

Reflecting on 25 years since 9/11



PHOTO BY TODD VOGEL '03
Bill Hecker '05 watches a news broadcast as the 9/11 terrorist attacks unfold in real time.

DAGIM HUNTINGTON '29
STAFF WRITER

We have all heard about it, but no current student lived through it. The terrorist events that occurred during September 11, 2001 were devastating, and thankfully nobody in the Wabash community was harmed in the event. At the same time, we cannot look at the old edition of our campus newspaper as a time capsule for the institution during the event. Additionally,

we have alumni and staff on campus who were alive during this time, and even in New York when it occurred.

25 years ago, Associate Professor of Theater Jim Cherry was living in Queens. He was working toward his Ph.D. in theater history. His partner and future Wabash English professor, Crystal Benedicks, was his roommate, who was teaching at the time for Queens College.

On the morning of September

11, 2001, the two began their days like any other. Benedicks left home to teach at Queens College, while Cherry stayed behind before teaching later that day at City College in Harlem. Neither knew that by the end of the day, New York City, even the country, would be terrified for decades to come.

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Wabash comes back to win fifth Gentlemen's Classic



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Camden Singer '28 (left) and Will Freeman '28 (right) celebrate a safety on Saturday, September 5 at Little Giant Stadium.

CARTER MCCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

Wabash College roared back from a 14-point hole with 19 unanswered points and four takeaways to beat Hampden-Sydney College 29-20 Saturday, capturing the fifth edition of The Gentlemen's Classic at Little Giant Stadium.

The win pushed Wabash to a perfect 5-0 record in the Classic. Before kickoff, the Little Giants honored 20 seniors and support staff in a ceremony marking the start of the 2026 campaign.

Hampden-Sydney struck first, needing just over four minutes to find the end zone on a 19-yard touchdown pass, aided by two Wabash penalties. The Tigers built the lead to 14-0 early in the second quarter, and the Little Giants' offense sputtered on its opening drives despite a strong 8-yard third-down run from Cole Dickerson '28 and a 71-yard flip-field punt by Tyler Church '28.

But Wabash's response was

immediate and sustained. Jackson Gilbert '28 engineered a 79-yard touchdown drive, connecting with Nick Witte '28 for gains of 21 and 33 yards before scoring himself on a 6-yard keeper to cut the deficit to 14-7. Late in the half, quarterback Brand Campbell '27 moved the offense to the Hampden-Sydney 1-yard line before a goal-line fumble stalled the drive. The Wabash defense bailed the offense out, forcing a safety with 1:36 remaining in the first half to trim the margin to 14-9. Will Freeman '28 capped the half with an interception on the final play.

"I think we really settled in defensively against their tempo," said Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98. "On offense we got a sense of how they were playing their front and made an adjustment. We started to run the ball better as the game went along."

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Campus rocked by abrupt and brutal storm



COURTESY OF EVAN SHUPE '27
The aftermath of a students' car parked outside of the Lambda Chi Alpha house during the storms on Saturday, September 5.

GABE FINK '30
STAFF WRITER

A thunderstorm tore through Wabash the evening of September 5, demolishing trees and leaving parts of campus without power. While only lasting 15 minutes, it caused significant damage to trees and power lines across campus and left many students and guests displaced. Campus security and service teams worked efficiently to clear debris and restore power as quickly as possible.

Initially projected to be a few hour affair, replacement of the power lines ended up taking around 12 hours, with many affected students opting to either go home or seek accommodations at Chadwick Court. Fortunately the power was restored Sunday morning. The storm and the damage it caused proved the strength of Wabash emergency protocols and the incident command system employed by campus safety and security.

"The storm blew through about 10-15 minutes and quickly left."

said Director of Safety and Security Eugene "Buck" Waddell.

The storm immediately caused an impact. A pop up tent at Saturday's soccer match vs. Illinois Wesleyan flew over the nearby hill and was completely destroyed. A tree fell through the windshield of a student's car. The storm arrived without warning causing a tree to fall through the windshield of a student's car before it left as soon as it came. It was a tiny blip on the map, but very powerful. Students on campus described it as a total white out, with the rain pouring down and trees swaying furiously.

"We haven't seen that kind of damage in a few years," said Director of Campus Services David Morgan.

Reports came in from all around campus regarding several downed trees and even damaged power lines. Fortunately there wasn't any immediate danger posed by the fallen debris and nobody was injured. Members of the grounds crew were sent to patrol the campus and called

in Veteran's Tree Service on Sunday morning to handle the multitude of downed trees.

Campus services also ensured the roads were clear enough so that emergency services could reach campus in the wake of the storm. The trees had taken out multiple poles behind the Phi Kappa Psi house and would all need replacing before power could be restored. Morgan reached out to who is Crawfordsville's Electric, Light and Power (CL&P) company and informed them of the situation. They arrived quickly and began working to remove the fallen trees and set up new power lines.

"Our initial estimate from the power company was two to three hours. That stretched into 12 hours," said Waddell.

The lack of power caused those affected to seek accommodations elsewhere, including those living in the Phi Psi fraternity and the 606 house. The greatest concern for those living at Phi Psi was the loss of air conditioning as well as the food left in the fridges.

Also affected were the guests at Trippet Hall, such as the two comedians who had performed at Wabash Always Laughs that night. The president of Hampden-Sydney College was also staying there following Saturday's football game. The campus security team worked hard to relocate the guests and provide an alternative for the displaced students as well. CL&P worked through the night and was able to get the power up and running again early Sunday morning. Crucially, they got the power back on quickly enough that the food at Phi Psi was salvageable.

"If we have students that get displaced for power, fire, flood and emergency, this was a good test," said Waddell.

Safety and Security make it a priority to prepare for unexpected events such as this one. The storm proved to put into practice the incident command system that Safety and Security have in case of such emergencies. As soon as disaster struck, tasks were divided up and the team got to work quickly and efficiently. The power was eventually restored and the debris was cleaned up within a couple of days due to the clean up team working diligently.

WDPD Constitution Day dialogue



COURTESY OF CHRIS ANDERSON '27
WDPD's 2025 Constitution Day event where participants discussed their First Amendment rights.

DANNY VALLOS '30
STAFF WRITER

In a time when intense political polarization dominates national headlines and fractures communities, students and faculty at Wabash College are preparing to gather on campus for the annual Constitution Day event, hosted by the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) initiative. While the event officially marks the historic signing of the United States Constitution in 1787, the College leverages this federal mandate as a dynamic, active teaching exercise rather than a standard, passive history lesson.

Visiting Instructor of Rhetoric and WDPD Director Chris Anderson explained that the transition to college challenges young men to interact with the nation's founding documents in profoundly new ways.

"I think that students come with some foundational experience by walking through the world and thinking about how this country functions," said Anderson. "This is something they grow up with and they think about, but when they arrive, this is very different from high school and a lot of other places that they've experienced previously. It gives

them an opportunity to think about how to apply these constitutional ethics that we have in a way that they wouldn't have gotten anywhere else."

This year's campus event, scheduled for September 17 over lunch in Forest Hall, will center on a critical, enduring question that sits at the very heart of the American idea.

"WDPD this year is going to tackle the idea of who the 'we' in 'we the people' is, and thinking about the way that our country has changed both historically and moving forward," said Anderson. "We're designing the conversation so that there will be three different groups and each group will be tasked with a different idea: historically who is the 'we,' presently who is the 'we,' and in the future who is the 'we.' And that helps us think about some of those foundational documents as an important way in which we navigate our world, how they have changed and how they are changing."

A common misconception about the WDPD program is that it operates similarly to a traditional debate team, but the initiative actively avoids the head-to-head style of arguments

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Constitution Day



COURTESY OF CHRIS ANDERSON

Josh Bleisch, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawyer and constitutional free speech expert, gives talk at WDPD Constitution Day event.

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“We use a process of dialogue and deliberation, which is a particular form of small group discussion,” said Anderson. “It really is centered around some amount of debate within those small groups, but it’s really not the sort of head-to-head, battle it out kind of thing that you see on television all the time. It’s more focused on understanding the positions that people come to the table with.”

Using the highly debated topic of banning books in schools as an example of conflicting values like freedom and safety, he emphasized the importance of mutual understanding over total agreement.

“So even if I can’t agree with you, I at least understand how you got to that conclusion or the

values that lead you to these sorts of things,” said Anderson. “The goal is not a winner-take-all kind of approach, but rather understanding each other’s positions that then helps us inform how we should move forward.”

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- WDPD Director Chris Anderson

This steadfast commitment to mutual understanding naturally extends to how the Wabash campus handles controversial or deeply unpopular ideas,

which Anderson believes makes the rigorous, daily exercise of free speech absolutely essential for a functioning academic community.

“The answer to bad speech is not to ban it, to stop people from spewing terrible ideas, but it’s to allow and make other folks feel comfortable to challenge those ideas, to really engage with them and to have to express themselves openly,” said Anderson. “And then we have to reckon and deal and talk through and figure out how to move forward. Even if you have a bad idea, it’s best to put that bad idea under daylight and talk about it and discuss it.

For students looking to move beyond merely studying the theories of democracy to actively facilitating its practice, WDPD offers a clear, structured pipeline from their freshman year to becoming a fully paid Democracy Fellow equipped to lead community initiatives. Once officially hired, these Democracy Fellows are organized into collaborative project teams that take their constitutional training directly into the local Crawfordsville community, such as this year’s senior-led project assisting a local non-profit with a five-year mental health plan. Through this hands-on approach, Constitution Day at Wabash becomes vastly more than a history lesson; it serves as a live, practical exercise in keeping our campus and nation free.

