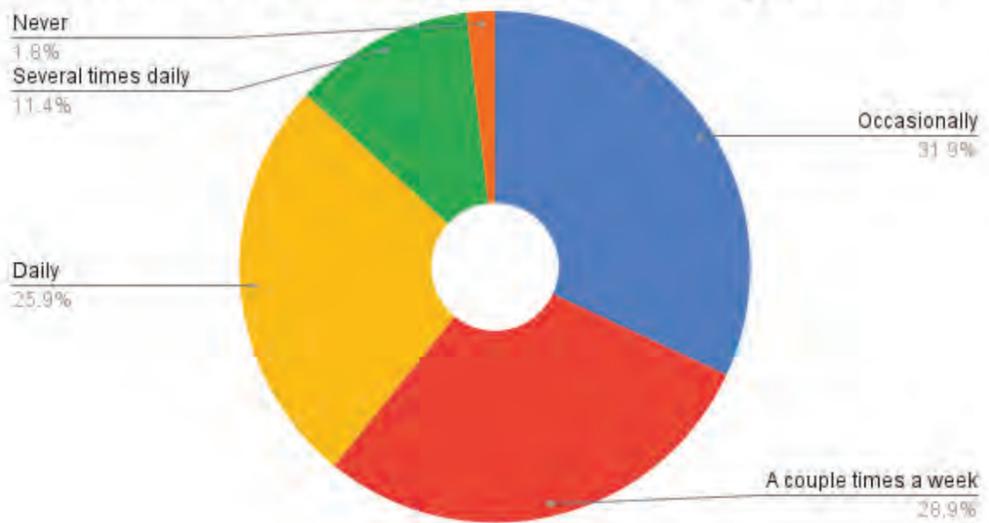
"Although we have collected little AI-related data on students in the past, AI-focused questions might become more prevalent in future surveys," said Dalenberg.

"I'd love to know how students are using it beyond the classroom," said Associate Dean of Students Marc Welch '99. "In many ways, I suspect that our students could teach us a thing or two about it."

With this in mind, *The Bachelor* conducted a survey among the Wabash student body to investigate how students use and think about AI. The survey was open to the free participation of all students, yet remained anonymous to encourage truthful answers regarding controversial topics such as academic honesty.

All class years were represented roughly equally in the 166 responses, with 19% of the student body participating in the survey. This article will break down the survey data, which included several opportunities for students to anonymously share their candid views on AI.

## How often do Wabash students use AI for any reason?



### "What do you use AI for?"

Unsurprisingly, schoolwork was the most common object of student AI use. Still, there were many diverse applications even within a strictly academic context. Students cited study guides, in-depth explanations, annotation, research, brainstorming and exam prep as constructive uses of AI.

"I use it to study for quizzes and exams, plugging homework into AI and getting a practice exam from it," said one student.

Beyond help with coursework, students also reported using AI in other contexts, such as for professional development, coding, creative projects or simply searching for general knowledge.

"I use tools like Perplexity as an alternative to Google, as they cite all of their information to specific sources," said one student.

Many students also mentioned personal planning as a key use of AI, with some specifically referencing reasons like "self help" or "life questions." As large language models (LLMs) become more reliable and life-like, they are increasingly trusted with life advice.

### "What best describes your attitude towards AI and its growing role in society?"

Student attitudes towards AI are diverse but evenly split. Most students describe their views on AI as either neutral or moderately skewed. Students reported extremely negative or hopeful views on the future of AI at comparable rates of roughly 10-12%. This is broadly representative of college students nationwide.

"The numbers don't surprise me," said Dalenberg. "There was an even mix of attitudes in the survey, and it seems like this lines up with national trends."

Additionally, *Bachelor* staff placed this data in the context of class year. As the stacked column chart indicates, there is a slight but noticeable trend towards AI skepticism as age increases. Despite a small outlier in some very pessimistic freshmen, pessimism tends to become more common and more extreme among older Wabash students, with over 50% of seniors reporting at least somewhat negative expectations for AI. Conversely, younger students tend to report more hope for AI. While no one knows why these trends occur, a Dean's experience may provide some insight.

"I've heard that some seniors in job interviews are being asked about AI: their usage, knowledge of and comfort with it," said Welch. "If a senior doesn't have great experience with it, they might not feel as confident in the interview nor prepared for the job."

### "What makes you anxious and/or hopeful about AI?"

Students also gave thoughtful reasons for why they held optimistic or pessimistic views on AI. A major concern among students is the economic impact of AI, particularly how it forces many entry-level jobs into obsolescence and worsens an already grim job market.

"I am anxious that more people will lose their jobs based on the role AI takes in society," said one student. "Growing unemployment will lead to great civil distress and a more divided nation."

Another recurring concern among students is the environmental damage caused by resource-intensive AI infrastructure. Several students were

specifically concerned by large data centers demanding vast quantities of water.

Students also share a major concern with many faculty members. Namely, they worry that an overreliance on AI in daily life will cognitively stunt many individuals.

"I think it makes people stupid and lazy," said one blunt student.

However, students reported hope for a great number of benefits offered by powerful LLMs. A major advantage that AI provides is sheer efficiency for tedious, unenjoyable tasks.

"I am optimistic that [AI] will minimize the time spent on mundane tasks that are non-essential, busy work essentially," said one student.

Of course, AI is not simply used for busy work. LLMs' incredible speed and depth can exponentially increase the efficiency and efficacy of the right user. Such a powerful tool opens a great many doors, which excites some students.

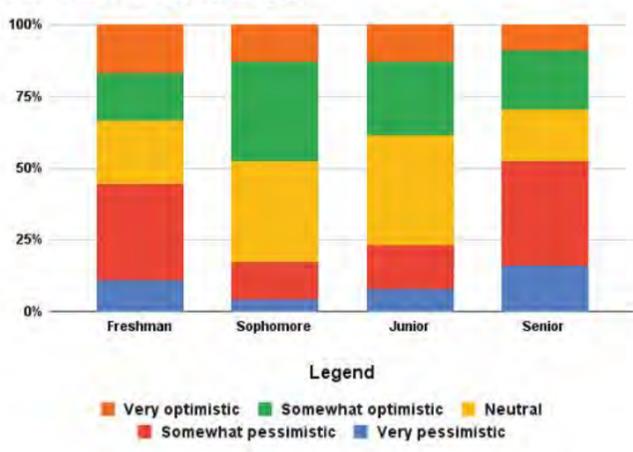
"Properly applied, it is a significant 'multiplier' on an individual's or group's ability to execute, which I think will be broadly beneficial to society," said one student.

Ultimately, many students grasp that the potential of AI rests in the hands of those that use it. Even while some students resent the proliferation of AI art, for example, this does not necessarily preclude more positive applications.

"I want AI to do my laundry and dishes so that I can do art and writing, not for AI to do my art and writing so that I can do my laundry and dishes," said one student.

**Continued page 2**

## Attitudes on AI by class year



## Correction to last week's Comps graphic

*The Bachelor* congratulates:  
 John Schnerre - Latin  
 Alexander Straw - Computer Science  
 for earning Distinction on their Senior Comprehensive Exams.

# State of the Union analysis



PHOTO BY ELIJAH WETZEL '27

**Daniel Tkachuk '29** watches the 2026 State of the Union address in the Lilly Library.

**AUSTIN PICKETT '26**  
 GUEST COLUMNIST

"You should be ashamed of yourself," said President of the United States Donald Trump.

That moment of confrontation captured the tone of President Trump's State of the Union address Tuesday, February 24, 2026, as the President delivered a speech that sought to defend his administration's policies while drawing sharp political contrasts ahead of the mid-term election cycle.

Speaking before a joint session of Congress, Trump used the address to reassert his priorities on immigration, national security, economic nationalism and American strength abroad. At the same time, the speech underscored the deep partisan divisions that continue to shape the political environment in Washington and across the country.

He claimed that weak enforcement had allowed millions of migrants to enter the country and increased public safety risks. He also cited crime statistics and argued that individuals with serious criminal records had crossed the border, portraying the situation as a national emergency.

To reinforce this message, Trump highlighted several individual crime cases, including the death of a young woman in North Carolina. Her mother was invited to attend the address and was recognized during the speech, a moment that drew extended applause from Republican lawmakers. However, reporting following the incident has raised questions about the immigration status of the suspect, illustrating the broader political dispute over how immigration and crime are framed in public debate.

The president also referenced fraud investigations involving members of Minnesota's Somali-American community. While the investigations have focused on specific cases, critics argue that the administration's rhetoric risked generalizing the actions of a small number of individuals to a broader community, further intensifying political tensions.

The partisan divide that defined much of the evening became especially visible during a moment when Trump asked members of Congress to stand if they believed the federal government's first responsibility was to protect American citizens. Republican lawmakers rose together in applause, while most Democrats remained seated. The visual contrast reflected the broader political

**Continued page 2**

# Lilly Award finalists visit campus

**JERRION ROSE '29**  
 STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College Lilly Award program, named to recognize the Eli Lilly family of Indiana, awards a scholarship valued roughly at \$250,000 to three students annually. It was created by the Wabash College Board of Trustees in 1974. For more than 50 years, this program has recognized young men who show potential for leadership in this community and in our world. Prospective students who graduated high school with a GPA greater than 3.5, ranked within top 20% of their class and had an SAT score of at least 1140 or an ACT composite of at least 25 qualify for the Lilly Award. These conditions determine academic eligibility only, as candidates are also selected by their initiative to contribute to their own school or community.

Within the process of recipient selection, students are required to stay at Wabash overnight to experience the college firsthand. The weekend includes a dinner for candidates, where they eat in small groups with judges, an individual interview for each candidate and a class discussion over a reading assigned to the candidates. Each part of the process plays a role in determining the three recipients of the Lilly Award.

Last year's award winners, Andres Ornelas '29, Tobin Seiple '29 and Sidney Thomas '29, have all completed one semester here at Wabash

and have continued to stay involved.

Ornelas is a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and has involved himself in the theater department at Wabash. He intends to double major in Financial Economics and German. Ornelas describes his Lilly Awards Program experience as fun and insightful. While visiting for Lilly Award weekend, he stayed at the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, where he felt welcomed and appreciated for being a finalist. During the weekend, he was surprised by how much the judges knew about him.

