

# Wabash

MAGAZINE



PASSION PROJECTS

THE JOURNAL OF WABASH COLLEGE | SPRING 2022



Live Humanely: Jackson Clayborne '22 was a popular figure with young people in Kenya, wherever the day took us. He became such the rock star during our visits that he became known as "Daddy Jackson" by many on the immersion trip. Here he is pictured with his newest family in Kibera. Clayborne traveled to Africa with 21 other Wabash students as part of the History 370 course, "Religion in Africa."  
—Steven Jones '87

photo by Steven Jones '87





# Wabash

MAGAZINE

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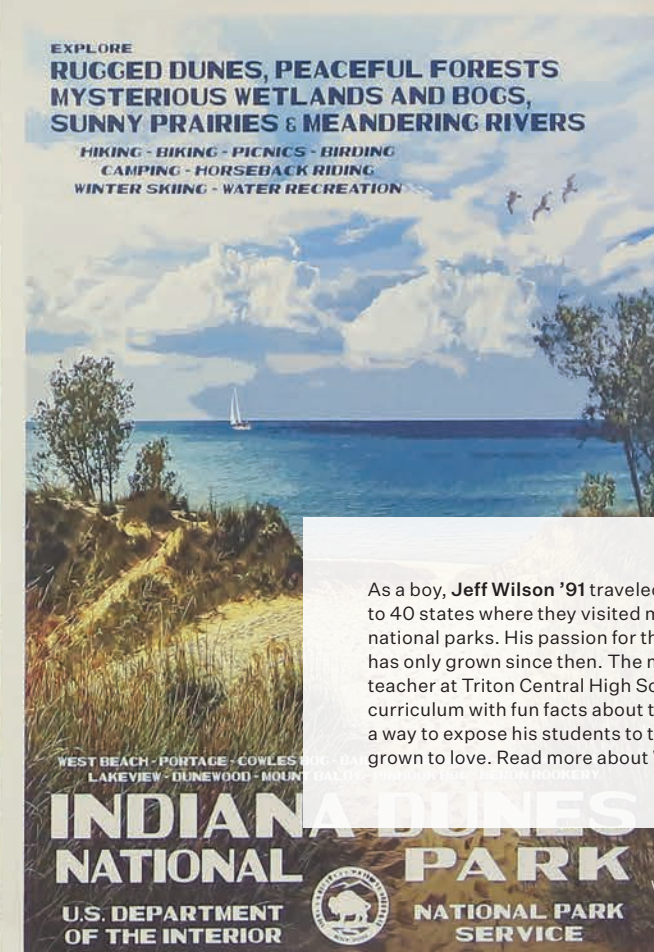
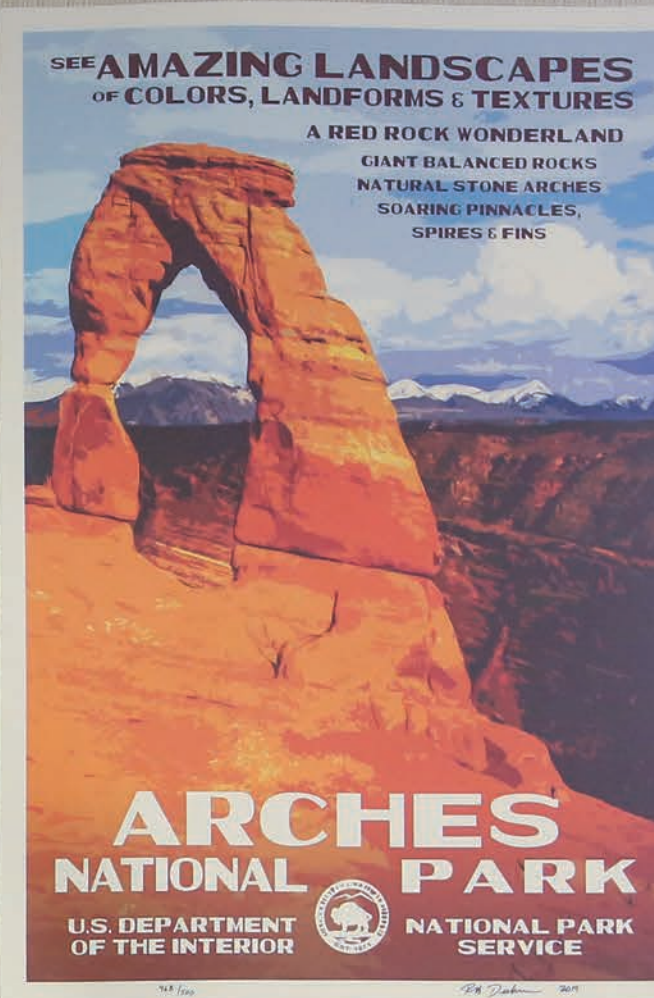
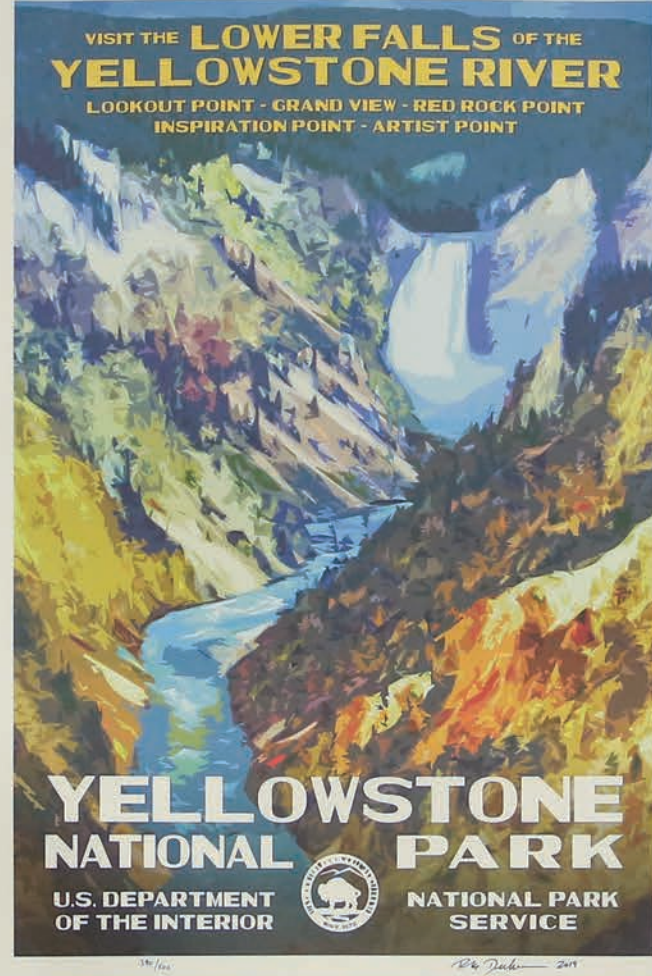
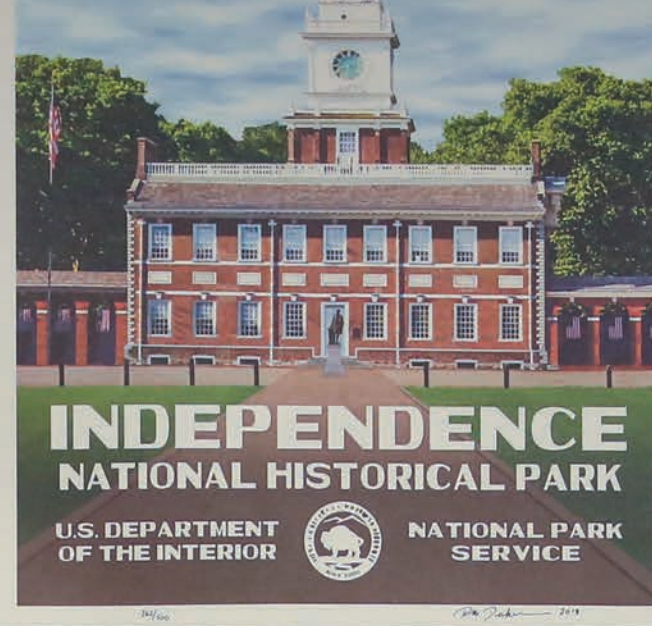
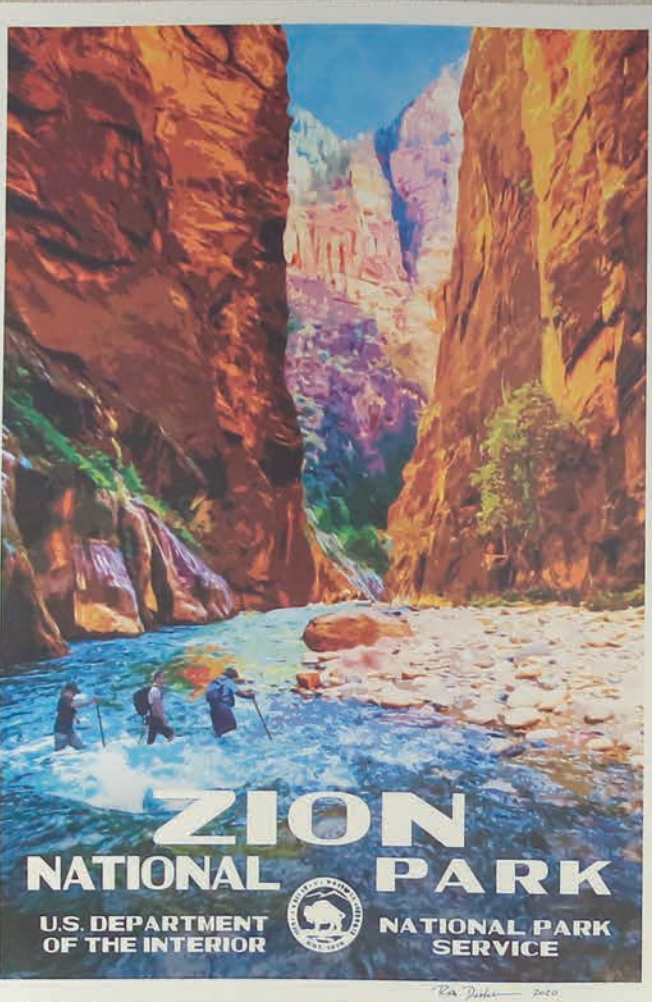
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Wabash College educates men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.