Annual Mental Health Mile goes the distance

CHRISTIAN HANNA ’29
STAFF WRITER

Wabash College is no stranger to traditions, and a recent one has seemed to take hold of the student community. With September being suicide awareness month, student wellness has become the forefront of conversations for the College, especially on how to promote the difficult conversations surrounding it.

About three years ago, Student Development and Wellness Coordinator, Tristen Myers, started the Mental Health Mile event as a way to bring conversations on mental wellness to campus. What was at first going to be a one off event, has become an annual occurrence students look forward to every year.

“This will be our fourth Mental Health Mile event,” said Myers, “It originated from student interest and involvement in a mental health awareness campaign, and as a way for our community to take a direct step towards acknowledging suicide prevention.”

And for many students, it’s been a great success. With large turnouts each year it has become a reminder for students to be aware of the community they are a part of. And many are excited for the chance to connect with their fellow peers.

“My favorite part has yet to come,” said Peer Health



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN ’27

Zach Geleott ’27 converses with peers after the 2025 Mental Health Mile on September 19.

Educator Ty Murphy ’27. “It will be exciting to see the students all together this upcoming Thursday and help us promote suicide awareness and inclusion on the campus.”

This year, in collaboration with the Sphinx Club, the Mental Health Mile will serve as a fundraiser in part of the College’s Homecoming Charity Competition. Participants will be able to give a donation that will be split between two mental health foundations, the Even R. Hansen Foundation and the Carriage House in Fort Wayne.

“Being able to support two mental health foundations with such strong ties to the Wabash community is special,” said Zach Geleott ’27 “It’s the first time we are getting to do such a thing, and the Sphinx Club couldn’t have done it without the efforts of

Carac Johnson ’27 and Ayden Salpietra ’27. We can’t wait to watch the Wabash community show up like they always do and shine light on such an important cause.

With a history of suicide in the past, the College does not want the conversations on mental health to end. Instead of being a one time moment, the race is serving as a stepping stone for an ongoing conversation surrounding suicide awareness for the community to take part in.

“Mental health has always been a serious concern on campus, and being able to provide a way for students to connect and talk to each other has always been something I admired about the College,” said Murphy. We hope this is just the beginning for the students and I am really happy to help plan and partake this year.”

September invites all students to have hard conversations with each other and become more aware of the challenges of suicide and how to prevent it. In a community impacted so greatly by the effects on mental health, it is expected to be once again a very large and popular event. But more than anything the organizers hope to leave a message to students that they are not alone and there is always someone looking after them.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN ’27

Students gather on the Mall ahead of the 2025 Mental Health Mile on September 19.

Sky is the limit for Ducks Unlimited



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH RUNGE ’29

Ducks Unlimited holds callout meeting on September 8 in Hays 104.

ELIJAH WETZEL ’27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Any investor would tell you that a \$200 investment that yields \$5,000 in profits is one you should make ten times out of ten. Imagine if a Wabash club could boast that statline. Turns out, Ducks Unlimited Wabash can.

After requesting just \$200 for the semester from Student Senate, Ducks Unlimited Wabash held a fundraiser for wetlands conservation — the mission of its parent organization, Ducks Unlimited Inc., is to conserve, restore and manage wetlands habitat — and raised over \$5,000 for the protection of wetlands.

Though the club was formed just last spring, it’s already attracting scores of students to its ranks. Ayden Wells ’28, the founder and president of Ducks Unlimited Wabash, was in Hays 104 on Tuesday night preparing for the group’s first callout meeting of the semester.

“We have around 40 students coming tonight for our callout meeting,” said Wells. “But there’s 40 or 50 people outside of Wabash that also come to our events. So there’s a lot more than just students that can be involved with what we do.”

How’d one club build so much momentum in less than a year? Part of their success is due to the strength of Ducks Unlimited nationwide. The organization was formed in 1937 in response to the Dust Bowl’s demolition of waterfowl populations and wetlands. Since then, Ducks Unlimited has conserved over 20 million square acres of habitat in North America — that’s an area roughly the size of South Carolina. There are Ducks Unlimited chapters across the country. High schools and colleges house many chapters, but anyone

can gather a group of people and form one.

Grassroots efforts to conserve natural habitats are crucial because of how important the natural world is to the well-being of human populations.

“Whether we realize it or not, everyone’s lives are touched by what is happening in the ecosystems that surround us,” said Associate Professor of Biology Brad Carlson. “Changes in wildlife populations can influence diseases that harm humans and our livestock, pollination of our crops and the health of the

vegetation that filters the air and water. Furthermore, populations of wildlife help support recreational activities and the economic benefits they generate, as well as improving the mental health of people when they get to encounter nature.”

Wetlands are just one habitat that’s crucial to humans. Not only do wetlands serve as recreational areas for all types of outdoor activities, but they’re powerful draws for tourism, which boosts local economies. Wetlands’ importance to supplying people with water is becoming even more important as the proliferation of data centers ushers water security issues to the fore of public debate. Ducks Unlimited Wabash is choosing to be part of the solution to these questions.

“The cool thing about Ducks Unlimited is every single dollar we get from these events that we put on goes directly into the dirt,” said Rhys Anderson ’28, Ducks Unlimited Wabash’s vice president. “It doesn’t go into some corporate fund that invests in a whole bunch of different things. One hundred percent of it goes right into the dirt, right into projects that Ducks Unlimited funds and puts on themselves.”

Aside from their standard operating costs, Ducks Unlimited spends all the

money that is raised on conservation. Though Ducks Unlimited was started by a group of sportsmen, Wells and Anderson were insistent that conservation was and always will be Ducks Unlimited’s goal, and anyone — whether they have a background in hunting or fishing or not — was welcome to help aid their mission.

“I want to make it clear that it doesn’t matter if you’re a hunter, if you like guns or anything like that,” said Wells. “This is about conservation at the end of the day.”

And while wetlands may not be a regular sight to many Hoosiers or Wabash men, that wasn’t always the case.

“Like much of Indiana, the Crawfordsville region has notably been depleted of its historic wetlands,” said Carlson. “Much of the area

north of town used to be a wet prairie formed along Lye Creek, which has since been drained for farming. This ‘Everglades of the North’ covered hundreds of thousands of acres and included the largest lake in the state, but it was all drained for farming in the early 1900s. Numerous wetland dependent species, including many waterfowl, have since faced massive population declines and are at risk of extinction in the state.”

Wells, Anderson and Ducks Unlimited Wabash want to do all they can to preserve the wetlands that Indiana has left. They attended a national Ducks Unlimited training event over the summer and are back on campus with renewed fervor. They plan to hold a fundraiser in October that will be open to all.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH RUNGE ’29

Rhys Anderson ’28 (left) and Ayden Wells ’28 (right) speak at a Ducks Unlimited Callout Meeting on September 8.

LITTLE GIANTS.

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“To wake up on just a normal Tuesday morning, September 11, and the things that were important at 8:45 yesterday were not as important at noon.” Trevor Fanning ’00

This quote was taken from the 9/13/2001 issue of The Bachelor.

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Benedicks was riding a city bus through Queens when she heard people starting to murmur “World Trade Center.” From the bus, she could see the smoke rising from the towers across the East River.

“It was the most beautiful September day” said Benedicks, “The clear sky provided a clear view of the World Trade Center as the reality of the attacks began to set in.”

Cherry turned on the television at home and called Benedicks, who was at Queens College trying to understand what was happening while attempting to facilitate her students.

The subway and many of New York’s public transportation systems had shut down, leaving tens of thousands of people stranded across the city.

Benedicks worked one by one making sure students of the college were able to make their way home safely. One of her students drove her back home.

“The streets were dead empty,” said Benedicks. “It was absolutely vacant.”

That evening, Cherry and Benedicks went to a pizza restaurant.

The restaurant was packed with people from the neighborhood. For Cherry, the scene was a representation of something important about how New York natives were responding to the attacks.

“Everybody was having this kind of shared traumatic experience,” said Cherry. “Being around people provided a sense that the community was still there.”

The sense of community existed alongside a darker side of the aftermath. American flags appeared throughout the city for the passing days. At the time, both Cherry and Benedicks believed the events on September 11, 2001 would be defining for the rest of their lives. However, 25 years later, the world has continued to change in ways they couldn’t have imagined. They mentioned events like the COVID-19 pandemic, the election of the first Black president, the emergence of AI and even the first man at Wabash to take parental leave. Perhaps the greatest lesson from their experience is that even after an event as devastating as September 11, life continues. The scars remain, but people adapt. Cherry himself will be returning to the city this Thanksgiving as part of an immersion trip with Wabash students.

If there is something to take away from this, it is that even from a huge scarring incident like the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 that scarred a nation, we must move on.

Wabash College itself has also spoken up about the catastrophe several times over the years. For example, in 2012, the Wabash community came together briefly on a Tuesday morning to remember the events of September 11, 2001 by organizing activities that included placing 2,977 American flags on the mall that aligned flags that spelled out “9-11.” The shape of the upper loop of the nine was in the shape of the Pentagon. Each flag represented a person who died in the terrorist attacks. The event was organized by the Wabash Conservative Union, a campus organization at the time.

While no students, staff or alumni were directly harmed on September 11, 2001, Wabash College was and continues to be impacted by the terrorist attacks on that tragic day.



PHOTO BY TODD VOGEL '03

Shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Sphinx Club painted the Senior Bench to commemorate the victims, as pictured above.