"It caught me off guard," said Ornelas. "I was starting to tell them about the candy business I had started in high school and they mentioned that they knew before I even finished."

Ornelas appreciated the experience because it involves everyone on campus, from fraternities to faculty, staff and alumni. He values his award because it took away the financial aid stress in his college search. It motivated him to want to fully experience Wabash and experience everything this college has to offer.

Match Stitle '28, a member of the volleyball team, 'shOUT and the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity majoring in physics, also had a similar positive experience during Lilly Award weekend.

"It was good to meet other competitors; it was definitely obvious that other people

**Continued page 2**

## State of the Union cont.

*Continued from page 1*

polarization surrounding the President's policies.

Several Democrats voiced objections during the speech, including Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., who shouted criticism at one point regarding the administration's record. The exchange highlighted the increasingly confrontational atmosphere that now surrounds major political events and offered a moment likely to appear in campaign messaging from both parties as the midterm elections approach.

Foreign policy also played a prominent role in the address. Trump defended recent military positioning in the Middle East, framing the movement of U.S. forces near Iran as a necessary deterrent intended to prevent conflict rather than provoke it. He warned that the United States would respond forcefully to any threats while emphasizing his administration's commitment to maintaining peace through strength.

The president paired this message with renewed support for economic nationalism. He highlighted domestic job growth, increased energy production and new manufacturing investments as evi-

dence that his policies are strengthening the American economy. At the same time, he also reiterated his commitment to aggressive trade enforcement and tariffs designed to protect American industries, despite recent legal challenges.

Throughout the speech, policy arguments were closely intertwined with political messaging. Democrats were repeatedly portrayed as responsible for border insecurity, economic pressures and regulatory overreach, signaling that the address served not only as a governing update but also as a preview of the Republican campaign strategy for the coming election cycle. Issues such as immigration, public safety and national identity — long central to Trump's political appeal — were emphasized as defining contrasts between the parties.

State of the Union addresses have traditionally aimed to project unity and shared national purpose, though in recent times that tradition has faded. Tuesday's speech reflected a political moment defined by division. Republicans responded with frequent standing ovations and enthusiastic support, while Democrats remained largely seated and, at times,

openly critical. The sharply different reactions inside the chamber mirrored the broader national divide, where public opinion on the president and his policies remains deeply polarized.

As both parties turn their attention toward the midterm elections, moments from the address are likely to be used to energize supporters and shape campaign narratives. For the administration, the speech represented an effort to rebuild momentum following recent political and legal setbacks. For critics, it reinforced concerns about the tone and direction of the president's leadership. Staying engaged politically will be important as we gear up for an impactful midterm election that can have significant sway over the direction of the country as President Trump continues his second term in office.

Whether the address succeeds in strengthening public support remains uncertain. What was clear by the end of the evening, however, was that the State of the Union served less as a unifying national moment and more as a reflection of a country and a Congress sharply divided over their political future.

## Lilly Award finalists cont.

*Continued from page 1*

were qualified," said Stitle. "The interviewers asked questions that were unusual, including questions related to my high school career."

Stitle also enjoyed his experience and found the assigned reading and surrounding discussion to be a particularly memorable

piece of the weekend.

"The discussions were a difficult experience in a way," said Stitle. "During the conversation, it was clear that the other candidates had a lot of talent. I didn't think I would get it, but it was a great opportunity to converse in an academic setting with intelligent competitors."

The Lilly Award weekend provides a steep challenge for each finalist. Judges analyze each candidate thoroughly and holistically, judging finalists' interactions with each other, their achievements, their intellectual ability and ability to implement change in their communities.



PHOTO BY DAGIM HUNTINGTON '29

Lilly Award finalists sit down to enjoy a meal with a judge on Monday, February 23, 2026, in Trippet Hall.

## Cartel leader's death sparks violence, President Trump's new tariffs

*News around the world*

CARTER RAMSEY '29  
STAFF WRITER

### Death of Cartel Leader Sparks Danger And Unrest in Mexico

Citizens as well as tourists in areas of Mexico have been told to shelter in place and have been placed under travel advisories after prominent cartel leader Nemeiso

Oseguera Cervantez, also known as El Mencho, was killed Sunday by the Mexican Army. The tourist location Puerto Vallarta has seen chaos in recent days trying to keep visitors and tourists safe, and the U.S. state department urged Americans in the area to shelter in place.

The killing of El Mencho

took place Sunday as part of a Mexican military operation aimed at capturing and detaining the cartel leader. Gunfire between Mexican troops and gunmen guarding the leader was exchanged for hours, and numerous other cartel members were killed. El Mencho was considered to be the most powerful cartel leader in the country as well as a top fugitive to the United States, and his death marks a large victory for the anti-cartel force in Mexico. While the killing has been viewed as a victory for the Mexican military, there have also been reactions from cartel members in the area, causing violence across the country and road blockages in some states.

When talking to Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of History Noe

Pliengo Campos, he mentions that this conflict between Mexico and the Cartel is a transnational problem more than it is a Mexican problem. He said that President Claudia Sheinbaum was convinced into making the raid, while still knowing the risks and dangers, because of pressure from other world leaders, such as President of the United States Donald Trump.

Another factor of the transnational point is where the cartel is getting power from, noting that the drugs they produce are mainly distributed to the United States. Most weapons and training are coming from Israel and the United States, and Europeans provided intelligence to conduct the raid. Pliengo Campos pointed out that the Mexican Government

believes this action was the right move, but it was only good for optics and does not actually address the root cause and internal issues of cartel power in Mexico.

### President Donald Trump Imposes New Global Tariffs After Supreme Court Actions

Markets and corporations have been once again left confused after a renewal of tariff proposals from President Trump this week. The 10% proposal kicked in Tuesday, creating shocks across the world and reactions from different international markets. This comes after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling which denied a similar proposal from President Trump. Trade advisors within the Trump administration have also shared that they will be looking into certain countries to impose even higher tariffs where they may

deem appropriate.

The European Union is researching these tariffs because it seems to be violating trade agreements, but the United States has responded saying they will be willing to accommodate in order to avoid these violations. Another trade specialist in the Trump administration mentioned that China will maintain tariffs and be exempt after China announced they would respond with stronger tariffs if they were faced with these new conditions. Trump has been noted to be unhappy after the recent Supreme Court ruling, and will still try to impose 15% as opposed to 10% tariffs during the next 150 days in order to make up the trade deficits.

These newly proposed trades are expected to have wide impacts on global trade, corporations, exchange and the possibility of inflation.



COURTESY OF FOREIGN POLICY

Mexican National Guard troops were deployed after multiple cartel attacks on major cities.

## First annual Latino Community Center lecture aims to honor hispanic identity

EVAN BONE '26  
OPINION EDITOR

The Latino Community Center (LCC) will host its first annual lecture on Monday, March 2 in Hays Hall at 4 p.m. This marks a monumental moment in the growth of the LCC and its presence on campus as the Center will provide a thought-provoking lecture and panel on immigrant experiences.

With the opening of the LCC last semester, Wabash signaled a commitment to the Hispanic studies major and fostering belonging for Latino students at Wabash. The LCC and La Alianza already work in unison to connect with the Latino community in Crawfordsville, and alongside the expansion of Latino community engagement, the start of the annual lecture series is a major step for Hispanic studies at Wabash.

Professor Mariana Ortega from Pennsylvania State University will give the first annual lecture titled "Carnal Aesthetics of the Border." She is a Professor of Philosophy and Women's,

Gender and Sexuality Studies where she specializes in studying identity and relationality. Her most recent book, "Carnalities, The Art of Living in Latinidad," examines the importance of creative arts for understanding racialized bodies within the Latinidad context.

"I think that the lecture is important for us to reconsider how we think about immigration. We tend to lose sight of the experiences of immigrant people," said Assistant Professor of Philosophy Montiel. "In this sense, the lecture can help in broadening our perspective of immigration, and it can contribute to building a sense of global citizenship, justice and diversity."

The first annual lecture will feature a book panel starting at 3 p.m. with comments provided by Montiel, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas at Dallas Katherine Davies and Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Oregon University Miguel Gaudron.

"The panel is the result of a reading group that philosophers from different universities across the U.S. conducted last semester, and in which I participated," said Montiel. "Attending the panel can give students a glimpse of what doing professional philosophy looks like. It will be a good opportunity for Wabash students to see how philosophical dialogue takes place."

This event brings together voices across the country to discuss Latin identity through Professor Ortega's newest book. Students across all disciplines and parts of the college are presented with a great opportu-

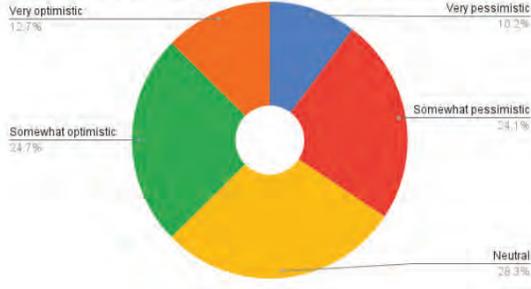
nity to observe philosophical discussion, learn about Latin identity and expression and to see the power of art to change our perception of border crossings.

"This lecture allows students to hear a new perspective and for fellow Latino/e students, it allows us to understand our own identity, and how it relates to academia," said Senior Community Scholar and Peer Mentor David Leal '26. "This lecture allows a space of empowerment, healing and acknowledgment that we are as important and valuable in academia as the European view."

The recent increase in activities and community engagement from the LCC and La Alianza has presented numerous opportunities for Wabash students to learn from and engage with the Latino community in Crawfordsville. These efforts are crucial steps to cultivating community for Latino students at Wabash, but a more complete sense of belonging requires an academic and scholarly foundation. With the first annual lecture, Wabash and the LCC have put a couple more building blocks in place for a thriving Latino community and presence within the academy.

## AI at Wabash cont.

How do Wabash students feel about AI and the future?



*Continued from page 1*

### "Should Wabash incorporate AI into the curriculum?"

All Wabash students must grapple with a future dominated by AI. This unavoidable reality begs the question: how should Wabash prepare these young men for the AI economy while still delivering an authentic liberal arts education?