wabash.edu/magazine

# Wabash.



As a boy, Jeff Wilson '91 traveled with his parents to 40 states where they visited many state and national parks. His passion for the parks and travel has only grown since then. The mathematics teacher at Triton Central High School infuses his curriculum with fun facts about the park sites as a way to expose his students to the places he has grown to love. Read more about Wilson on page 31.

photo by Kim Johnson



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ABOUT THE COVER

Basketball player **Jack Davidson ’22** (standing) and wrestler **Jack Heldt ’23** finished outstanding winter sports seasons in March.

Davidson was awarded the Jostens Trophy for Most Outstanding NCAA Division III Men’s Basketball Player. He led his team to a final four finish in the NCAA Tournament. Read more about Davidson on page 24 and the season on page 26.

Heldt was one of a school-record five All-American wrestlers and received the NCAA’s Elite 90 Award for highest cumulative grade-point average. Heldt placed second in his weight class at the National Championship meet and was an integral part of the team finishing as the national runner-up. Read more about Heldt and the wrestling team on page 28.

photo by Kim Johnson

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Dance On

MY 13-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER is finishing her 12th year of dance. From September to June, she spends three days a week in the studio studying four disciplines—ballet and pointe, jazz, tap, and modern. She is an athlete of the arts.

Through her I have learned new vocabulary: *assemblé*, *fouetté*, Maxie Ford, *soussus*, *coupé*, cramp roll, and *ronde de jambe*. I have also gained an appreciation for (and a sore body from attempting) the work of Martha Graham, Jose Limón, and Joseph Pilates.

I have spent hours in the studio, backstage, and in the audience waiting, watching, photographing, applying makeup, fixing hair, mending costumes, listening, and just being there—for all the dancers—not just my own. And when she dances, I remember why.