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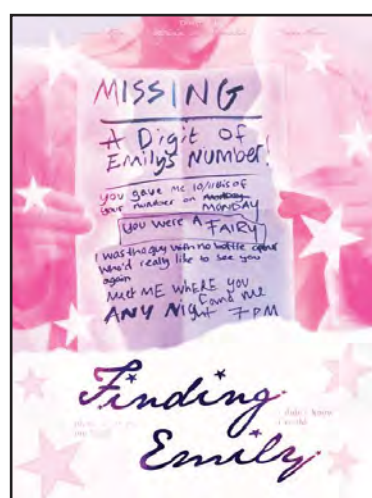
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'Finding Emily' earns a place in the viewer's heart



COURTESY OF TMDB

**CHRISTIAN HANNA '29
STAFF WRITER**

There’s not much to say about the Rom-Com genre that hasn’t been said already. Through the 2000s and early 2010s, it was a money-making locomotive that didn’t really deviate from its own structure. Most people can agree that “10 Things I Hate About You” is a very different movie from “Never Been Kissed” — however, aside from slight differences in setting and language, the core of each movie are very similar: the main character is given a task which involves a potential love interest, who is seen as “forbidden fruit” to our protagonist for one reason or another. Their romantic tension builds up to a kiss, but the mood is ruined, the love interest is hurt by the main character in some way, followed by an “all is lost” moment, and it finishes off with a grand gesture from the main character, they both kiss, the end.

Save for a few inconsequential differences in tone, character interaction or setting, most Rom-Coms are structured this way, and for a while people were consuming these films on a regular basis — even as this proverbial locomotive began running on its own steam. Rom-Coms today are still a guilty pleasure for me; more of a fast-food than something of substance, and there isn’t much more that can be made besides the same rehashed story. Or at least, this is what I thought before watching “Finding Emily.” I was wrong.

“Finding Emily” tells the story of a man named Owen, working as an audio tech in a London university, and at a night club on weekends. After meeting and falling in love with a girl named Emily, he attempts to text the number she gave him, only to find out that there’s a digit missing. Desperate, he searches the university for that girl, and comes across a different Emily. New Emily is writing a thesis for her psychology degree, and is hell-bent on proving that love is an “evolutionary hangover” that has no use in the present day. Owen, without knowing that he is effectively a lab rat, teams up

with New Emily to track down the Emily he met at the night club, but things turn south when he sends a mass-email to every Emily on campus.

“Finding Emily” is an absolute gem. The writing for this film is very smart, in that it has the characters act like ‘exaggerated’ versions of real people as opposed to cartoon characters meant to serve a one-dimensional purpose. Owen’s characterization as a hopeless romantic is charming through-and-through, primarily because his intention on finding Emily is completely pure: he felt a warm and intense connection with this girl, and he wants to find her to experience her presence again, which is what he identifies as love at first sight. The New Emily starts as a cynic, but is eventually won over by Owen’s optimism and determination to see the best in people, and as a viewer I began to feel that, because my first thought when watching was “Did he get wrong-numbered?” but he addresses that and says something to the effect of, “Of course I thought of that, but there was a real connection between us. Why does nobody get that? Why does everyone have to be so cynical?” To further prove this, the main ‘villain’ of the story is an Emily who takes the email he sent out as harassment, and starts a protest group aimed at Owen. She’s not necessarily a ‘bad’ person, she isn’t ‘evil,’ she’s just channeling her energy at someone she doesn’t realize isn’t her enemy.

My largest qualm with this movie is New Emily and her perceived relationship with her father, or lack thereof. When Owen first meets her, it’s because he calls her out of class with the excuse that he “has a message from her father,” to which she later calls him out saying something to the effect of, “I haven’t seen him since I was born, could you point him out for me?” and I found that interesting because I thought ‘That’s cool, I wonder how they’re going to tie that in with her need to disprove love.’ And then the movie never brought it up again. The only reason I bring this up is because the rest of the movie is so air-tight that it was weird for such a thing to result in not much more than a one-off joke. The rest of my “critiques” for this film are more nitpicks, things like weird inconsistencies in camera angles or needle drops at odd times.

As the credits roll on this review, if there’s one thing to take away, it’s this: “Finding Emily” is one of the best movies of the year, and one of the best true Rom-Coms this decade. If your girlfriend ever stays over and says she wants to watch a Rom-Com, throw this movie on and I can guarantee the both of you will be more than happy by the end.



COURTESY OF TMDB

**FINAL VERDICT:
4.5/5 WALLYS**



New art installation cuts deep into themes of class, nature

PHILLIP HARVEY '29
STAFF WRITER

This week debuts the semesterly art gala in the Eric Dean Gallery. Three internationally traveling artists, Melissa Haviland, Allison Maria Rodriguez and Elizabeth Rose opened on September 8 a show entitled “Errant Ecologies.” The environmentalism-centered pieces ask the cultural questions around our water, plants and animals using wildly varying artforms.

The three artists work in print-making, video installation and textiles, but the throughline for Associate Professor of Art and Dept Chair. Annie Strader is the use of beauty to start complex discussions.

“We always bring artists who work in a variety of materials and processes every student and the community too can see artists displaying different ideas” said Strader. “This particular show is sort of curated with an environmental theme. So there’s a kind of overlap conceptually. Art can be a place for a conversation starter, right? Through what ideas are kind of embedded in there, and as people are looking at them, we’re all going to see different things.”

Melissa Haviland is a printmaking-based installation artist and Ohio University professor. She has spent about a decade deeply, fetishistically — in her own words — obsessed with blue. It began when she read to her toddler son a story about a refugee boy who carries a teacup filled with soil from his homeland. Haviland had recurring dreams from then on of drowning while surrounded by floating teacups and paper boats. This inspired her first installation.

That imagery grew into a still ongoing body of work based on blue. She has even pursued it academically. “Bluing” is a centuries-old practice of adding blue dye to fabric and paper to disguise yellowing in the material. She has built installations drawing from that concept. In Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, she made a rain-like piece out of 2,500 small indigo-dyed linen paper.

Because blue tarp is a common material in slums and refugee encampments, she uses old and beat-

en up tarp in many of her pieces. Overall Haviland draws a surprising amount of depth out of just one concept where the layman would just see a mat made out of plastic tarp. Haviland for now is residing on campus and sits in on courses.

Elizabeth Rose is a printmaker and recent Grand Wood Fellow at the University of Iowa. She contributed a large mural centered on the compass plant, which is a towering relative of the sunflower. It resides in the tallgrass prairies of North America and early travelers once used it to orient themselves. Rose grew up in central Illinois and yet still didn’t see the flower in person until relatively recently.

That story explains the theme for all of her pieces more or less: absence.

“So I was thinking a lot about are we going to be oriented or disoriented here,” said Rose. “We think of the Midwest as a corn and soybeans place. We don’t think of the historical ecosystems that were there. A lot of us who are from a prairie state don’t even really have a grasp on that.” All of her pieces focus on the theme of the loss of habitat and the lack that causes in our world.

Allison Maria Rodriguez is a Boston video artist. She made a whole gallery into a dim installation of “Earth Oracles.” They are a series of moving image portraits of endangered animals styled after Catholic prayer cards and oracle decks.

“The work urges us not only to look above or below, to the past or the future, but also to the present world around us and our fellow species, who hold an incredible amount of wisdom and knowledge that is often overlooked” said Rodriguez.

They include rabbits, coyotes, puffins, bees, baribou, red-eyed tree frog, cougar and a tortoise. Each animal appears as an object of reverence and is lit and staged to blur the line between the sacred and spiritual. The gallery will remain on view through November 19. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Saturday most hours of the day.

PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27



Wabash welcomes a new wave of TAs

OWEN VERMEULEN '28
NEWS EDITOR

Modern language isn’t just about knowing how to say the words, it is also about learning the culture behind the language. Each year, Wabash ushers in a group of new faces to the scarlet family, faces from every corner of the earth that have come here to aid and share in the education Wabash offers. Wabash’s modern language teaching assistant program has seen many people come and go, bringing not only their expertise in a variety of different languages, but also their unique cultural experiences as native speakers. This year is no different as we welcome five new members to the Modern Language Department.

Julius Galle is joining us from Dresden, Germany as a part of the Fulbright program. No, as you’ve probably guessed he’s not the Spanish TA. He’ll be assisting the German department for the year teaching labs for German 101, 102, 201 and 202. Outside the classroom, Julius loves football (No, not ours, I asked), going to the gym and learning languages.

“The people we’ve met so far are really kind,” said Galle. “Especially the colleagues. Everything is as positive as it can be and when you walk around campus you get welcomed everywhere as a TA. That’s really nice.”

Pablo Garcia hails from Granada, a city in the Andalusia region of Spain. He’s here through the IES Abroad program that he applied for through this school. Pablo loves to run, play football (World Cup, not Super



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIUS GALLE

From left to right: German TA Julius Galle, French TA Amelie Levilain, Spanish TA Pablo Garcia, Chinese TA Iris Lee, Spanish TA Iker Gonzalez.

Bowl), swim and watch movies.

“I have to say, I had already been working as a TA in France,” said Garcia. “But here in America, it’s been my first time teaching college students. [Everyone] is so kind, not just the students, but all the professors. That’s something that is different from our native countries is that you have very close relationships with the professors.”

With the Spanish Department

drawing a lot of the entry level

speakers, we get twice as lucky with Iker Gonzalez. He comes from Victoria, the capital city of Basque Country in Northern Spain. Like Galle, he’s also here through the Fulbright Program. If you’re looking for an easy opponent in table tennis, I would keep looking. Gonzalez has played in a professional table tennis game and loves the sport. He also enjoys reading and football (serious-

ly guys, David Beckham, not Odell Beckham).

“The campus is very beautiful and the professors are nice,” said Gonzalez. “The students are also really nice and make it very easy here. I’m really happy and it’s been a great experience so far.”