Students weighed in on whether AI should be a part of the Wabash curriculum. A decisive majority voted in favor of some kind of AI education, almost 68% of students polled. Many students suggested that the College offer an introductory course focused on all things AI. An "AI-101" course could be intended for general audiences and help students judge between appropriate and inappropriate AI use.

"There should be classes or sessions on how to use AI effectively without cheating," said one student. "It is a great resource when used correctly, but using it incorrectly can have massive consequences on your learning."

Another student emphasized greater training on AI use among the faculty.

"Most professors do not know how to use LLMs properly," said one student. "I think education intended specifically for faculty would be helpful."

While most polled students support integrating AI into the Wabash course material somehow, there is a vocal minority that strongly opposes AI in the classroom. Some dissenters view AI as too underdeveloped to use as a teaching resource yet.

"Wabash should absolutely not incorporate AI into the curriculum," said one student. "AI is still in development, makes occasional (and sometimes frequent) errors, and is not an effective teaching tool."

Other students view AI-oriented coursework as antithetical to the liberal arts ethos Wabash prides itself on.

"Dialogue between individuals generates more insight than any AI could," said another student. "Not because the AI won't provide accurate information, but because of how our brain processes information differently."

### Final thoughts

With data on students' perspectives, the College has a clearer picture of where stu-

dents stand. Anecdotal evidence can roughly sketch student views, but quantifiable, measurable data is a major step towards improving dialogue about AI on campus.

One survey is not totally representative. 166 is a large number of students, but is not even 20% of the student body. Another issue is that there are specific issues with academic AI use where the survey may not yield fully accurate data. There are repeated incidents of students getting caught generating whole writing assignments with AI, yet not even one student admitted to using an LLM to write their essay in the survey.

Furthermore, the optional nature of the survey may skew the data. The students that answered the survey may be less likely to engage in problematic AI use in the first place.

"It's difficult to have a sense of the exact degree of self-selection bias in a survey," said Dalenberg. "It's reasonable to guess that, as a group, students that use AI consistently were at least slightly less likely to fill out the survey."

However, while the results of any poll can never be perfect, the possibility of a respondent lying or the survey missing some information should not prevent us from trusting in data. Anyone that doubts the ability of current Wabash students to think critically can look at these students' thoughtful answers and see that AI is not preventing Wabash men from doing what they do best.

GRAPHICS BY NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26

# 'LENIN'S EMBALMERS' ENSHRINED IN BALL THEATER HISTORY

NOAH MINTIE '29  
FEATURES EDITOR

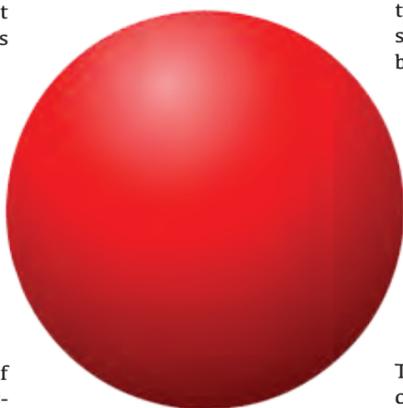
The human body, a complex organism housing an even more intricate soul, is assiduously refashioned to a political prop. Where words of wisdom used to flow, lips have been sewn shut. Eyes which spun threads of light into a unique perspective are forever sealed. In mangling Lenin's corpse, Stalin proclaims that he is made immortal. Once a man with a vision, now the puppet of a treacherous fascist. As Lenin himself puts it when the lights first dim and Heidi Winters Vogel's "Lenin's Embalmers" begins: this is "what happens when revolutions cross the line."

"Lenin's Embalmers" starts out as a macabre yet upbeat story, where discordant scientists Boris (Alex Schmidt '27) and Vlad (Benjamin Donaldson '29) agree to embalm Lenin's corpse in hopes of carving out better lives for themselves. With Stalin (Eamon Coleglazier '28), Krasin (Nicholas Kvachkoff '29), and the apparition of Lenin himself (Jeremiah Clayton '26) breathing down their necks, they push through the pressure to service their country. The same country that spares no opportunity to have them stare down the barrel of a gun. By the second act, their delicate balance between personal growth and professional development begins to corrode faster than the body that they maintain.

Clayton brings his signature debonair performance to Lenin, last displayed only a week ago at the Malcolm X Institute's Red Velvet Show. He excels at humorous body language and poetic line delivery, though the choice to insert his charisma into many important scenes between his fellow stars can

distract from a few character moments. Despite the fact that there is almost always something going on between the extras in the background, Boris and Vlad still draw the audience's attention during many key moments. Their banter, while funny, also feels authentic to the way that academics bicker. When their reformed friendship is tested again, the ensuing drama hits harder than Stalin's cane.

The supporting cast deserves just as much praise. Stalin and Krasin play a deliciously com-



ical dynamic as the demonic boss and his pathetic underling. Leo Trotsky (Preston Parker '26) is privy to a few memorable exchanges with Stalin, and Parker plays a particularly hilarious side role. Robin Vogel plays three characters named Nadia, and impressively distinguishes the voice, demeanor and personality of all three. The entire ensemble cast consistently sets the tone perfectly, bringing levity, drama and slapstick wherever necessary. Stage managers Carson Wirtz '26 and RJ Sturgill '28 efficiently organize a set with a beautiful panache to match the casts' bold costumes. To tie it all to-

gether, Gabrien Smith '27 perfectly times the piano with the action on stage.

Winters Vogel's directing is incredibly dense. She weaves precisely-timed physical movements and prop interactions between a dynamic set, though her blocking choices can sometimes create literal and emotional distance between this detailed work and the audience. Much of the show gravitates towards the back of the stage, which is especially disappointing because the top of both acts avoid this problem and are better for it. When the apron empties and the actors become pinned upstage, some lines are subsumed by the distance, some backs are turned to the audience and the brilliant physical acting becomes harder to detect.

Despite this alienation, once Winters Vogel opens the stage, her directing shines. In a particular example early in the play, she stages a confrontation between Trotsky and Stalin. The second act opens with a creative use of the Ball Theater's architecture, with plenty of other surprising uses of the space peppered throughout the production.

As is typically the case with each new production, "Lenin's Embalmers" is a valuable addition to the Fine Arts Center's roster. Its twisted wit and snappy presentation make up for its faults and still leave the viewer with a smile one moment and a grimace the next. Indeed, it is ironic that a play about a dead man is among the liveliest I have ever seen.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
4/5 WALLYS**



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Lenin (left), played by Jeremiah Clayton '26, pleads for Nadia (left), played by Robin Vogel, as he dies.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Trotsky (left), played by Preston Parker '26, confronts Stalin (right), played by Eamon Coleglazier '28.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Vlad, played by Ben Donaldson '29, motions to Boris.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Boris (left), played by Alex Schmidt '27, carries Stalin (right), played by Eamon Coleglazier '28, off of a wooden crate.

## '...And justice for all!' Adam Mueller's '01's legal advocacy

ELIJAH WETZEL '27  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Americans spend more money on Halloween costumes for their pets than legal aid for the poor in comparing data from the Legal Service Corporation and the National Retail Federation. If where our money goes indicates our values, it is clear we as a nation don't care much for the economically disadvantaged among us. But there are some people, like Adam Mueller '01, who choose a different path and dedicate themselves to helping people who otherwise would not have anyone to aid them. The Wabash College Pre-Law Society hosted Mueller on February 24, 2026.

"The Pre-Law Society is really focused on getting a wide range of people for this year," said Pre-Law Society president Chris Runyon '26. "So earlier in the year, we had an attorney come in who works for Dentons, which is one of the biggest law firms in the world, and he does a lot of corporate work. We really wanted to pair that with somebody who does the flip side of the coin in the legal world."

Mueller graduated from Indiana University Maurer School of

Law in 2005 and worked for Indiana Legal Services for 16 years, doing all sorts of civil legal aid in the housing and Medicaid space. He realized, though, that most of his work was alleviating the negative effects of system-wide failures upstream of individual problems. He founded The Indiana Justice Project (IJP) in 2022 to attack the underlying legal frameworks that inequitably affect the poor. IJP fo-



PHOTO BY DANIEL TKACHUK '29

Adam Mueller '01 speaks to students on Tuesday, February 24, on the Indiana Justice Project and the importance of participation in policy formation for democracy.

cuses on three main areas: health, housing and food insecurity. Mueller and IJP's process is first to listen to community members to understand what issues plague them; do field research to understand the problem and what they can offer to the community; design a strategy of policy analysis, impact litigation and then implement it. Implementation turns the promise of protection under the law into reality.

"You can have a lot of rights on paper, but if the market for enforcing those rights or vindicating those rights is not there, then it's difficult to say that you actually have those rights," said Mueller. "It has to be more than the symbolism of them."

The ability to affect change was the driving force behind his decision to go to law school. Now, he pairs the creative, big picture thinking his Wabash education endowed him with and the legal know-how to turn ideas into action.

"I loved the space that Wabash afforded to think big thoughts, think in ways that weren't necessarily practical, but just exploring ideas," said Mueller. "But I knew I had to take that and pair it with something that was more practical. You can spend all your time thinking about political systems and how they work and policy, but how do you actually affect change in that space? And I knew I needed to do that."

Mueller titled his talk, "Anti-Poverty Work in Difficult Times," and expressed that the current political and social climate

makes what he does harder, not in small part because H.R. 1, the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," will transfer over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) programs to wealthy Americans.

"This time is challenging because there is an injection of uncertainty," said Mueller. "I think that's uncertainty by design, and that can be a challenge to folks who just want to get through life and understand, 'Am I able to access health care? Am I able to access SNAP food stamps for my kids — that sort of thing.'"

Still, despite all the challenges that accompany a law career serving neglected populations, Mueller's devotion and values opened students' eyes to the possibility their own path may lie outside the C-suite.

"It made me realize that going to law school doesn't mean you're tied down to a big law firm," said Joseph Parada '27, a member of the Pre-Law Society. "You can work for the little guys, people who don't have as big of a voice as other people. That inspired me."