Dance is her passion. She is mine. In all likelihood, she will not go on to become a professional dancer. But the time she spends in the studio, the work she is doing, and the friendships she has with other dancers sustains and nurtures her spirit.

So it goes for many of us. The activities, people, and places that sustain and nurture us most are not our daily 9-to-5 that puts food on the table. For a lucky few of us, our passions and careers are deeply intertwined or at least have frequent intersection.

This issue of *Wabash Magazine* is dedicated to stories of passion projects—those ventures that breathe life into our people and encourage continual growth and learning, whether the reward is extrinsic or purely intrinsic.

John Cheek ’91 put his trumpet in the case to go to law school but recently has reignited his love of playing jazz music. After raising her family, trustee and former banking executive Jennifer Evans discovered her identity as an artist. Tyler Buresh ’12 joined the Navy and now teaches ship navigation in the University of Notre Dame’s Naval ROTC program.

And I would be completely remiss if I did not mention the enormous accomplishments of our winter student-athletes! Our wrestling team finished second at the national championship meet, boasting five All-Americans and coach of the year.

The basketball team finished a stellar season at 28–4, clinching the NCAC regular season and tournament championships on its way to the NCAA national semifinal game—the best finish in 40 years. The track and field team dominated the NCAC Indoor Championship and won its 16th conference title. And the record-setting performances of the swimming and diving team topped 1,000 points at the NCAC Championship to finish third behind Denison University and Kenyon College in one of the toughest conferences in Division III.

Our student-athletes, like wrestler Jack Hedlt ’23, with a grade point average of 4.0 and winner of the Elite 90 Award, are just as dedicated to their classes as they are their sports—studying on buses, checking in with professors, and making sure they are staying engaged with their coursework. Always means always.

Of particular note, when we started working on this issue, no “special military operations” had begun in Ukraine. Yet, a few of the people whose stories we were already telling, ended up being deeply connected to the attacks. An extra thanks to Jason Hand ’94; Jeff Wilson ’91 and his Ukrainian exchange daughter,

Anna Gumenyuk; and Philip Eubanks ’06 for sharing with us beyond what we imagined.

Do you have a story you would like us to tell? Is there something in this issue that resonated with you or rattled you unexpectedly? Let us know! We would love to hear from you.

Be well.

Kim Johnson

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# Passion and Profession

**ONE OF MY CHRISTMAS PRESENTS** from my wife, Wendy, was the book *Oaxaca Journal* by the neurologist Oliver Sacks, published in 2002.

Most people know Dr. Sacks from his research and writing on fascinating neurological case histories involving memory, consciousness, and hallucinations.

In his groundbreaking 1973 book, *Awakenings*, Sacks wrote about the experiences of a group of patients who suffered for decades from something akin to sleeping sickness following the influenza pandemic of 1918. The story of their miraculous recovery after Sacks’ treatments using L-DOPA became a popular movie starring Robin Williams and Robert De Niro.

But Sacks took a completely different approach when writing *Oaxaca Journal*, which is a firsthand account of his passion—ferns. Sacks is literally a card-carrying member of the American Fern Society, and the book is a travelogue detailing his exploration, along with a group of fellow fern enthusiasts, of the Mexican state of Oaxaca.

Wendy got me the book because Oaxaca is one of our favorite travel destinations. It is interesting to read Sacks’ description of the history, food, culture, and natural beauty so familiar to me, alongside details of the hundreds of fern species found in Oaxaca.

I feel like I know this place he is describing, yet I’ve never once noticed a single fern, and until reading his book, knew nothing about how these plants have adapted to survive.

**I AM A PHYSICAL CHEMIST** by training and have spent most of my adult life teaching undergraduates and conducting research on the lipids and proteins found in cell membranes.

But my passion for the past 40 years is our farm, and especially raising a particular breed of sheep called Hampshire, which originated in Hampshire, England. Like Sacks’ fascination with ferns, our farm is far removed from my vocation.

As I read Sacks’ enthusiastic, detailed, and systematic description of various fern species, I was reminded of the 2021 LaFollette Lecture, “Shaped by History: Plants, Polyploidy, and People,” given by Professor of Biology Amanda Ingram.