Amelie Levilain is from the United Kingdom, but she’s lived in Rennes, a city in the Brittany region of France. She is here as our French TA through

the Fulbright Program. Amelie loves to dance, watch movies and kung fu, if you’re looking for added incentive to behave in class.

“I think it’s interesting to see what view people have of French culture and arts in general here,” said Levilain. “It’s also my first time living abroad and teaching abroad, so that’s quite a fun experience. I like the campus life. I feel you’re closer to everyone and you get more opportunities.”

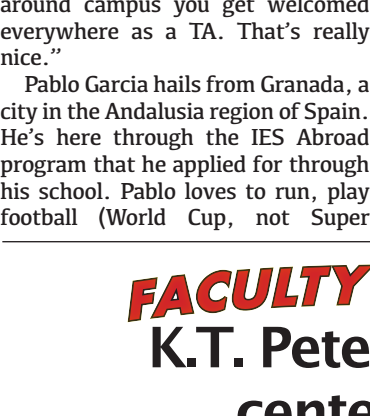
To round us out we have Iris Lee. All the way from Taipei city in Taiwan, she’s assisting the Chinese Department through the Fulbright. She enjoys volleyball and music of any kind, and she’s open to recommendations.

“I really like it at Wabash,” said Lee. “I was actually kind of nervous before coming here, but after two weeks here, I think this is a really nice school. Everyone is so close to each other. The student-teacher relationship is very close, closer than what we have in Taiwan, which is very special.”

Needless to say, this crop of teaching assistants is extremely intelligent, professional and will act as a great resource for all students that venture into the modern language departments this year. But the cultural exchange doesn’t begin and end in the classroom, it happens whenever we exchange different ideas and experiences. So, if you see them around campus, introduce yourself and make them feel welcome at Wabash.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

K.T. Peterson takes center stage



COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

MANN VATS '30
STAFF WRITER

Much like the fantastical tales that are often displayed in Wabash’s Fine Arts Center, sometimes life will throw someone a magical opportunity. While K.T. Peterson has never actually been recruited into a fairy tale, she found that her invitation to Wabash wasn’t all that different.

Peterson was working on a production of “Ride the Cyclone” when

a conversation about her teaching experience took an unexpected turn. While speaking with Scenic Designer and Technical Director David Vogel, Peterson mentioned her years of adjunct teaching experience. Vogel suggested that she apply to Wabash. Then, as she remembers it, Theater Department Chair Heidi Winters Vogel suddenly appeared with a suggestion.

“Literally Heidi, who is the chair of this department, popped her head out of the booth and said I should apply”, Peterson said. “It was very magical. It was almost like a fairy tale of someone popping out of a stump and being like, ‘Hello child. Come to us. You should apply.’”

A few months later, Peterson arrived in Crawfordsville as Wabash College’s BKT Assistant Professor of Theatre. While Peterson may be new to Wabash, theater has been a part of her life for as long as she can remember. She traces that interest back to

elementary school, when she discovered that speaking in front of people felt easier if she was pretending to be someone else. Theater became a place where she could step outside herself while simultaneously learning more about who she was.

When asked when she first fell in love with theater, Peterson laughed and said, “I’m one of those people that has the annoying answer that was pretty early.”

“I always found community around theater like a family,” Peterson said. “I felt very safe and seen when I was making anything in the theater.

One of her favorite childhood memories involves dressing up as a bird for a dinner party and entertaining her parents’ guests. Years later, she still remembers the satisfaction that came from getting a room full of adults to laugh. Those early experiences eventually grew into a career, but Peterson points to one mentor in particular who helped shape her path.

“The first person that came to mind is still a wonderful working theatre artist in this state,” Peterson said. “Lynne Perkins-Socey is her name”

Peterson met Socey during one of her earliest professional acting jobs. More importantly, Socey was the first

woman director she had ever worked with.

“I didn’t realize that I hadn’t until I did, and my head really exploded,” said Peterson. “The way she articulated things was different than I had experienced.”

Today, Peterson finds herself in a similar position to have an equally large impact on students of her own. Only a few weeks into the semester, one quality has already stood out to her about Wabash students: curiosity.

“You’re all just curious and interested,” said Peterson.

For Peterson, creativity is not reserved for actors, artists, or musicians. It is a fundamental part of being human. In a culture that often treats creativity as optional rather than essential, Peterson sees it differently. To her, creativity is not simply about making art. It is about showing up fully as yourself.

“Creativity is vital to our souls,” said Peterson.

This philosophy extends to her classroom as well. When asked what she hopes students take away from her courses, Peterson does not mention techniques or theatrical terminology.

Instead she offers something less tangible.

“A really, really loving relationship with not always being right,” said Peterson.

Although Peterson worked on many successful productions, some of her favorite productions have been the ones that struggled, drew small audiences or simply did not unfold as expected. She believes that these experiences often proved to be the most rewarding. After years of acting, directing, teaching and creating, Peterson believes one of theater’s greatest lessons has little to do with performance; it has to do with listening.

“The whole world is wandering around bumping into each other, monologuing,” said Peterson.

Theater asks people to do something different. It asks them to pay attention to scene partners, audiences and one another.

As Peterson begins her first semester at Wabash, she is excited to continue doing what theater has allowed her to do since childhood: build community, ask questions and make meaning alongside other people. Judging by her first few weeks on campus, she has found no shortage of collaborators.

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

Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. The *Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

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

The Bachelor reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution. Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

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Staff editorial: Growing up in the aftermath of September 11

For the first time since America was attacked on September 11, 2001, no students at Wabash were alive to witness the events unfold. While most adults today can still tell you exactly where they were when America was attacked, there is now a generation of adults that have grown up entirely after the fact and will never be able to fully grasp the devastation experienced that day. The 9/11 attacks dramatically changed the world in which we were raised and has created one of perpetual violent conflict, increased security and new racial stereotypes that now affect us in myriad ways. However, despite the numerous ways 9/11 shaped our world, its significance will always remain foreign to our generation in some respect. Exactly why we will never be able to experience 9/11 or its remembrance in the same way as those older than us is exactly what we aim to explore.

For one, to fully understand 9/11, one has to understand the condition of America before that tragic day. The United States was, in many respects, at the peak of its power in terms of global influence. Just a decade after the end of the Cold War, America's place as the top dog in international affairs was unquestioned. Despite the Dot Com Bubble bursting in the months preceding 9/11, the American economy was simply set back, not defeated. Additionally, the age of "the War on Terror" and its accompanying terms had yet to enter Americans' lexicon and seep into the nation's consciousness. So, the shock of the terrorist attacks on 9/11 that rippled across the nation did not do so simply because of the disastrous scale of the tragedy. Traumatic as that would have been on its own, the shock was amplified because of what it stood for: the United States was vulnerable. We could be hurt. The country has not felt its prior air of invincibility since its soil was attacked by foreign adversaries that day. The first time in history that the American mainland was attacked. We and our peers do not understand what is now lacking from the American ethos because we were never alive to feel it.

Students today grew up in strict airports but not fully being able to grasp why and recognizing that something was missing in American life without ever being able to grasp exactly what it was. All we witnessed was the bloody aftermath that pulled in our family and friends until it became a part of normal life. And that is exactly where students today sit. Understanding a normalcy that is unlike any other generation.

Knowing that life in America was not always like this, but only knowing this life in America. A sense of comfort in America was replaced with a sense of vulnerability. We grew up not knowing how 9/11 felt, but witnessing our parents worry that it might happen again. And all the while, the frequent search for a national and political identity persisted within the country, influencing us even in the present. Students at the College might have not been born when the 9/11 attacks took place, but they, just like the rest of the world, have been molded by its effects to this day.

As our generation began to enter the world, our understanding of 9/11 came from our schooling and our firsthand experiences with the ongoing War on Terror, which took away siblings, parents or other family members for sizable chunks of some childhoods. Some never came back. The War on Terror continued into our teens, and while U.S. troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021, America has remained involved in international military conflicts continuously ever since. While America claims to be the world's peacekeeper, can a country that has 25 consecutive years of involvement in military conflicts and a defense budget larger than the next six countries combined be considered the right fit for such a role?

This is the normalcy we know, but not the normalcy we have to live with. Our future is dependent on our voice and the lessons we learned growing up, or rather lessons we were taught. In our formative years of elementary and middle school, we were taught what to do if an active shooter came into our building and to be skeptical of abnormalities out of fear of being a victim in the next mass violence tragedy. And even as we write this article, the actions taken by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers across the nation demonstrate that there is still fear of foreign attacks on American safety and security. These are things that people who were born before us may understand, but never had to experience, similar to our perspective on 9/11. But the verdict remains the same. America has never been the same since the attacks.

As we all celebrate 250 years of the United States of America, we can share a sentiment of hope. Hope for the healing of the country. Hope that the attacks of 9/11 are never forgotten in the formation of modern day America. And a hope for a future that may be safer than any of us may expect.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

IS THIS A SIGN?

Hi-Five to the Wabash Soccer and Football teams for both starting off the 2026-27 season hot! Let this be a good omen for all students as well.

NO M'S IN BAILOUT

Lo-Five to the Big Ten for bailing out Michigan. The only thing worse than the call is the fact they stormed the field afterwards.

TRUTH BURNS

Hi-Five to all the Little Giants who got burned during Saturday's football game. They were just showing sympathy to Hampden-Sydney's defense, who also got burned.

THIS SOUNDS FAMILIAR

Lo-Five to Jared Kushner for buying an island in Albania. We thought they had to remain at least 200 feet away from private islands at all times.

LABORED DAY

Lo-Five to Wabash for once again giving students class on Labor Day. Nothing worse than sitting in your 8 a.m. while your buddies at IU enjoy a day off.