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

In the lab and in the studio: Evan Dickey leads

PHILLIP HARVEY '29  
STAFF WRITER

"Radiant" is the word many would use to describe Evan Dickey '26. Dickey is an exceptional example of scholarship, leadership and brotherly love. He has conducted research with Professor of Biology Amanda Ingram, is a member of the Sphinx Club and is on his way to dental school. He led the Newman Center through its most significant period of academic and spiritual growth and has mentored others through extensive tutoring at the Quantitative Skills Center (QSC). His commitment to education extends into the community, where he teaches students at St. Bernard Catholic Church's parochial school and serves as a dedicated volunteer for College Mentors for Kids.

Although he was a wrestling recruit, what brought Dickey to Wabash was the brotherly aspect of the college, especially the sense of care everyone displayed for each other.

"I just liked the culture," said Dickey. "It seemed like everybody knew everybody, like it's its own small town. Everybody said hello to everybody."

That same allure brought Dickey to Phi Gamma Delta, where he has been a brother throughout his four years at Wabash. His involvement there has focused heavily on stewardship of the younger classes. He has served the house as both a new member educator and academic chair.

A similar attraction brought him to the Sphinx Club, where he completed Rhynieship during his sophomore year — all while undergoing a demanding triple-lab semester.

"Evan has become someone I consistently turn to for guidance and support. He listens before he speaks, acts without expecting credit and carries himself with a quiet sense of grace that puts others at ease," said Tanner Quackenbush '26. "His leadership is not loud or self-promotional; it is steady, dependable and rooted in a genuine care for the people around him. Our community

is stronger because of him, and I am personally better for having known him."

Regarding his scholastic efforts, Dickey majors in biology and art with a minor in chemistry. He was recently accepted into the Indiana University School of Dentistry on the Indianapolis campus. His goal is to one day be self-employed with a private practice spanning multiple locations.

Dickey's research bridged his interests in art and biology. With little prior experience in watercolor, he produced eight botanical illustrations of structurally amorphous plant species in Indiana. Ingram hopes to one day publish

Dickey's greatest role on campus, and his personal favorite, is passing down the gifts he received through leadership. Dickey served as vice president and later president of the Newman Center. Over the course of his involvement, the club has nearly tripled in size.

"My favorite thing on campus is the Newman Center," said Dickey. "Through the Newman Center I've been to two conference trips and also Rome. So I guess all my experiences with the Newman Center have been very special to me. Those have been my most formative experiences."

In that capacity, he has also taught Catholic catechesis to chil-



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Evan Dickey '26 (left) and Silas Mills '27 (right) pose together as Chapel Sing kicks off on September 25, 2025.

a professional manuscript using Dickey's illustrations.

"Mentoring Evan during his summer internship in botanical illustration was a blast and a totally new experience for me," said Ingram. "While I've studied many botanical illustrations in my day, I know next to nothing about how to create such pieces. Evan is a fantastic and largely self-taught artist, though, so I knew we could figure things out together with a little guidance from a professor."

On the art front, Dickey has shown how to transform a passion and share it with others. Dickey's art will be on display in Hays Hall for the senior art gala on April 26. The gala will feature his figurative paintings in a Michelangelo style.

dren from the second grade to middle school for several years. Teaching and stewardship are major themes in his service to both Wabash and the local community, where he has been a biology tutor and a volunteer for College Mentors for Kids. His servant leadership is a model for his peers.

"I've met people who will be at my wedding," said Dickey. "Some of my best friends will be so for a long time."

Ultimately, Dickey's effective leadership will be missed on campus, but there is no doubt he will leave Wabash in pursuit of achieving even greater things.

## Olympic hockey: the reign of the USA has only begun

CARTER MCCALL '29  
STAFF WRITER

The ultimate upset, the boys of '80, David vs. Goliath and The Miracle on Ice are all names used to describe the 1980 men's ice hockey semi-final game between the United States of America and The Soviet Union. It is widely known as the greatest upset of all time, but for good reason. The Soviet Union was the four-time defending gold medalist and was considered the greatest hockey team on the planet. Since then, USA Hockey has come a long

tem that has matured dramatically over the last two decades. Winning gold proved that the United States is no longer chasing the hockey powers of the world — it is one.

Second, the win was crucial for growing hockey's domestic influence. Olympic success creates cultural momentum. Young athletes across non-traditional hockey markets — from Texas to California — now see a clear pathway from youth rinks to the top of the sport. Participation historically spikes after Olympic success, and this gold med-

not going to beat the Canadians with talent alone. There is plenty of talent on the US team, but that was not the main goal when choosing the players. They prioritized heavy hitters, faceoff specialists and high motor players. Although this strategy was heavily criticized at first, it proved successful. The hard-hitting physicality of the United States proved arduous for the Canadian team.

The most important factor in the win was goaltending. Defending NHL MVP, Connor Hellebuyck, proved all of the doubters wrong. Over the last two years he has been considered the greatest goalie in the world, yet he has always struggled in the playoffs on the biggest stage. His performance on Sunday showed that he can, in fact, show up when it matters the most. He made an incredible 41 saves on 42 shots, including some incredible game-winning saves down the stretch.

In the end, the 2026 Olympic gold was important because it cemented the United States as a consistent hockey superpower rather than a sporadic challenger. It inspired the next generation, validated long-term investment in development programs and reshaped the international balance of power. Similar to the Miracle on Ice, this game was more than a medal. Just like in 1980, it was a statement. Except this time it wasn't about establishing American hockey as a competitor. It was about showing that American hockey has fully arrived, and it's built to stay.

al gives USA Hockey a marketing and recruiting advantage that could last for years.

Beyond symbolism, the Americans won for concrete reasons. The Canadian team was defined by skill and speed. They have the fastest and probably most skilled player the NHL has ever seen: Connor McDavid. Along him was the leading NHL point getter, Nathan McKinnon. They also had Cale Makar, who is

the best defenseman in the world. This is just the tip of the iceberg though; the Canadian team is chock full of the best hockey talents we have ever seen.

The United States general manager, Bill Guerin, knew that they were



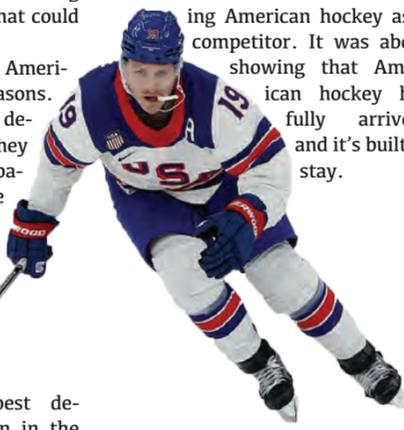
COURTESY OF OPB

Connor Hellebuyck #37 celebrates after the U.S. won the Gold Medal in Men's Hockey at the Winter Olympic games in Milan, Italy, on February 22.

way, but they had yet to repeat their gold medal performance until now. The 2026 gold medal win by the United States may not have been as much of an upset, but it was just as influential.

The 2026 Olympic gold medal was more than another championship for USA Hockey — it was a defining moment for the sport's trajectory in the United States. Winning on the world's biggest stage validated years of development at the youth, collegiate and professional levels, and reasserted American dominance in a sport long controlled by traditional powers like Canada and Sweden.

For USA Hockey, this victory symbolized the arrival of a new era. First, the significance lies in global perception. The 1980 team was a scrappy underdog story. The 2026 team wasn't surprising anyone — they were built on NHL stars, elite goaltending and a development sys-



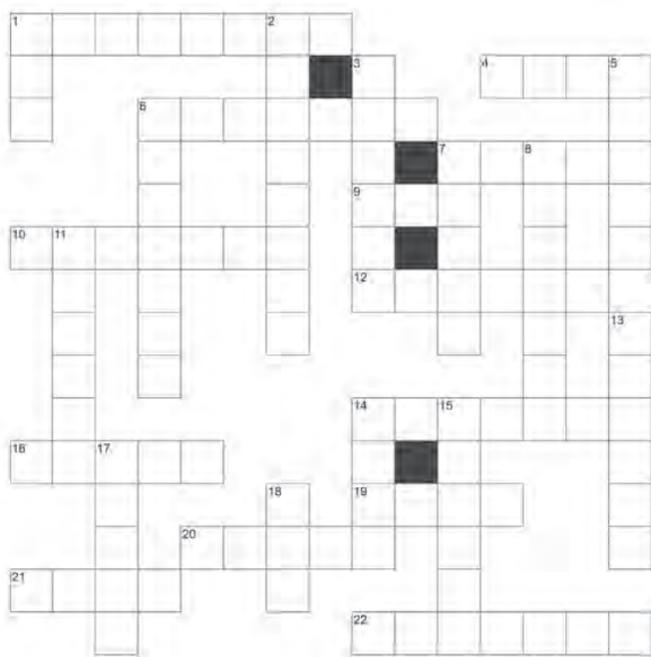
FINAL VERDICT:  
5/5 WALLYS



CUTOUT PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC

# 'Spring Sports'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26



**Across**

1. America's pastime
4. Played on fairways and greens, hopefully not the rough
6. Playing on the mound
7. Starter action in tennis or volleyball
9. Divides the court in tennis or volleyball
10. Track event with barriers
12. Global sport, known by another name outside the U.S.
14. Major golf tournament in Augusta, GA
16. Kentucky \_\_\_\_\_
19. Playing surface for many spring outdoor sports
20. Where tennis, volleyball, or basketball is played
21. Scoring in soccer or lacrosse
22. Player behind home plate

**Down**

1. Slugger's tool
2. Fast-paced team sport with sticks and a net
3. Racquet sport, Wimbledon for the instance
5. The F in T&F
6. Used in pickleball, a growing spring sport
7. Lax essential
8. Rule enforcer
11. Rule enforcer, behind the plate
13. List of players on a team
14. Another name for a glove
15. Short, fast race
17. Team race with a baton
18. Baseball score or track event

Scan for answers!



## President Feller partners with Trustee in Colloquium

TOBIN SEIPLE '29  
FEATURES EDITOR

Though Wabash College features many unique learning styles for students, Colloquium is a more notable opportunity. Colloquium is a reading-based class for seniors with different teachers each week, allowing students to study texts with a variety of faculty. Luckily, seniors who took Colloquium over the past decade have had the honor of learning from Wabash College President Scott Feller and Board of Trustee Member Jim Davlin '85 during one week of their semester.