Dr. Ingram is passionate about plants, particularly *Eragrostis*, a genus of grasses that she has studied around the globe. Comparing and contrasting Sacks and Ingram made me think about the relationship between passions and vocations, and about the difference between amateur and professional (or perhaps between hobby and side hustle).

When I tell people that I have a farm, many assume that profit is my goal. But what actually drives me is a complex set of motivations that includes providing wholesome food for the community, through which I am able to exercise a connection to my family’s history.

Farming isn’t my profession, but I bristle at the suggestion that I am an amateur or—even worse—a hobby farmer. On the other hand, for Wendy, the farm is both her passion and her profession. She grew up with farming as both a livelihood and a way of life, and thus she includes financial return as motivation, in addition to our shared inspirations.

It is often hard to understand someone’s motivation. It seems completely natural to me when Professor Ingram tells stories of tracking down plants around the world. But when Sacks describes the same thing, it strikes me as odd.

Thinking about the arbitrary distinction I made between professional and amateur botanists gives me a new insight into the curiosity people express when I tell them that I am an amateur farmer.

As I write this message, Wabash College is enjoying a historic string of athletic successes. We are cheering on the young men as much for the passion they bring as the victories they earn, and their amateur status makes us admire them even more.

As we celebrate the passion projects of our Wabash community in this issue of *Wabash Magazine*, I hope you will be curious—and proud—of the many things about which we are passionate, whether it’s Nikki Carpenter participating in and volunteering for 4-H; Jeff Wilson ’91, whose love of the national parks feeds into his high school math curriculum; or Rick Sasso ’82, who has built a world-renowned spine center and hospital campus. And I also hope that these inspiring stories might ignite new passions of your own.



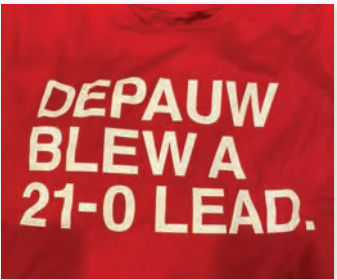
*Scott Feller*  
**Scott Feller** | President  
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Wabash Theater presented *The 39 Steps*, a rollicking adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock’s serious 1935 film. With plenty of wit and whimsy, fast-paced action, and lots of laughs, unlike Hitchcock’s movie, the stage version squeezed the cast down to four, which included **Logan Weilbaker ’25** and **Drew Johannes ’23** (pictured).



The Mental Health Concerns Committee teamed up with the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County to sponsor some fall finals week stress relief puppy style. Each semester the friendly canines are a welcome respite to the end-of-the-semester grind.



ICYMI: The Little Giants football team overcame a 21-point deficit to DePauw to win the Monon Bell Game and bring the Bell back home in November.

Happy 100th Birthday, Sphinx Club!

**Wabash College** @WabashCollege · Dec 15, 2021  
100 years ago this week a group of guys hopped into a car and headed to Bloomington on an adventure to add a new club to campus. Read the blog and learn more about the founding of Wabash's Sphinx Club [bit.ly/3GI2hZl](https://bit.ly/3GI2hZl)







The Class of 1966 raised \$3.3 million to name the last housing unit in the Ott Residential Life District. More than 80 class members made a gift to the lodge project. Additionally, two endowed scholarships were created and six new planned gifts were disclosed. The naming project was led by **Dave Krattebol '66** and class agent **Cal Black '66**.

“You are a very special group of Wabash men and your College is grateful. Not only was yours the first-ever 55th reunion class gift, it was one of the biggest class gifts in our history. This handsome lodge will remind future generations of Wabash men of your brotherhood and legacy.”

—President Scott Feller, at the dedication of the Class of 1966 Lodge



Archie Manning joined the Wabash faithful at the Monon Bell Game, where he led the pre-game coin toss. Mayor **Todd Barton '00** presented Manning with a citation declaring November 13, 2021, as “Archie Manning Day” in the City of Crawfordsville to honor his support of Wabash College.

Defender **Cristian Aleman '22** was named to the 2021 United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division III All-America Third Team. Aleman is the first Wabash soccer player to be named an All-American since 1998.