The importance of fraternities



Tobin Seiple '29

Features Editor

Reply to this opinion at
tlseiple29@wabash.edu

We've all seen it. The body cam footage from the Iowa State University hazing incident was a brutal look. Google Gemini summarized the scene perfectly:

"When first responders entered the basement after a false fire alarm went off, they discovered 56 shirtless, blindfolded pledges covered in ketchup, mustard, and alcohol standing completely motionless in the dark."

When the fraternity brothers were questioned by police officers about the event, they explained that it was "a celebration of life." It was hardly a celebration; it was a gross hazing event. At the same time, news sources across the country jumped in once again to extrapolate that fraternal life is a problem. These are inexcusable and blatantly terrible acts of hazing, and the fraternities that condone these behaviors present a poor reflection upon fraternal life in general. In contrast, many chapters build firm friendships, incentivize intelligence and encourage influential change at their colleges, including Wabash.

Fundamentally, the philosophy of fraternal life is built on the promise of achieving a brotherhood that is more meaningful than typical friendships. Fraternity chapters are meant to protect their own, develop boys into men and provide resources for the brothers. But how does one accomplish this? When men are placed in the same living unit without being forced to socialize with one another, a lack of unification commences. Hence, initiation into chapters serves as the medium between friendship and brotherhood.

"I began my Wabash career as an independent," said Sigma Chi brother Carac Johnson '27. "I did not begin fraternity

life until about five days before classes started. At the time, I was extremely nervous switching my living style from one roommate to 24 other pledge brothers, but looking back, I now know it was the right decision."

The College of William and Mary released a paper titled "Fraternities and Sororities: Developing a Compelling Case for Relevance in Higher Education." The paper shared that fraternities and Greek organizations originally emerged on campuses as a method for elitist students to discuss subjects like religion and politics in secrecy. Over time, however, they developed into social organizations with extended initiation processes.

While occasional chapters, like the Iowa State fraternity, have a heinous initiation, many chapters boast effective process. Prospective brothers facing challenges and adversity together is socially healthy and beneficial for fraternal members. "Shared Adversity Increases Team Creativity Through Fostering Supportive Interaction," a study from the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, heavily supports this theory. The study compared painful/adverse experiences to non-painful experiences in the context of group bonding. Groups were surveyed, and those that went through adverse experiences scored significantly higher on supportive behavior, creativity and encouragement than those who went through non-adverse experiences. The study ultimately found that the people in groups who went through uncomfortable situations were more trusting and supportive with each other. In the context of a fraternity, the initiation process allows classes to create deeper bonds of trust, and thus build brotherhood.

Beyond the cherishable bonds within chapters, members are typically more involved in their respective colleges than non fraternal students. The College of William and Mary conducted a study, "The Effects of Fraternity/Sorority Membership on College Experiences and Outcomes: A Portrait of Complexity," to research the data on Greek life. One of the greatest findings of the study was that affiliated students involve themselves in 2.5 more hours of extracurricular/cocurricular activities and 1.1 more hours of volunteer work per week than non-

affiliated students. This is not to say that independents cannot also be involved on campus. Rather, it shows that students, when surrounded by a tight-knit group of peers, are often more likely to participate in clubs, activities and organizations at their colleges.

An increase in involvement also means more alumni engagement. Fraternity brothers have much larger pools of alumni and thus more opportunity for post-college careers. Not only is it easier to connect with alumni from your own college, but national fraternities have massive alumni bases that provide many possibilities for students. Union College, in their study "Social Animal House: The Economic and Academic Consequences of Fraternity Membership," found that their fraternally involved alumni have a 36% higher salary on average than non-fraternal alumni.

Beyond giving back to their fraternities, alumni also give back to their colleges. A 2021 study from Gallup surveyed over 10,000 alumni from various colleges. 54% of affiliated fraternity and sorority members reported donating to their respective college within the past year of the study in comparison to just 10% of non-affiliated alumni. There was also a heightened difference in alumni engagement and the likelihood that they would recommend their alma mater to others. In other words, it could be extrapolated that fraternity members had substantially more memorable experiences at their colleges.

"Our alumni network is strong across the board, but something about the fraternity experiences our alumni had when they were students seems to forge even deeper bonds with Wabash," said Director of Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement Ron Dostal '92. "Our fraternity alumni tend to stay engaged with Wabash at even higher rates than our loyal independent men."

At Wabash College, the importance of fraternity life is especially relevant. A 2026 U.S. and World Report ranked the institution with one of the highest percentages of fraternally involved students, reporting 59% of Wabash students affiliated with Greek life. Looking beyond statistics, there is what the Greeks would describe as Adelphótita; a fraternal friendship of brotherly love. Fraternal life

provides Wabash men with the opportunity to emerge themselves in a supportive environment.

"I believe that fraternities provide a unique experience to Wabash students in particular," said Interfraternity Council President Kyle Foster '27. "Each fraternity provides its own people, living spaces, benefits and challenges. I believe more and more nowadays that what makes the fraternity life so impactful is the people and the shared experiences you have with them."

To be clear, I am not making the argument that fraternity brothers are better students than independents. I am, however, sharing that fraternities can make an impact. When they have a proper initiation process, founded on the philosophy that people connect when they traverse unique and difficult life circumstances, brothers build unbreakable bonds. At Wabash College, fraternities allow students to find a place of belonging. They are a crucial support for institutional traditions like 'Homecoming' and 'Bell-Hel' and force students to be lively, not lonely.

"In my experience, my fraternity pushed me to try new things, complete difficult tasks and ultimately learn more about myself in these endeavors," said Johnson. "Fraternity life, through philanthropy, leadership and promotion of campus involvement, allowed me to discover all that Wabash has to offer while aiding my growth as a man on campus. Through fraternity life, not only have I learned more about myself, but I have also met my friends for life, the guys who will be at my wedding one day, and those who will continue to push me even after Wabash. If I was not in a fraternity, I can confidently say that I would not be the Wabash man, student or friend that I am today."

While the stereotypical "frat bro" wears sunglasses 24/7, sports a polo with flip flops and drinks beer nightly, this conventional wisdom, supported by occasional severe hazing events like Iowa State, leads to a false perception of the nature of fraternities. These brotherhoods are incredibly meaningful for students, especially at Wabash. Each chapter has its own culture, often fueled by academic rigor and campus engagement.

Brady Reeves '29

Being willing to learn is the most Wabash thing a man can do and is not as prevalent as it should be on campus. Whether you're learning about a brother or about a professor, we should be more open to one another.

Tobin Seiple '29

I believe public speaking skills are underrated; every Wabash student would benefit from them. You would be amazed how a great presentation impacts people's perception of you. These skills are essential for professional careers and personal success.

Silas Mills '27

Have you ever been out in the wilderness eyeballing a mushroom or berry and thought to yourself, "Hmm, can I eat that?" If you have, then foraging is the coolest thing you can get into. Even on our own beautiful campus, the pawpaw tree is nearing its ripest phase, mulberries are still popping up and chanterelle season is right around the corner. Get outside and eat the stuff you find there (carefully please)!

Bryce Kinnaman '27

Being genuinely grateful in my day-to-day is a skill that I have found useful. Whether it is mentally noting moments in your day, journalling or saying your gratefulness aloud, I find myself to be a more positive and enjoyable person when I realize how lucky I am to be where my feet are at.

William Renie '27

An underrated skill that all Wabash men should have is the ability to get away from screens and look people in the eyes!

Henry Chilcoat '27

Apologizing. Saves you lots of headaches.

Logan Payton '30

I once had an English Teacher whose advice always stuck with me and made me happier in my daily life, I was struggling once and saying that I shouldn't feel overwhelmed and she looked at me and said, "You kids are always trying to rationalize your emotions, whatever you're feeling, you're feeling for a reason."

That and a quote by my strategist Helmuth von Moltke the Elder: "No plan survives first contact."

Will Duncan '27

Time management. I haven't grown as much in one particular facet of my life compared to where my time management was in high school compared to at Wabash.

Noah Mintie '29

The ability to clean up after yourself.

No more free stuff: It's just junk

Elijah Wetzel '27

Editor-In-Chief

Reply to this opinion at ejwetzel27@wabash.edu

One of the popular overtures of social and cultural commentators today is that American society is sick with over-consumption. This analysis is often referenced in relation to environmental concerns, but it's observable in other paradigms. Is it a coincidence that portion sizes have ballooned in the past couple of decades? Should the fact that the average American home amasses 300 more pounds of stuff each year give us pause?

While I do think our country needs to reckon with our obsessive accumulation, my goal in this piece is not to dissect the problem, its origins or offer solutions. No, I just want to complain about one symptom of this national disorder: free stuff. Now, I don't mean that all free stuff is bad, far from it ("if it's free, take it; if you have to pay, ask questions" is generally my policy). The free stuff I'm talking about are the things you get from any number of college admissions days, community events and conferences and other similar events. I'm talking foam stress balls, rubber wristbands, key chains and lanyards, stickers, sunglasses and all the other small branded items that can be bought en masse for a pittance. Typhoid Mary gave stuff out for free too, but that doesn't make it good. I think cheap, plastic promotional merchandise is terrible for society, and I'd be perfectly happy if I never got another "swag bag" of useless clutter again. Also, as an aside, "swag bag" is a corny term and should be banned. Call it something else.

I'm tired of going to an event and getting a plastic necklace, cheap tote bag and a crunch of other crummy promotional products I don't need. It's not good for anyone. It's not good for me because now I have a whole bunch of

stuff that I nor any other person will likely have any use for outside of an underwhelming white elephant gift. If I keep it in my room it creates clutter, and if I throw it away I feel bad because I know that it will probably still stick around for a few centuries at least and hurt the environment.