"Mr. Davelin and I have taught colloquium, I believe, every spring and fall for a number of years," said Feller. "Mr. Davlin was the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of our Board of Trustees when I was in the Dean of the College role. That was when we began, and then we kind of kept it going."

Davlin was grateful for the chance to be a part of Colloquium and has enjoyed watching students converse about books.

"Colloquium was a great opportunity for Scott and I," said Davlin. "We started to do it [in 2014] and it's really an easy class to teach as the learning comes mostly from the students engaging with one another. The way students challenge, respect and converse with each other is insightful."

Beyond serving as a trustee, Davlin brings experience and value to the Colloquium class discussions. He himself took Colloquium in both the fall and spring semesters of his senior year at Wabash and brings knowledge he gained from those times into recent Colloquium classes.

"Over the years, I think the thing that's been most valuable is that Jim took colloquium when he was a student," said Feller. "He often has his copy from the 1984-85 academic year. I think it also is nice for stu-

dents to see that an alumnus, 40 years later, both cared enough about the text to hang on to it through lots of changes over a lifetime, and then cared enough to be able to come back and engage in the text again."

Although both men bring wisdom and brilliance to class discussions, there is perhaps even more that they glean from Wabash students.

"In a way, Scott and I have learned something each time we have taught the class," said Davlin.

"It's a great way to engage firsthand with the students and be reminded about how smart, insightful and articulate our students are."

While some seniors may have missed out, other current class years at Wabash should plan to participate in at least one semester of Colloquium.

"Colloquium is a great option for Wabash seniors," said Feller. "It's a completely different format than most classes. It is graded entirely on the quality of the discussion contributions and how you articulate your own thoughts, ideas and questions. It is also how you help your classmates articulate their own views. I think it's also a perfect occasion to read a set of important texts that are pulled from a wide range of subjects. We tend not to get a lot of opportunities to do something like that."

On Wednesday, February 26th, Feller and Davlin hosted their Colloquium on "Things Fall Apart." The perceptive discussion revolved around an account of colonialism in Nigeria, with student insights encouraged through the guidance of both hosts. But beyond the chance for seniors to learn from such a high level of leadership, it is clear the general knowledge gained in such a class is essential for all Wabash students to take with them as they begin their journey past their undergraduate years.



PHOTO BY TOBIN SEIPLE '29

President Scott Feller and Trustee Jim Davlin '85 teach a Colloquium class on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

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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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## Living with AI: Wabash students weigh promise, pressure and uncertainty



Chayce Howell '27

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**The Bachelor, in partnership with Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse, launched this recurring column to reflect how students are thinking about campus life, current events and the broader world. Each week, a small group of randomly selected Wabash students gathers for a facilitated conversation. Rather than offering conclusions or arguments, the column captures how students are making sense of complex issues in real time.**

This week's discussion began with stark opinions on AI. Students described AI as useful, efficient and often impressive. They also called it intrusive, unavoidable and unsettling.

"I think it is a great tool that can be used for a lot of different things," one participant said.

Even those who praised AI's capabilities acknowledged discomfort with how quickly it spread.

"Every app I go on has some AI," another participant observed.

For many at the table, AI no longer feels optional. It feels ubiquitous. Participants pointed to AI's presence in Word, Google and Netflix among many other apps. What once felt novel now feels constant, and saturation has shaped the tone of the conversation. Students are not debating whether AI should exist. They are wrestling with how to live alongside it.

That tension sharpened when the conversation turned toward AI in coursework. Students questioned how AI intersects with Wabash's emphasis on critical thinking, writing and argumentation. Most participants agreed AI can be helpful when used carefully. The concern centered on substitution rather than assistance.

"There's a lot of students who use AI for everything," one participant said.

Several participants worried about skills that weaken when AI becomes a shortcut. Writing surfaced repeatedly as did reading.

"You don't get as much reading a summary as you do from a 20-page research article," one student said.

Beneath these comments sat a deeper anxiety. Students questioned whether overreliance on AI erodes the intellectual habits the college claims to cultivate. Some described classmates struggling to develop arguments independently. Others pointed to a growing strain on trust between students and professors. AI detection tools are a part of that story.

Participants shared concerns about false positives and the chilling effect of suspicion. If students fear being accused regardless of their actions, what happens? Some wondered whether oral exams might become more common.

Several departments used lab computers without access to the internet for comprehensive exams to prevent AI use as well as other forms of cheating. The conversation did not land on consensus about policy, but it revealed broad agreement on one point: students want clearer guidance.

An AI literacy course emerged as one possible response. Participants suggested structured discussion of AI ethics, limitations and responsible use could help students navigate gray areas. Opinions diverged on timing; some favored early introduction through freshman tutorials while others argued upperclassmen might benefit more as graduation approaches.

From the classroom, the discussion moved outward to careers and employment. Here, uncertainty deepened. Students spoke candidly about automation and job displacement, especially in entry-level white-collar positions.

"Fifty percent of the entry-level white-collar jobs will be gone," one participant said.

Whether or not the statistic holds, the perception resonated.

"That is kind of scary, that what I want to go into won't be there for me," another student added.

Some participants saw adaptation on the horizon rather than collapse. Several participants predicted hiring processes may evolve, placing greater emphasis on demonstrations of reasoning and communication. Others argued AI fluency itself may become a baseline expectation. Avoiding the technology entirely, they suggested, could prove as risky as relying on it too heavily.

Students raised concerns about authenticity, creativity, environmental cost and accountability. They wondered how culture might change if AI-generated material becomes indistinguishable from human-created work.

"Someday things, like books, are going to have to be labeled 'manmade,'" one participant said.

Despite the weight of these themes, the discussion did not collapse into fatalism. Instead, students circled back to agency. What can individuals and institutions do? Participants emphasized using AI as a supplement rather than a replacement for thinking. They encouraged approaching AI outputs critically and verifying information rather than accepting responses at face value. Students also highlighted the importance of strengthening skills AI cannot easily replicate, including oral communication, ethical judgment and creative problem framing.

Calls for clearer norms followed naturally. Students advocated transparent classroom policies, shared expectations across courses and open dialogue between faculty and students about acceptable use. AI literacy, many argued, should focus less on technical mastery and more on discernment.

AI, participants agreed, is reshaping daily life, education and work. The challenge is not deciding whether it belongs but how to engage with it deliberately and responsibly without surrendering the habits of thought that define a Wabash education.

## HI-FIVES

### FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

#### NOT TOP 10 PLAYS

*Lo-Five to ESPN for running a photo of Vikings receiver Myles Price during their segment on the passing of Rondale Moore. Here at The Bachelor we know a thing or two about journalism errors, but come on ESPN, some things you just have to get right.*

#### BROTHERLY DELUSIONS

*Hi-Five to Alysa Liu for becoming America's sweetheart following a triumphant return to figure staking punctuated by a Gold Medal performance in the Olympics. Contrary to what you might hear your friends say, men of Wabash, no, you don't have a shot with her.*

#### "THIS IS AN EASY ONE"

*Lo-Five to Dr. Casey Means for dodging vaccination questions during her Senate hearing as the nominee for Surgeon General. It seemed like she had rough, Robert F. Kennedy sounding voice in her head telling her what to say.*

#### UNCLASSIFIED

*Hi-Five to you, Wabash, for not classified-ing Gabriel Brandenburg '28 when he lost his wallet. Its heartwarming to see some character growth from our student body; next we'll learn how to respect each other's cars!*

#### RERUNS

*Lo-Five to the White House for claiming Iran has weapon-grade nuclear material despite experts saying otherwise. We've already seen this episode before bro.*

## Why mental health awareness can't be occasional



Photo Editor

Will Duncan '27

Reply to this opinion at  
wjdduncan27@wabash.edu

Men's mental health is a topic that is constantly brought up as a big part of our lives that is under-recognized and valued. Every time another life is lost due to suicide, we talk about how sad it is and how they had so much more to live for, but when do you talk about it casually? Do you talk about it at all? When was the last time you asked your roommate, teammate or fraternity brother how they're really doing?

Men's mental health is so important that you can't allow the discomfort of a

conversation to deter you from changing a life. Just this past weekend, Rondale Moore, an NFL wide receiver and alumnus of Purdue University, was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound at the age of 25, according to the New York Times. That's only about two to three years after college, or the average age of a graduate school student. Understand that mental health can affect you no matter what age you are. Wabash specifically has had multiple occasions where mental health struggles have led to lives being lost. It's not as foreign a subject as you think. We, as Wabash students, pride ourselves on brotherhood, community and togetherness. Brotherhood isn't just about showing up to a football game or school event every week. It's about noticing when your friend stops showing up. It's about choosing to have an uncomfortable five-minute conversation over a lifetime of regret. We talk about how our brotherhood at Wabash is what makes

the school so special. So, let's treat it that way. Too often, men have the mindset that silence means the struggle goes away, or that someone else's problems often overshadow their struggle.

The tragedy that is Rondale Moore forces us to confront an idea that we would rather not think about: success, popularity, money — none of it — can save you from mental health struggles. If someone who has the life that most of us dream of can still feel hopeless and lonely, you would be foolish to think the person sitting next to you in class couldn't feel the same. Mental health awareness shouldn't be something we talk about once a year. It should be a culture that we continue to build every day.

Also, understand that you are never any less of a man for admitting you need help. Real strength isn't shown by how much weight you can bear; it's shown by telling someone when that weight becomes unbearable. Sometimes, all someone

needs is just the assurance that their struggles are heard. Let this be a shameless plug to shout out the counseling center on campus and everyone who works there. Regardless of how big or small your problems may be, they truly are there to help your life become easier. No problem is ever too small to talk about. Instead of waiting for the next tragedy to happen to bring up the thought of mental health awareness, let us be trailblazers in being proactive enough in these conversations to prevent the next tragedy from happening.

Wabash Always Fights, no matter the size of the battle. If we truly want to help the mental health crisis, we have to make the first move, not wait for another tragedy to strike. I urge you, reading this, to be the change, as you're never too good to help a brother out. Be the one who asks, be the one who cares and be the reason someone stays.