**Richard J '62** and **Stacie J. Stephenson** (center) celebrate with their extended family, including **Chris '87** and **Shawn '98**, at the unveiling of the Stephenson Gateway Plaza before the Wabash vs. Wooster game on Saturday, October 16, 2021. The Gateway Plaza was made possible by the Stephenson Family: **Richard J '62** and **Dr. Stacie J. Stephenson**, **Dr. Christopher '87** and **Jamie Stephenson**, **Ann Stephenson Hostetler** and **Bill Hostetler**, **Jennifer Stephenson Keller** and **Darren Keller**, **Shawn '98** and **Morgan Stephenson**, and **Shelby Stephenson**.



Three Wabash cadets have contracted through Army ROTC, committing to serve the United States as army officers. The opportunity is made possible in partnership with Purdue University Army ROTC. Cadets **Caleb Gross '23**, **Drew Johannes '23**, and **Jordan Hodge '24** will be the first of many Wabash students to complete ROTC and commission into the Army as second lieutenants upon graduation. **Mitchell Shea '24** will contract next semester.



A Dia de los Muertos celebration was hosted by La Alianza and Wabash Spanish Club.





During Thanksgiving break, four groups of students traveled around the world for immersive learning to supplement their coursework. Professors and students traveled to Israel, the Bay of Naples, Napa and Sonoma, and the South.



“Being back in-person was amazing. There’s really nothing like having the panel of real judges and lawyers right in front of you, just 15 feet away, peppering you with questions.”

—Cooper Smith '23, 2021 Moot Court Winner



Cooper Smith '23 won the 28th Moot Court competition at Wabash. This year’s case was modeled on the appeal involving the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. Smith was up against three other finalists, Vasilios Antonopoulos '22, Jakob Goodwin '23, and Andrew Hollingsworth '23. This is Smith’s second win and third time in the finals.



President Scott and Wendy Feller attended the Wabash Club of Chicago holiday luncheon in December and are pictured here with Garrard McClendon '88.



MLK Day speaker **Karen Freeman Wilson** was the first female to lead the city of Gary and the first African American female mayor in Indiana.

“We are excited to create and develop this new research team that will be led by undergraduate scientists. This work is a fantastic opportunity to show our students how scientists collaborate and leverage each other’s expertise to tackle complex scientific problems.”

—Erika Sorensen-Kamakian,  
Assistant Professor of Biology and Principal Investigator



Wabash College professors **Erika Sorensen-Kamakian** and **Wally Novak** received a nearly \$470,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study the impacts of protein level control on human development and disease. This project will engage undergraduate students in year-round interdisciplinary research, improving their creative problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and ability to communicate with both scientific audiences and the general public.



After having to cancel in 2020 due to COVID-19, Wabash held the 53rd Christmas Festival of Music and Readings. The event featured students, faculty, and staff sharing their talents to celebrate the season.





# WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR GREATEST SPLURGE?

## Philip Coons '67

My greatest splurge was treating my then-recently retired wife to an **Oceana cruise** from San Diego to Miami via the Panama Canal in 2019. A highlight was visiting Havana, Cuba.

## Roger Bowen '69

In spring 1967, I decided to take the fall semester in **Tokyo** at a time when my own savings account was meager and my father's business was struggling. Living on a shoestring budget, I splurged on a weekend trip up Japan's coast with a woman from DePauw University, who a year later proposed marriage to me. After 53 years of a loving marriage and glory in seeing our two sweet daughters become exceptional women, it is a self-evident truth that the value of the splurge cannot be measured by yen alone.

## Chris McQuillin '82

My wife, Jan, and I are fans of **The Beatles** and Paul McCartney particularly. A few years ago he was set to appear in concert in Tinley Park, Illinois. We have been amazed at the crazy cost of concert tickets since we both started going in the 1970s when tickets were in the range of \$10. After some thought, we decided to splurge and buy tickets for good seats. We were not disappointed. It was probably the best concert we ever attended. We had a great evening jamming to songs from The Beatles, Wings, and Paul as a solo act. He played for about three hours—almost nonstop. It was a great splurge for us and a great memory.