Event promoters suffer at their own hand too. They spend too much money — no doubt handing it over to some dubious company that operates only in employment law deficient countries where they can exploit economic poverty for their own gain — on lackluster goods. Whatever boost in advertising or promotion is gained from the plastic gimmicks the event's organizers buy are minimal if not non-existent. Perhaps the victims of their plastic proliferation are too polite to dash their worthless giveaways in the trash right before their eyes and simply forget about the stuff long enough for someone to ask them where they got it. Or maybe, in a quick bid to ditch the objects, the recipient will pawn them off to a friend (or hell, why not a passerby?). Perhaps that would accomplish these lame plastic peddlers' mission, but some self-analysis is needed if people are looking to give your merchandise away the second they get it.

And really, creativity itself suffers. Instead of innovative advertising and worthwhile products that might actually be useful or communicate some value higher than sub-par consumerism, promoters settle for products that look like they're straight out of an Oriental Trading magazine.

Some of these plastic items even come — get this — individually wrapped in more plastic. "Wow, thank goodness my stress ball doesn't have a speck of dust on it! Now I know it is quality." Reader, the madness must stop.

Honestly, I could keep going. I have almost as many reasons for hating these small, indestructible hunks of polymer as there are small, indestructible hunks of polymer (i.e. too many). It's true, free plastics can carry important messages and be deeply personal for individuals and communities. However, most are not meaningful; they are worthless and stupid. People advertising events should stop giving them out.

An overlooked side of Wabash: Ultimately an opportunity

Antonio Grandinetti '28

Reply to this opinion at agrandiz28@wabash.edu

For the majority of the people in the Wabash community, Greek life has been a staple of the College. One of these is the commitment, almost blindly, in a house full of strangers or the occasional friends you may have from a visit or before you joined the Wabash campus. For some of us this wasn't the issue, but I had no idea what fraternity life entailed (I thought it was something from the movies). For those in similar situations, I want to encourage more sophomore rush.

The most important aspect of this article is to show hope and/or the opportunity that you can rush even if you didn't have the opportunity to do it on your first week here or even before you decided Crawfordsville was going to be your home for a chunk of the year. There is value in rushing conventionally during freshman year, however, there is also an understanding that you might not necessarily enjoy the process initially. Some people are scared of joining, some don't think they will need the support a fraternity house gives you and some don't really know enough to realize how much of an impact rushing a house can have in your college experience.

Fraternity life at Wabash is not for the parties or anything you might imagine. It's the people who make it. They are going to make your life harder for a little bit, but they'll also be the first to celebrate by your side whenever you accomplish something. There will likely be the best man at your wedding or the godfather of your child. This is invaluable, the human relationships you can build while living with another 20-something year old dude.

If you decide to rush the fall of your freshman year, you will need to be focused hard. You're not only adapting to Wabash and its rigorous schedule but you may be adding a whole process that takes more of your already limited time, especially if you're an athlete. This is great if you can coast through, a very impressive skill to quickly adapt, but, at times, it can be overwhelming. Once you get to sophomore year, however, you understand Wabash better, have probably made some friends in a house and can make an informed decision to realize if the independent life is good enough or if you will take your chances and join the majority of campus in Greek life.

My conclusion for the guys who aren't rushing is that they might lose the chance of having a complete Wabash experience. Not that the independents don't have a good time, but in my eyes, fraternity life is more fun. Freshman rush will always be the key of recruitment, but I'm advocating for independent freshmen to consider sophomore rush. If this is you, there is still time, and an opportunity that can open you to a whole community, both undergraduates and alumni.

'Themeless #1'

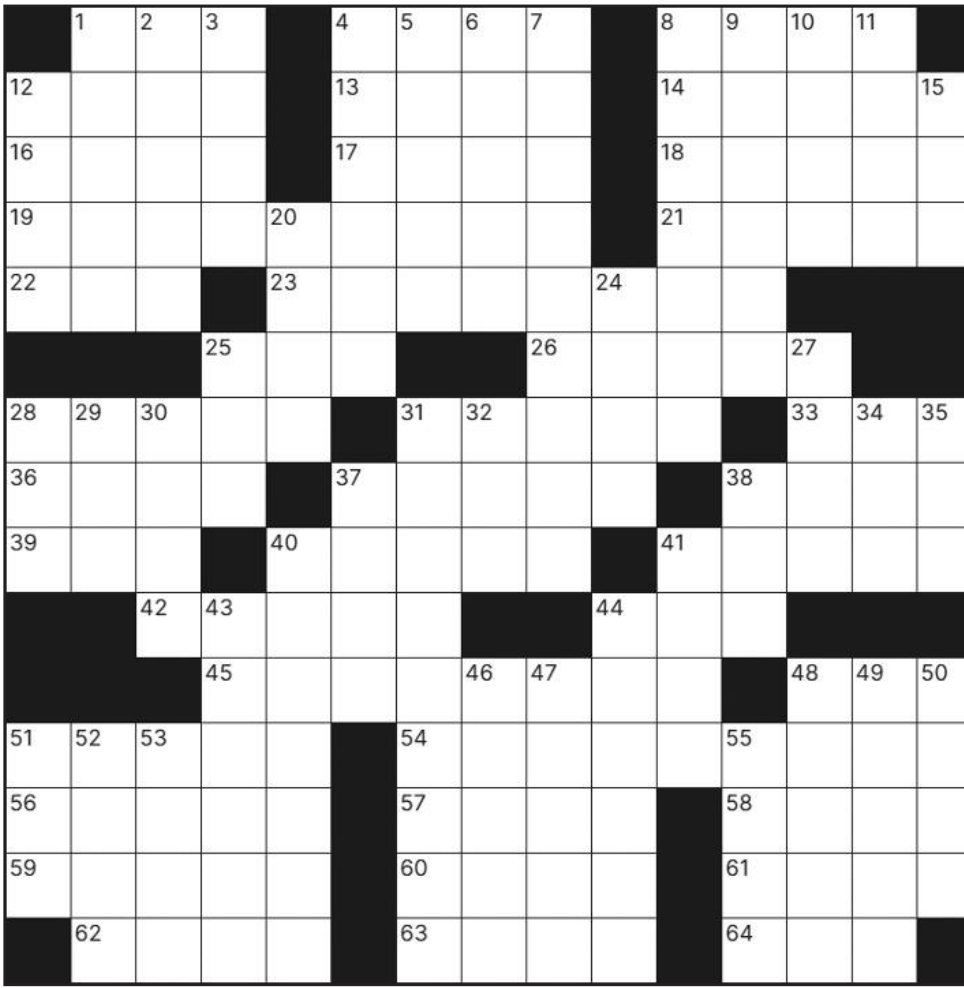
Crossword by Paul Hawsworth '28

Across

- Minions' leader
- PVC, copper e.g.
- Package in transit
- Saudi resident
- At the drop of ____
- Fret clamps
- "It's 20% off!"
- Revenue's enemy
- Former wide receiver Cooper
- Spur of the moment
- Motorcycle jockey
- Pokémon protagonist
- America's pastime
- Anthony Mackie, in memes
- YouTube :: Shorts :: Instagram : ____
- Event host
- Tennis venue
- Freud's rational self
- Inflate a balloon
- Chicago Cubs hall of famer Ron
- Tetanus carrier, perhaps
- Neil Armstrong was an Eagle of this org.
- Native American watercraft
- On the cusp
- Silent film star Harold
- "Illmatic" rapper
- Perpetual boulder pusher in Greek mythology
- Cross-country part of a biathlon
- "The Creation" composer
- Hit Chic song from 1979
- Display feeling
- "That's cool, bro."
- Number of lives cats have
- O'Reilly's nickname on M*A*S*H
- Up for a challenge
- Alternative culture magazine
- Scientists' offices
- Back muscles gym bros spread, familiarly
- Small island off the southern tip of Florida

Down

- Unit for sugars or fats on nutrition labels
- "Wreck-it" arcade character
- Above auf Deutsch
- Afraid of ghosts?
- Denny's rival, pl.
- Ctrl+V action
- Line of betrayal in Shakespeare
- Wabash's shade of red
- Luke Skywalker actor Mark
- Apple tablet
- Hole in the skin
- "Heat of the Moment" band
- Title for those knighted in Britain
- Double-reeded wind instrument
- prefix used with dynamics or space
- Attach a button, say
- Char, as steak
- Low tide
- L.A. Galaxy's org.
- Fuel for locomotives
- New Edition debut album
- John Lennon's wife Yoko
- "It's a sweet ____." (Job)
- Bullfight cheer
- Simon's verb
- '80s Nintendo console
- Phrase or term inventors
- Expansive
- What you take to go on a trip?
- Gently pokes
- Speakers stands
- "____ the sails!"
- Strike with lightning, biblically
- Character that dies often in "South Park"
- "That clears it up."
- Counterpart of his
- Mrs. George Clooney
- Jedi master, he is
- Indigenous Alaskan, for one



Scan for solution!



Soccer’s unbeaten streak continues heading into Robbie Dreher Classic

TY MURPHY '27
MANAGING EDITOR

The weather in Crawfordsville might be hot, but the Wabash College soccer team is even hotter. On a five-game winning streak, they will enter one of the busiest stretches of their schedule in the Robbie Dreher Classic starting on Saturday September 12.

After a win against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on Wednesday September 9 in Fischer Field, the Little Giants are looking brand new from last year. It was their fifth game in seven days, but fans wouldn’t be able to tell as they continue to dominate the competition.