## Why is the library so dang hot?



Colton Cooper '28

Reply to this opinion at  
cgcooper28@wabash.edu

several hours in the library each day, as it is easily the best place on campus to study (Hays Hall is a close second). Simply put, if the library was taken off the table, I along with many other students would not know what to do. Unfortunately, since Christmas break, the library has been scorching.

The place many students used to call home is now inhospitable, especially for long study sessions. Everyone is too busy wiping sweat from their forehead and making adjustments to get any real work done. You might think, "oh maybe a coffee would help to take my mind off the heat, ". Wrong. The "lock in" that coffee gives you is mitigated by the fact that no one wants to drink a hot coffee when it is north of 85° on the first floor. "Just don't wear long pants or a sweatshirt", they all chant in unison. That's a swell idea until it's snowing and somehow the wind is blowing every direction on campus, giving frostbite to any exposed skin within minutes. "It's not that deep,

just study somewhere else,' okay bro just admit that you don't know ball.

I came to the library to get in the right headspace to write this, and it reinvigorated my passion for this piece. I am physically having to clean my keyboard because sweat is dripping down my fingers and making the keys sticky. I am not the only one experiencing these problems.

"I had to stop doing paper homework in the library because my sweat would ruin the paper," said Luke Mayer '28.

"It's so warm in there I just fell asleep and missed my afternoon classes," said Ryan Bartley '28.

Something must change. We cannot stand for this, as a community, a student body and as a brotherhood. We can either sit here and endure the prolonged suffering that is the temperature control in the Lilly library, or, we can take lessons from the recent Wabash United week and come together and enact change.

Talk to professors. Talk to the deans.

Library staff workers, I know you have it the worst out of all of us, so we need you to be a main proponent of this ever-needed movement. We can either suffer in silence, or we can triumph through adversity and obtain a valiant victory.

While I am very serious about the library and its conditions, this message needs to be heard in much more serious contexts across our campus. Do not stand idly by while you or your brother are subjected to poor or unfair circumstances. As Andy Dufresne declared in "The Shawshank Redemption," "get busy living or get busy dying." Do not let the opportunity to spark positive change pass you by. I encourage you, brothers, to take action in this community we are blessed to be a part of. Be the catalyst. Be the leader. Be the culture change.

## Details and why they matter



**Michael McCarthy '28**  
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is crucial for us to be cognizant that our days are composed of mundanity. So, yes, it does matter how you take out the trash, it matters how you write your notes in class and yes, how you tie your shoes matters.

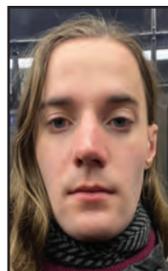
Fortunately, Wabash is a catalyst for individual change, but time is of the essence. There truly is no better place or time in your life to begin molding into a better man. Do not dismiss the usefulness of being encapsulated within a small, rural and testosterone-filled liberal arts school. Yes, this sounds ludicrous, but the truth is that change is easy at Wabash; the trade-off is that we aren't here for long. I am sure we have all seen the statistics and heard the success stories, but in reality, the posters and presentations boasting the hard work of Wabash Alumni mean nothing unless you, too, take pride in the details. The correlation between success and Wabash alumni is not merely a coincidence. Rather, it is due to our traditions, and I am not referring to Chapel Sing, or Ringing in or refraining from walking under the arch, but the tradition of crafting men who realize that even the smallest actions reflect our character.

To reach your goals, regardless of what they are, there is no hiding from becoming a detail-oriented individual. If you want to consider yourself a true Wabash Man, you must forge yourself into a man who approaches detail with diligence, from the fire that is Wabash College. I will leave you with the Zen Buddhist saying, "How you do anything is how you do everything." It is too dangerous to idle through your days with no method of accountability for how you conduct yourself. It is easy to go with the flow of mediocrity, but only dead fish go with the flow, and Wabash men are by no means dead fish.

Solitude kills detail. Unfortunately, we are living in an age in which the small items of the day are often pushed to the side, or completed so lackadaisically that their box should remain unchecked. To my Wabash brethren, I would like to invite you to take more sincerity to the seemingly granular tasks that so often prevail. It is imperative that we unshackle ourselves from the thought that nobody is watching, erase the constant questions of meaning and disentangle the "procrastinate now, lock in later" mindset.

There is great satisfaction in completing something to the best of your ability. Take, for example, how good it feels to finally bestow your spent body upon a leather couch after an arduous workout. Now, what makes a workout good? The simple answer: details. By taking every repetition with sincerity and heeding proper form, the apparently mundane factors begin to compound, in turn effectively producing a holistic, tangible outcome. This detail-oriented formula is an all-encompassing tool for growth, no matter where it is applied. If you want to achieve more good days, you must begin by making the sacrifice to expose yourself to opportunities of inadequacy more often. Put more simply, you must elevate the criteria. While it's understandable that one might not care how they carry themselves while doing a mundane task, it

## Wallies in the wild: Choose life



**Preston Reynolds '25**  
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could ever prepare for. If you want to carve out a life for yourself, it must be done yesterday. Addiction won't make that easier.

Moving from Crawfordsville to Chicago, that fact was harder for me to ignore. For the crowd of UChicago master's students, staring down the barrel of a gun named "uncompetitive job market," justifying a drunk cig is easy. Fired from the part-time job paying your rent? Take a shot. Program funding gets cut in half? Smoke a bowl. Most grad students have neither the money, time nor experience to balance life without substances.

I only say this because my Wabash lifestyle didn't disappear after graduation. "I'll quit when I graduate." Habit aren't left on Little Giant Field in May. The world does not have the time or space for addiction. It will drag you to new lows, fooling you into thinking "at least it won't be that bad again." Being a "functional addict" is a myth. Addiction will rob you of opportunities, enjoyment, friends, family and soul. Quitting today and every day for the rest of your life is the only way out.

On a deeper level, I want to cry out that every moment of your life matters. Even simple addictions, like smartphones, rob you of precious time. You will die, probably sooner than you want. I needed to quit because I want to live the rest of my life. Addiction makes you a sleepwalker in the waking world, moving from one empty frame to another like a spinning film reel.

I watched the movie "Trainspotting" (1996) with some fraternity brothers my junior year. It's a movie about heroin addiction. At that time, I was getting ever closer to a new low. My drinking had screwed over my sleep and work. I was irritable, unhappy and even violent. And I fell asleep early in the film. By the time I woke up, the movie was over and I could only remember Ewan McGregor's opening monologue.

"Choose life... But why would I want to do a thing like? I chose not to choose life. I chose somethin' else. And the reasons? There are no reasons. Who needs reasons when you've got heroin?"

For many, the four-years at Wabash will be some of the best times of their lives. A window where they worked hard and played harder. A peak of excitement they'll always be watching with yearning to return. That's stupid.

Don't spend the rest of your life trying to resurrect some past that only existed in your mind. The past is an illusion trying to convince you that "things won't be that good again." Nostalgia is boring. Addiction is boring. Chasing ghosts will wear you down until nothing is left. There's no easy way off this ride and there's no other choice but to keep going.

And each drunk cig counts.

"Drunk cigs don't count," one of my close friends at Wabash always shouted, as he ripped a vape or snagged a smoke. He wasn't a nic-fiend before coming to Wabash — most of us weren't. But, after a few years, almost all of us picked up one form of nicotine or another at some point. The absurdity of his catchphrase did summersaults in my mind. Isn't it a cig either way?

These energizing phrases frustrate me, but they're often too snappy to refute at the moment. "What doesn't kill you make you stronger." Nope. Usually it just leads to latent injuries. "Live in the moment." Ok. What happens the next morning? "If you're going through hell, keep going." What happens when it never ends? "F\*\*\* it, we ball."

That last phrase kept me going for a while. It's possible to wake up every day and tell yourself, "I'm going to make this one a good one." But eventually, you wear down. You have a bad day. You have a bad week. You have a bad year. Drunk cig after drunk cig piles up. After graduation, you're going to have more bad days than you could ever imagine.

I'll be upfront, the core of this article is an appeal to quit. It disturbed me by the end of undergrad how flagrantly people treated addiction. I was horrified by my own habits and the weak justifications I used to keep the endorphins flowing. The most dangerous excuse? "At least I'm not as bad as [insert name of chronic alcoholic on campus]." Being faster than the slowest person won't stop life from devouring you.

Almost 42% of Wabash students binge drink at least once every two weeks. They are more likely to blackout regularly, get in fights, gamble and smoke. They will disrupt others' work, break random stuff and vomit in random places (ICSUS 2025, Wabash College). I hate saying it, but that lifestyle, even for a few years, impacts your body and mind forever. It made me a worse person. You don't get to quit whenever you want. Addiction haunts the rest of your life.

Addiction takes years to recover from, both psychologically and neurologically. You won't have years after graduation to get your life together. The world is moving faster than we

## We Salute Mike Warren '93.

Thank you for your help and friendship for 25 years.  
You are Some Little Giant!



*His freshman photo in '89!*

[instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis](https://www.instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis)

## Poetry from Wallies



**Gabrien Smith '27**  
Reply to this poem at [gismith27@wabash.edu](mailto:gismith27@wabash.edu)

### 'Late Night Lyric 1'

Mulberry sky—motionless.  
I walk  
the shock of sycamores  
along a brick path, streetlight  
smeared. I've lived  
here for a million years  
where the air churns  
sleeplessness—  
bats scatter, rise,  
dive above my head.  
Dew shimmer  
and insomnia: a hollow  
sound like putting your ear  
to an empty vase.



# The Bachelor

## Request for artists

Interested in featuring your art in the Bachelor?  
We are looking for new artists to be consistently  
featured in the Opinions section!

**Are you interested in making comics? Do you want your art to be featured in *The Bachelor*?**

Contact [ejwetzal27@wabash.edu](mailto:ejwetzal27@wabash.edu)  
or [ecbone26@wabash.edu](mailto:ecbone26@wabash.edu)

Looking for inspiration? Here is a beautiful 2023  
Homecoming comic from Preston Parker '26.

## 'If the GDI's can do it'



## New but familiar faces on the sideline: Webber and Fitzgerald '26 coach Lacrosse

EVAN STONIS '26  
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash lacrosse team enters the 2026 season with a new coaching staff on the sideline — but not a new identity. After the departure of former Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke, Nate Webber, former assistant coach, was promoted to the head coach position in September 2025. Webber spent little time hiring a new assistant coach as he brought in Quinn Fitzgerald '26, who played for three years for the Little Giants, to help him run the program. Both coaches have spent years with the team, and they look to use that familiarity to their advantage. However, the new responsibilities have not come without their respective challenges.

Webber has discussed the adjustment of taking the reins as well as some of the differences with his new role compared to when he was an assistant coach.

“There have definitely been adjustments along the way as I continue to grow into my role as the head coach of the program,” said Webber. “I think any initial shock of the adjustment has worn off, though.”

Webber’s attention has been on keeping the program trending in the right direction. He hasn’t tried to change the culture, but he has stressed the aspects of accountability and trust among his players. That has shown up in established and older players like Lucas Cunningham '26 and Bryce Poling '26, both of whom anchor the Little Giants’ defense and strive to maintain the same level of grit in years past.

“Our goal as a team is to be true to what we were built on,” said Webber. “What the program is at its core remains very similar, but we, of course, have plenty of new faces looking to make an impact.”

While Webber’s coaching focus has expanded beyond the defensive side of the ball to every aspect of play, Fitzgerald’s imprint has been most visible on the offensive end.

Fresh out of his own Wabash playing career where he notably broke several Wabash records as team captain, Fitzgerald brings familiarity and credibility to the offense. Instead of calling plays on the field, Fitzgerald now calls them from the sidelines,



PHOTO BY GEORGE SHAGLEY '26

Head Lacrosse Coach Nate Webber speaks to the team after their game against Hanover on February 10, 2026, at Fischer Field.

utilizing his leadership, experience and high lacrosse IQ to the team’s advantage.

“We’ve been in the program for a while,” said Fitzgerald. “We know the guys, and they know us, which allows us to skip a pretty huge step for being a new coaching staff.”

The shift on the offensive end of the field has been geared towards making a balance amongst the players. That balance begins with new faces such as Zach McMichael '29, Austin Clark '29 and Grayson McCallum '29, who have all shown their ability to pressure defenses in different ways. At the same time, returners Jake Phippen '26, Will Sorg '27 and Evan Bair '28 continue to find ways to dominate possessions. With the introduction of new talent paired with experienced playmakers, the Wabash attack has diversified, and Fitzgerald believes that versatility will define this year’s unit.

“I hope that we are going to be much more balanced on offense,” said Fitzgerald. “We are more talented across the board, and it’s going to make us really hard to guard.”

This season’s schedule also presents a potential challenge for the new coaching staff as the team will face more difficult opponents compared to recent years. Both the non-conference and North Coast Athletic Conference slates are some of the most competitive calendars the team has ever taken on, but this has not altered the coaches’ or the players’ mindset. Webber and Fitzgerald are wanting to turn challenges into opportunities, and they want their players to embrace those opportunities as opposed to avoiding them.

The expectations for Wabash lacrosse have not shifted with the change on the sideline, and if anything, the proverbial bar has been raised. With a defense grounded in experience and a tough identity, an offense built on depth and versatility and a coaching staff rooted in familiarity, Wabash enters 2026 ambitious to make a statement: the coaching staff may be new, but the standard remains the same. Compete, improve and continue pushing the program forward.



PHOTO BY GEORGE SHAGLEY '26

Assistant Lacrosse Coach Quinn Fitzgerald '26 speaks to the team after their game against Hanover on February 10, 2026, at Fischer Field.

## This week in sports

TY MURPHY '27  
STAFF WRITER

SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Little Giants saw a weekend of mixed results that was highlighted by an All-Conference finish in track and field and back-to-back volleyball wins, but baseball and lacrosse battled through early season challenges.

### Track and Field

The track and field team split up their forces last weekend as some traveled to Bloomington, Illinois on Friday, February 20, to compete in the Illinois Wesleyan University Friday Night Tri meet, and others traveled to Wooster, Ohio on Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and 22, to compete in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Multi-Events Championship.

In Bloomington, Carter Leininger '28 was the highlight of the meet after taking third place in the 200 meter dash with a time of 22.97 seconds. Jordan Tate '28 also contributed with a 15.30 meter personal record toss in the weight throw to finish fourth.

In Wooster, Tyler Petroski '29 gave an All-Conference performance to finish second overall in the heptathlon with 4,562 points. Ricky Sanders '29 added a sixth place finish with 4,138 points. The Little Giants led the day with 11 points and gained an early lead in the conference championship.

The team will return to action on Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28, to defend their lead in the NCAC Indoor Track and Field Championships hosted by Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.

### Baseball

The baseball team had their season opener in a doubleheader on Saturday, February 21, against Franklin and Marshall College and Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia.

Against Franklin and Marshall, Bradley Gilliam '27 singled home Caleb Ellspermann '27 in the second inning to give Wabash an early lead. After giving up three runs to Franklin and Marshall in the third inning, Wabash fired back with a four-run inning in the fifth, thanks to runs from Gilliam, Will Fremion '27, Ben Henke '26 and Will Wallace '28. But after a dominant six-run ninth inning by the Diplomats, Wabash fell 6–13.

Against Hampden-Sydney, Wabash held a lead until the Tigers fired back in the fourth with six runs. Despite DJ Mendez '28 lining up a two-run single and a run scored by Parker Smith '27, the team fell 6–9.

The game on Sunday, February 22, against Muskingum College was canceled due to weather. The Little Giants will return to the diamond on Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28, in Lafayette, Indiana where they will take on Monmouth College in a three game series.

### Volleyball

The volleyball team kicked off their Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL) schedule as they traveled to Olivet, Michigan on Friday, February 20, to take on the University of Olivet



COURTESY OF PAUL SUN

Parker Smith '27 sizes up a pitch during a game against Hampden-Sydney College on February 21, 2026, at Ty Cobb Ballpark in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia.

and then traveled to Adrian, Michigan on Saturday, February 21, to face Adrian College.

Against the University of Olivet, Bawibawi Thang '27 led the team with nine kills while also adding a solo block and an assisted block. Jaden Greenwell '29 and Patrick Volk '26 both added another seven kills each. Matthew Stitle '28 led the team with 30 assists to help Wabash take down the Comets in a 3–0 sweep.

Wabash did not let up in their match against Adrian College, courtesy of 22 kills from Thang. Shad Wilson '27 added 11 and Zev Wolverton '27 contributed seven more to the kill tally. Stitle added a dominant 40 assists. The Little Giants dropped the second set to the Bulldogs, but they quickly bounced back in the third and fourth sets to claim a 3–1 win.

Thang’s performance over the weekend was good enough to earn him MCVL Offensive Player of the Week honors.

The team returns to the floor to continue MCVL play on Saturday, February 28, as they will take on the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio, with the first serve taking flight at 7 p.m. EST. On Sunday, March 1, the team will then travel to face Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio at 1 p.m. EST.

### Lacrosse

The lacrosse team took on Hope College on Saturday, February 21, at Fischer Field, but it was a devastating loss for the Little Giants.

Austin Clark '26, Christian Dybedock '27 and Jake Phippen '26 contributed two goals each while Sam Santiago '26 and Will Sorg '27 each added a goal and an assist. Wabash took a hard-fought 6–5 lead heading into halftime, but it was not enough to survive the Flying Dutchmen. After being outscored 3–9 in the final 30 minutes of the game, Wabash lost 9–14.

The team returns to Fischer Field on Saturday, February 28, where they take on Ohio Northern University at 12 p.m. EST.

## Tennis goes 3–0 against DIII opponents

ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28  
STAFF WRITER

The Little Giant tennis team saw a lot of action this past week as they played four matches between Saturday, February 21, and Tuesday, February 24. The lineup of schools included three Division III schools — North Central College, Franklin College and Earlham College — and one NAIA School — the University of St. Francis (Indiana). Wabash beat all of their fellow Division III opponents but dropped its match against St. Francis to go 3–1 in the four matchups.

Saturday kicked off with the varsity players traveling down to Greencastle, Indiana to play against North Central at DePauw’s tennis center and with the reserve players staying home to compete against Franklin.

Down in Greencastle, the number one doubles team of Augusto Ghidini '26 and Rafael Rin '27 took a 7–6 win, and the number three doubles duo of Vittorio Bona '27 and Cole Shifferly '26 won 6–4. The two doubles match victories earned Wabash the opening point. In singles play, Shifferly, Ghidini and Bona dropped their matches, but Rin and Murilo Guarniari '28 beat their opponents.

With the score at three points a piece, the deciding point came down to the match between Wabash’s Edmon Neto '29 and North Central’s Ignacio Hernandez Ruiz. Neto dropped the opening set 5–7 but came back strong to win the second set 6–3. In the tiebreaking third set, Neto rallied to win the set 10–8 and gave Wabash a 4–3 win, its most meaningful victory of the season so far. Neto’s gutsy performance proved that he can compete at a high enough level to be in the varsity lineup.

“I knew that match was important for our team,” said Neto. “North Central has a solid team, so beating them gave us confidence for our matches coming up.”

“For Edmon, being in that position as a freshman made him very nervous, but he also

showed that those moments are not too big for him,” said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. “With whatever the result of his match was, he would have learned a lot.”

Back in Crawfordsville, the reserve team started off doubles play with a clean sweep as all three doubles teams won their respective matches to give the Little Giants an early 1–0 lead. That momentum carried over into singles play where Wabash claimed every singles match to earn a 7–0 win.

Later on in the evening, the Little Giants took on the Cougars of St. Francis, and there was a different kind of atmosphere in the Collett Tennis Center with both the varsity and reserve guys amped up after their respective wins. Even though their legs weren’t fresh, the team had an edge because of the energy everyone brought to the match through their cheering and screaming.

“St. Francis was the loudest match I’ve been a part of,” said Bickett. “Energy is an emphasis. We always try pushing our guys to use it as fuel. There have been a lot of good leaders in the past, but now we need the whole group to take care of that task. The energy is what could pull us through those tight matches.”

Wabash won the doubles point, but it struggled in singles play as the only Little Giant to secure a win was Faustino Dimuro '28, who won his match 2–1 (1–6, 6–4, 10–7).

“Faustino came into the match with three dominant wins,” said Bickett. “He hasn’t been in many difficult matches like the one against St. Francis. For him to be in that tight situation and pulling through was big.”