Alfredo Campos ’27 was named North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) men’s soccer player of the week, and proved why when taking on the Fightin’ Engineers in Fischer Field this past Wednesday. After only two minutes of play, Campos scored off assists by JD Branigan ’29 and Bryce Kinnaman ’27 to put the team up 1-0. And the team would not slow down with a goal by Blake Horn ’29 in minute 39 thanks to a Kinnaman assist, followed by another Campos goal in minute 57. Rose Hulman attempted a comeback with a goal by Ryan Shapiro in minute 63, but a Colton Hughes-Suiters ’29 strike with eight minutes left of play sealed a dominant 4-1 win for the Little Giants.

“We played our game, much like the Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) game, which is a NCAA tourney team,” said head coach Chris Keller. “Rose Hulman is a very solid team that is organized and we knew it would be a tough one, but we did what we are good at.”



Blake Horn ’29 celebrates his goal against Rose-Hulman Insitute of Technology on September 9 at Fischer Field.

This comes after a win against Manchester University on September 6 in North Manchester, Indiana and a win against IWU on September 5 in Fischer Field. And after commanding each game, the Little Giants improved their record to 4-0.

Against the Titans, Wabash started off strong, opening the game with a goal in minute 13 by Hughes-Suiters off the assist by Branigan. After a defensive match, the team would not score again until minute 58 thanks to a Campos goal off another Branigan assist. But the highlight of the match came from

goalkeeper Rafael Cordova ’30, who recorded five saves to secure a 2-0 Wabash shutout.

It was not much different against Manchester University after a dominant home performance by the Little Giants. Despite the Spartans scoring before minute five, Wabash would not back down. Kinnaman was the first to find the back of the net for the Little Giants in minute seven off the assist by Campos. Then Ty Freedman ’27 scored off another Campos assist in minute 10. Kinnaman talliedhis second goal of the game thanks to an Ethan Simmons ’29 assist before Simmons himself would put one on the board in minute 25 with a Danny Tkachuk ’29 assist. Wabash won the game 4-1 improving their record to 4-0.

“As seniors, our goal is to keep building the culture throughout the four years,” said Freedman. “We’ve been trying to improve every year and leave the program in an excellent place so that it can keep building and getting better and better every single year, and that has been reflected in these last few games.”

This all came after the Little Giant’s home opener victory against Bluffton University on September 3 at Fischer

Field in the first shutout of the season.

Bluffton University entered Fischer Field for the Little Giants home opener and immediately felt the pressure. One minute into the game Horn headed home a pass from Campos to put the Little Giants up 1-0 early with his first goal of his college career. Then in minute 18 Campos found the net all on his own. The lead was stretched to 3-0 when Sebastian Licon ’28 would take the assist by Jonathan Parr ’29 in minute 30 and find the net. Willer Montesinos ’30 closed the game for the Little Giants in minute 46 with a score of his own, leading to a 4-0 shutout against the Beavers in front of a rowdy Wabash crowd.

“It’s hard to defend a team with multiple scorers, so we want everyone to produce,” said Keller. “For us, the team scores, not the individual.”

The Little Giants will continue their season with a competitive showcase with its meaning tied dieep to the schools culture. Starting in 2010, Wabash College soccer wanted to find a way to honor an avid fan of the sport, Robbie Dreher. Son of Scott Dreher ’82, Robbie tragically passed away in a plane crash along with his mother Alyce Mauricio Dreher and his maternal grandparents John and Alice Mauricio.

“We just wanted to find a way to honor Robbie,” said Wabash’s head soccer coach at the time of Robbie’s death, Roberto Giannini.

The Little Giants will enter the 26th Robbie Dreher Classic looking for their best start to a season since 2015. And the team’s message has been made clear.

“We’re looking to win the tournament again,” said Ty Freedman ’27. “And we want to stay on this high note. We’re 5-0 now, and then we will be seven zero after the weekend.”

Not even a storm could stop the Little Giants from dominating the start of their season. The team sits at a commanding 5-0 record heading into the Robbie Dreher Classic. Wabash will start off their tournament with a game against Alma College on Saturday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m. EST.

“We’re looking to keep building as a program and as a team this season,” said Freedman. “We want to exceed expectations and really make a dent in the NCAC this year, so stay tuned.”

“It’s hard to defend a team with multiple scorers, so we want everyone to produce. For us, the team scores, not the individual.”

- Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller



Alfredo Campos ’27, Bryce Kinnaman ’27 and Ethan Simmons ’29 race to the corner flag to celebrate their goal against Rose-Hulman Insitute of Technology on September 9 at Fischer Field.

Continued from page 1

The Little Giants maintained their momentum to start the third quarter, driving 75 yards and taking their first lead of the game at 16-14 behind a Dickerson touchdown catch from Campbell. The Little Giants added onto their lead. A Tanner Crouch ’28 interception set up a Church field goal to make it 19-14, but Hampden-Sydney answered with a 13-play march to go back on top 20-19 with 17 seconds left in the quarter, missing the two-point try.

“I feel confident in both my ability to rush and receive the ball,” said Dickerson. “I played some slot receiver last year so I’m not new to the passing game as a running back.”

From there, the fourth quarter belonged to Wabash. After the Tigers broke a 54-yard run into Little Giant territory, Crouch scooped a fourth-down fumble and returned it 25 yards, flipping field position. Church’s 45-yard field goal put Wabash ahead for good at 22-20. Moments later, Luke Purichia ’28 forced a fumble on the ensuing kickoff, recovered by Keith Jackson ’29 at the Hampden-Sydney 27-yard line. Dickerson carried on all seven plays of the drive that followed, capping it with a 4-yard touchdown run to make it 29-20 with under two minutes remaining.

Hampden-Sydney’s final push stalled at the Wabash 14, a 31-yard field goal attempt sailing wide with 28 seconds left.

Wabash finished with 22 first downs and controlled possession for 35 minutes, overcoming the 14-point deficit by outscoring Hampden-Sydney 19-0 across the second and third quarters while forcing four turnovers.

“Turnovers always fix things,” said Coach Gilbert. “Extra possessions. Increased momentum. Better field position. It’s the most important thing!”

Dickerson led all rushers with 21 carries for 47 yards and a touchdown, adding four catches for 43 yards and a receiving

score. Witte paced the receiving corps with 90 yards on four grabs. Defensively, Dakota Johnson recorded eight tackles and two sacks, earning him the honor of the North Coast Athletic Conference defensive football player of the week. Crouch and Freeman contributed heavily, with both notching interceptions.

Campbell’s afternoon carried historical weight as well. The quarterback surpassed Dustin Huff for ninth on Wabash’s all-time career passing list, finishing the day with 4,207 yards.

Wabash opens North Coast Athletic Conference play Saturday at noon against a Wittenberg program in transition. The Tigers enter under first-year head coach BJ Coad, a Wittenberg alumnus hired in December after longtime assistant Jim Collins was let go in late October. Coad, who most recently coached at Division II Ohio Dominican, takes over a roster that finished 4-6 overall and 3-5 in NCAC play a season ago.

Wittenberg opened its 2026 campaign on the road at Washington and Lee on Sept. 5, its first test under the new coaching staff, before turning to a home-and-home stretch that includes the trip to Crawfordsville. The Tigers’ offense returns sophomore quarterback JJ Miller, who threw for over 2,600 yards a year ago and connected frequently with wide receiver Kade Ray. Wittenberg’s 2025 season was a story of inconsistency. Blowout wins over Ohio Wesleyan, Kenyon and Oberlin were offset by lopsided losses to DePauw, Wooster, John Carroll and Denison.

The two programs met last November in Springfield, where Wabash escaped with a 28-21 win despite Wittenberg piling up six sacks on defense. That result extended a stretch of tightly contested meetings between the two schools in recent years, and Saturday’s rematch will be the first of the series under Wittenberg’s new coaching regime.



WITTENBURG TIGERS vs.
WABASH LITTLE GIANTS

GAME TWO SAT, SEP, 12, 2026 1:00 PM CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN



GRAPHIC BY JACK MILLER '28

In the wake of 9/11, Wabash sought normalcy through football

ABBAS HAKIM '29
STAFF WRITER

On what was expected to be an ordinary Saturday in mid-September of 2001, Wabash College was set to host Wheaton College for their second football game of the season. However, this week turned out to be anything but ordinary. That Saturday was just four days after the September 11 terrorist attacks. 25 years later, those who were there still remember it as one of the most surreal and important days in the College's athletic history.

The week began like any other. Wabash Athletic and Recreation Communication Director, Brent Harris H'03, had a soccer match against Taylor University scheduled for the afternoon of Sept. 11. However, the morning of the 11 completely changed what came after.

"I was home and saw the video of the first tower on fire, smoking," said Harris, describing his initial confusion over whether one plane or two had struck the World Trade Center.

As the attacks unfolded that morning, Wabash's administration faced an immediate question: what to do about classes and the soccer match still on schedule?

"We wondered if we should cancel classes, but President Andy Ford was convinced that the way to work through the tragedy was by discussing it in class with peers," said Jim Amidon '87, then Wabash's chief communications officer.

Harris was on the phone with Amidon

discussing the soccer game when the first tower came down. Both Wabash's and Taylor's presidents ultimately decided the match should go on to provide some normalcy, though the game itself felt extraneous.

"Taylor scored a goal, and nobody cared," said Harris "People are going through a tragedy right now."

"The mood on campus was very somber but there was also an air of patriotism." Said Amidon.

As the week went on, leagues across the

"It was a beautiful, blue sky day, but the mood was cautious and anything but celebratory."

-Athletic and Recreation Communication Director, Brent Harris H'03

country began canceling games; the NFL, MLB and college athletic departments throughout the country were rescheduling or completely calling off all events. Wabash did not.

Wheaton College had its own personal connection to the tragic week. Wheaton alumnus Todd Beamer had been aboard United Airlines Flight 93, the hijacked plane that crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania after passengers moved to retake the cockpit. Beamer is infamous for the phrase "Let's roll," reportedly spoken



COURTESY OF BRENT HARRIS H'03

The two teams huddle up whilst the American flag flies at half-staff in memorium of those that lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

to fellow passengers moments before they rushed the cockpit and overpowered the hijackers. Harris said that Wabash officials didn't know that part of the story at the time, only that Wheaton had lost an alumnus on one of the hijacked planes. Wheaton, like Wabash, wanted to play, and the date lined up with Wabash's season-opening Community Day, giving officials a chance to bring the community together.

On Friday night, Wabash held a candlelight vigil around the flagpole on the mall.

"In the weeks prior, you could look up at night and see planes going across the sky," said Harris. "After the attacks you would look up, and there's nothing. Because there are no planes going anywhere."

Before kickoff Saturday, both teams gathered on Wabash's home sideline as President Ford addressed the players and crowd.

"It was a beautiful, blue-sky day, but the mood was cautious and anything but celebratory," said Amidon. "You could hear a pin drop before and after President Ford gave his remarks."

Harris, watching from the press box, said he "didn't have any Kleenex left" by the time Ford finished. What followed was a sight of unity among everyone in the stadium.

"I think every person in the stadium sang the National Anthem as loudly as they could," said Amidon.

Due to the lack of other Indiana teams

playing this week, three Indianapolis television stations sent reporters to cover the game.

"The media coverage was more like a Monon Bell Game than a normal regular season week," said Amidon.

Jamal Horton, an Indianapolis Star sportswriter known for stories that could be less than flattering, was among those covering. Harris braced for the worst when Horton called, saying he'd be attending the game, until Amidon pointed out Horton's column, in which the reporter expressed his desperate desire for the normalcy of a sporting event.

Wheaton proved to be the better team on the field that weekend, containing Wabash quarterback Jake Knott '02. Harris was confident in the way Knott would answer the interviewers' questions after the game. "I knew he would do the right thing," said Harris

Knott didn't disappoint. When asked about his rough day, he turned the conversation outward.

"Knott said 'I didn't have a great day,'" Harris recalled him saying. "But there are people who are at home, and somebody in their family is not coming home today. ... We have to put everything in perspective."

Horton later claimed it was the most distinguished young man that he'd ever interviewed.

"You can look back on it now, 25 years later, and be very proud of what we did that day," said Harris. "I don't think we would have changed a thing."



COURTESY OF BRENT HARRIS H'03

Chris Morris '04 evades Wheaton College defenders in the September 15, 2001 game at Little Giant Stadium.

RedPack open season at Franklin College Grizzly Invitational

JOSEPH BOGGS '30
STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday, September 5, the Wabash College cross country team competed in the Grizzly Invitational hosted by Franklin College. This opening invitational was the 2026 team's first exposure to competition, with the meet featuring DePauw University and Oberlin College, two close rivals to Wabash in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC). The Wabash RedPack put together a competitive race, placing 8th overall in a field of 12 teams with a score of 229 points. Scoring 34 points, Rose-Hulman came out on top, securing first place.

"We didn't have any concrete time goals for the team. Instead, we focused on race tactics and getting used to racing on grass again."

-Johnathan Loney '28

Coming within just a few seconds of a top 10 finish, Samuel Vaught '29 finished the 5,000 meter race 11th overall and first for Wabash with a time of 16:19.3. Not far behind, Cooper Knoblauch '30 punched in a time of 16:51.0, placing 43rd and putting up an impressive top 50 finish as a freshman. Following Knoblauch, Jonathan Loney '28 came across the line with a time of 17:08.1, placing 60th overall.

Finishing right behind the experienced Junior came two more Freshmen. Austin Baugh '30 and Raul Delgado '30, finished 97th and 123rd with times of 17:44.0 and 18:06.1 respectively. Evan Shupe '27 (18:21.2) and Malcolm Cruz '30 (18:44.9) rounded off the point scoring finishes for Wabash. Shupe set a personal-best time, placing 137th, with Cruz not far behind in 150th place.

While conference competitors, DePauw and Oberlin, both placed ahead of Wabash, the team's priorities laid elsewhere this meet.

"We didn't have any concrete time goals for the team," said Loney. "Instead, we focused on race tactics and getting used to racing on the grass again."

Coach McCreary further stressed

the importance of developing "team culture and team running" in the early season. This strategy comes as the team finds themselves challenged by several lingering injuries.

"Overcoming those [injuries] with our young guys and forming a solid pack will be key," said McCreary.

These early season developments, paired with a healthy team, will help to bring out the best that the Wabash RedPack has to offer.

Testing the resolve of the team even farther, the past week has not been kind to the Little Giant runners. Temperatures reached highs of 92 degrees in the days leading up to the race on Saturday, with most of the week being under a heat advisory. The weather mandate consequently led to a "weird week of training" prior to the invitational.

Regardless, the team finds itself in a good place this season and in the coming years with Freshmen already placing on the board with plenty of room to improve.

"We have a very strong group with an attitude of wanting to get better," said Loney.

The Wabash RedPack returns to competition at the Gil Dodds Invitational hosted by Wheaton College on September 19.



COURTESY OF NICO KLEMENTZOS

Johnathan Loney '28 powers through the finals stretch of the course at the Franklin College Grizzly Invitational.

Golf stuns in historic start to the season

MARK BERGER '28
STAFF WRITER

The Little Giants golf team packed their clubs and rolled into Granville, Ohio for the Ted Barclay Invitational on September 5 and 6, and promptly wrote a new page into the program's record book where they carded the best opening round in Wabash golf history to slot into second place, 10 shots shy of leaders John Carroll. Day two proved a stiffer test of nerve and patience, but the team-scoring foursome of Mason Pierle '28, Leo Dellinger '29, Charlie Seaburg '29 and Tyler Morton '29 gutted out a two-round total of 586, good enough to land the Little Giants safely on the podium in third, finishing 20 shots off John Carroll, but with a piece of history already in the bag.

Pierle and Morton began the opening round on Saturday with birdies on the first hole, but it was Seaburg who started to get hot toward the end of the front nine. Seaburg shot two birdies in the span of four holes and finished the front nine two-under par. Morton also found a second birdie on the sixth hole but bogeyed the eighth hole as he finished the opening nine at one-under par. Dellinger and Pierle made the turn to the back nine at one-over and two-over par respectively.

"The team came out ready to perform from the start of the tournament," said Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21. "I'm very confident in this team's ability, which allows our players to be aggressive in certain situations where other teams may be more conservative."

Seaburg and Pierle began the back nine strong with birdies on hole 10, and Wabash golf continued a strong day of golf, but the seventeenth hole proved to be a challenge as all four of the team-scoring players bogeyed. Wabash finished the day with a total of 287, led by Seaburg's low score of 2-under par and T-2 in individual standings. Morton came in 1-over par and Dellinger and Pierle both finished Saturday two-over par.

"Our first round was one of the best in school history," said Coach Kopp. "We also want to prove that we can play well two weeks in a row, and that it doesn't matter the field or course, that we can be in contention in every field."

The Little Giants struggled with the front nine during the second day of play. Pierle highlighted the first nine holes, with birdies on the second and seventh holes, finishing two-under par as he prepared to make the turn. Dellinger made the turn at 2-over par,

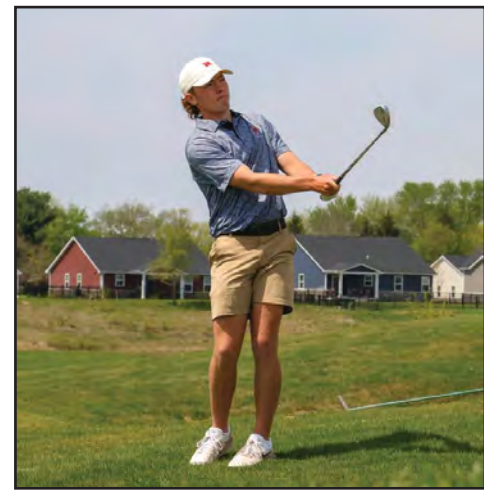


PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

Mason Pierle '28 watches his chip at the Spalding University Preview at Timbergate Golf Club.

while Seaburg and Morton made the turn at 4-over par.

Wabash battled on the back nine, with Seaburg birdieing the thirteenth hole and Pierle birdieing hole 16. The highlight of the day was Dellinger's impressive eagle to end the day on hole 18. When all was said and done, Pierle rounded out the day one-under par, and just one-over for the weekend. He tied for ninth position individually. Seaburg finished the weekend three-over par, with Dellinger right behind him at five-over par and Morton rounding out the team scorers at nine-over par in his first appearance for Wabash golf. The team finished with a two-round total of 586.

"We had a bit of a chip on our shoulder following the rough finish that we had in conference, and we knew there was going to be some conference teams at the invitational," said Pierle. "We really just wanted to prove them wrong, and that even though we're such a young team, we are still able to compete and be in the final pairings."

Wabash also had three team members competing as individuals during the weekend. Finn Carteaux '29 finished with a stroke total of 142 (E), and T-9 for the weekend. Jackson Mahan '30 finished with a two day total of 166 (+20), and Hudson Messer '30 finished with a 167 (+21).

Wabash Golf will tee off again this upcoming weekend, September 12 and 13, for the Stateline Shootout in Crosby Township, Ohio. They'll look to continue building on the momentum they've started the season with.