Wabash returned home on Tuesday, February 24, to take on the Earlham College Quakers, and it was an easy 7–0 sweep for the Little Giants to improve their overall record to 5–5.

The team will return to action on Saturday, February 28, when they take on Kenyon College in an NCAC matchup at Collett Tennis Center. First serves will go up in the air at 11 a.m. EST.



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Vittorio Bona '27 awaits a serve in a doubles match against the University of St. Francis (Indiana) on February 21, 2026, at the Collett Tennis Center.

# Basketball season abruptly ends with their third loss to Wittenberg in NCAC quarterfinal

CARTER MCCALL '29  
STAFF WRITER

Quarterfinal play for the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championship kicked off on Tuesday, February 24, and the night saw a third rematch between Wabash and Wittenberg. In the previous two contests between the two teams, the Tigers took 73-65 and 64-63 wins. Wittenberg proved to be the dominant team on Tuesday night as they secured a 77-53 landslide victory over Wabash.

Wabash opened the first half with early energy, jumping in front after Gavin Schippert '26 buried a three-pointer off an assist from Josh Whack '26 to make it 3-0. Wittenberg answered with a quick surge behind Eddie Brown, who knocked down a three and converted an and-one to give the Tigers a 6-3 lead.

The Little Giants were active defensively early on, forcing turnovers with steals from Keegan Manowitz '27 and strong interior contests from Colton Stowers '29. The teams traded runs over the next several minutes. Nate Matelic '27 and Rich Brooks '26 provided key baskets to keep Wabash within striking distance, while Schippert added another triple to cut the deficit to one midway through the half.



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

**Rich Brooks '26 drives down the lane in the NCAC quarterfinal game against Wittenberg on February 25, 2026, in Springfield, Ohio.**

deficit, but the Tigers had every answer.

When the final buzzer sounded, Wittenberg had a 24-point win and a ticket to play the Denison Big Red in the NCAC Semifinals. The Tigers finished the game shooting an incredible 52.8% (28/53) from the field and 47.6% (10/21) from three-point land. The Little Giants struggled, however, as they shot 33.9% (20/59) from the field and a season-low 12.5% (3/24) from beyond the arc — including an 0/10 performance in the second half.

**“Although the last month was very up and down and we did not find the necessary consistency that we have had in the past to finish higher in the conference, the players, managers and coaches made me want to come back for more each day.”**

- Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett

Just five minutes later, however, Wittenberg had a double-digit lead thanks to a combination of points in the paint and points from beyond the arc. Despite multiple defensive rebounds and blocks, Wabash trailed 27-36 at the end of the first half as Wittenberg capitalized on second-chance opportunities and offensive rebounds before the break.

Wabash opened the second half with strong energy, striking first on a Schippert layup. Wittenberg quickly responded, using inside scoring to seize control. The Little Giants kept the deficit relatively tame for the first five minutes of the second half, but then the Wittenberg offense found a dominant rhythm. Wabash tried to close the

The quarterfinal loss marked the last game for the careers of Schippert, Brooks, Josh Whack '26 and Randy Kelley '26, and Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett could not be more proud and thankful for their four years of hard work and dedication to the program.

“The senior class as a whole is what I am most grateful for,” said Brumett. “They had a lot of on the court success. We won a lot of games and they each were major contributors, but they are better people and more complete Wabash men now than even when this season began.”

The game that placed Wabash as the fifth seed in the NCAC tournament was the Little Giants' final regular season game against the Oberlin Yeomen on Saturday, Feb-

ruary 21, in Oberlin, Ohio. Although Wabash fought hard with the absence of its leading scorer, Luke Ellspermann '29, it was Oberlin who emerged victorious with a final score of 65-60.

Wabash came out aggressive on both ends of the floor, pushing the tempo early and attacking the paint. Strong ball movement created open looks from the perimeter, and Wabash capitalized with timely three-point shooting to build an early advantage.

Midway through the half, however, Oberlin responded with a run of its own. Slowing the pace and executing efficiently on the offensive end of the floor, the Yeomen found success inside the paint while also knocking down key mid-range jumpers. Despite the pushback, Wabash regained composure in the final minutes before halftime, pulling itself back into the game to trail 29-34 at the break.

Wabash opened the second half with energy but struggled with turnovers in the first few minutes, allowing Oberlin to stretch its lead to seven. The Little Giants responded behind strong interior play from Schippert and key free throws to cut the deficit. A clutch three-pointer from Manowitz midway through the half trimmed the margin to just three.

Each time Wabash threatened, however, Oberlin countered with composure, whether at the free-throw line or in transition.

Wabash's resilience showed up in the final minutes. A Matelic three and another deep ball from Manowitz brought the Little Giants within a single point. In the final minute, Stowers drilled a huge three-pointer



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

**Gavin Schippert '26 grabs a rebound in the NCAC quarterfinal game against Wittenberg on February 25, 2026, in Springfield, Ohio.**

to make it a one-possession game at 60-63, setting up a dramatic finish.

Ultimately, Oberlin sealed the game at the free-throw line, converting in the closing seconds to secure a 65-60 win. Despite the loss, Wabash displayed grit and determination throughout the half, battling through defensive stops and timely scoring runs.

The way the season ended is not what Brumett and his team envisioned, but he was thankful, as always, to complete another season with a group of guys he holds near and dear to his heart.

“I have a lot of gratitude when thinking about this season,” said Brumett. “Although the last month

was very up and down and we did not find the necessary consistency that we have had in the past to finish higher in the conference, the guys, players, managers and coaches made me want to come back for more each day. Their attitudes and togetherness is what we want and expect out of our successful Wabash men.”

It's hard to say exactly what the 2026-2027 season will have in store for Wabash basketball, but with the combination of upperclassmen leadership from Matelic and Manowitz and underclassmen strength with Ellspermann, Stowers and Deric Cannady '29, the group is primed for another NCAC Championship run.



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

**Josh Whack '26 goes up for a layup in the NCAC quarterfinal game against Wittenberg on February 25, 2026, in Springfield, Ohio.**

## The 400-meter machine: Brock DeBello '29

SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

Sprinting 400 meters is no easy feat, but Brock DeBello '29 makes it look like a walk in the park. Just six track and field events into his Wabash career, he has broken two school records, won multiple events and turned plenty of heads. What's more astonishing, however, is the fact that his Wabash career almost never happened.

As DeBello was wrapping up his senior year at Tri-West High School, he was balancing chasing a state championship and deciding whether or not he was going to continue running in

college. Not only was he being recruited by Wabash, he was also being looked at by Division I schools such as Butler and Indiana University Bloomington. Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan H'11 knew getting such a high-value recruit was going to be difficult, but he had no doubt in his program's ability to draw such a talented athlete to Crawfordsville.

“We just kept it the same, and we were just honest with him,” said Morgan. “A lot of times people get caught up in telling recruits and 18-year-old kids, ‘You can do this, this and this.’ They already know how talent-

ed they are. I like to tell them what our program can provide for them.”

**“Just watching his growth as a man from the fall to this point in the season lets me know he's going to be a better athlete. Brock has a bright smile, and the more I see it, the better I feel.”**

- Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan H'11

There was a lot of thinking going on for DeBello towards the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025.

“My family, all four of us, are so close,” said DeBello. “My mom and dad told me it's my choice. They said, ‘You have to make this decision for yourself.’ And there were a ton of pros and cons lists made in the DeBello household for the schools I was thinking about going to.”

Ultimately, he committed to Wabash in February 2025 before placing second in the 400-meter event at the Indiana High School Athletic Association State Finals in June.

But the two main pros that guided him to his college decision? The track team and the academics.

“I know a lot of people say the ‘Wabash Mafia’ sells them on helping you get a job after graduation, but the academics convinced me,” said DeBello.

The intended psychology major and religion minor wants to help out other athletes through an occupation in sports psychology.

“He saw what Wabash could offer him outside of athletics, and that was more important to him, which I appreciated,” said Morgan.

After getting on campus in the fall, DeBello hit the ground running — literally and figuratively — and hasn't taken his foot off the gas pedal. With the track and field team not being in season during the fall, they had a limited number of practices where they could meet and train as a full team. This meant that if he wanted to prove himself as one of the best sprinters on the team, he had to put in the work by himself.

“I thought it was easy to do it on my own,” said DeBello. “A big part of me is that I like to get things done. I sit down and set goals for myself before every track season. I always try to work up to those goals and have no regrets.”

Before the second semester kicked off, he sat down with Morgan to discuss these goals. They weren't results-oriented goals, but goals that go beyond the running surface.

“We wanted these goals to be achievable and fun,” said DeBello. “So we said to enjoy the process, have fun and make good connections with the guys on the team.”

DeBello is accomplishing these goals on top of crushing school records and his fellow competition. Out of the four 400-meter dash finals he has competed in, he has won three of them. At the Steemer Showcase on January 21, he also set the school record for the event at 48.79 seconds, but that time is not

his personal record. His personal best mark is 47.65 seconds, which he set at Regionals during his senior year in high school.

He also claimed a victory in the 300-meter dash while setting a school record for the event at 35.16 seconds. To cap off his short but impressive resume, he has been a crucial component of dominant 4x200-meter and 4x400-meter teams.

With the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Indoor Track and Field Championships being hosted this weekend, he is easily a frontrunner to finish on the podium. Regardless of the results, however, Morgan is proud of how DeBello has grown and developed as a Wabash man.

“Just watching his growth as a man from the fall to this point in the season lets me know he's going to be a better athlete,” said Morgan. “Brock has a bright smile, and the more I see it, the better I feel.”

“I always try to bring humor, happiness and joy to the team,” said DeBello. “I like to lighten the mood. I think it's my little touch on the team.”

Come Saturday, DeBello could provide the entire Wabash track and field team some joy by winning the 400-meter dash and aiding the team to another NCAC Indoor Track and Field Championships victory.



COURTESY OF BROCK DEBELLO '29

**Brock DeBello '29 (middle) takes a photo with (from left to right) Assistant Track and Field Coach Emile Conde, Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26, David Adesanya '27, and Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan H'11 after breaking the 300-meter dash school record at a Wittenberg University meet on December 6, 2025, in Springfield, Ohio.**