## Roger Alig '63

Attending **Wabash!**

## James Richard (Dick) Durham III '64

My biggest splurge was trading in my Yamaha Conservatory for a superexpensive seven-and-a-half-foot **Bösendorfer grand piano**. It is the most lovely and impressive sound in the world, the best and most expensive piano made next to Fazioli, which no one should try to afford.

I made two CDs on the new Bösendorfer—gorgeous, deep, full harmonics, everything a grand piano should be. Even though it cost more than my second house, it is definitely worth it.

Thanks, Wabash, for giving me such a full, vibrant, enlightened life.

## Diane Marino, parent of Benjamin Marino '23

My greatest splurge would be staying in an **oceanfront condo** at the beach.

## Bob Kellogg '55

After graduation, I stayed in touch with a Lambda Chi brother, **Cortes Perry '55**, who had gone to work for NASA in Huntsville, Alabama. One summer, in the 1970s, Ellen and I and our four children visited Huntsville. Cortes met us at the NASA facility and took us on a grand tour, some of it beyond the buildings prepared for normal tourist trade. In one large building prepared for viewing, Cortes pointed out the original Earth orbiter, a small cone-shaped unit with the access door open. This was the actual device that NASA had rushed into orbit after the Russian Sputnik had made its orbits. As we gazed at the small interior, Cortes pointed to a small box-like device and said, "That's a mass spectrometer I designed." My old friend had designed one of the test instruments used on the first NASA orbiter! Ellen and I returned to Huntsville a few years ago after Cortes had passed, and took the standard tour. It was not nearly as impressive as the tour Cortes gave us many years ago.

## Andy Walsh '14

My biggest splurge was definitely when I emptied my savings account to go to Game One of the **2016 Major League Baseball World Series** featuring the Cubs vs. the Indians. As a die-hard Cubs fan my entire life, it was a dream come true to attend the first World Series game the Cubs played since 1945, and the first game of their first World Series title since 1908. Money comes and goes, but this memory will last forever.

## Jeff Torell '69

Biggest splurge—**landscaping** and two retaining walls on our sloping yard.

## ROB RUDICEL '92

My biggest splurge was for my 50th birthday. It was a **Pearl Jam poster from 1998 in East Lansing, Michigan**. I went to the show during my pediatric residency in Grand Rapids. I remember not buying the poster for \$30 at the time, thinking that was too much money. I bought stickers for \$5 instead. Pearl Jam posters have become collectibles over the years, and this was my personal Holy Grail. It was the only one I did not have from the Pearl Jam concerts I attended. This particular poster is rare and highly coveted. It took many years of looking before I was able to purchase it from eBay—22 years later it cost a lot more than \$30.





WAYNE HOOVER '73

One of my biggest splurges was deciding to venture into the **Omo Vally of Ethiopia** to photograph many of the remote tribes there. It was a fabulous experience, but one that I am afraid will not be there in its present form in the future.

Roy Sexton '95

My “I survived Brand Launch 2021” gift to myself was a **Victrola record player**, plus the *Black Stallion* soundtrack among other vintage vinyl finds. I finally have a good way to play all my old records.

Robert Ivancevich '72

**Renting a 500-year-old house in Southern France** for a month to immerse in Van Gogh and Gauguin.



Trevor Young '14

I got into **motorcycling** about two years after Wabash. When I started, I bought an old bike from Kentucky for \$1,000, rebuilt it, learned to ride it, and traded it for a better bike a few months later. I was never satisfied with either. I somewhat enjoyed the Honda I got. It had a bigger seat and more leg room for my tall girlfriend. I traded that one for my first Harley, a totally custom Dyna Street Bob. I loved that bike, but she hated it. I got the bike when I started in the motorcycle-club world because it was American-made, had a powerful motor, and was light and maneuverable, which is important when you ride in packs. It had little room for my girlfriend, though. I caved after our wedding and traded it for a brand-new 2019 Harley Davidson Road Glide Special—massive motor, all black, stereo, big fairing, comfy seats, and backrest. It was the first new vehicle I had ever owned, and by far the most expensive. My now-wife was not thrilled when I told her what it cost, but the next ride she went on with me, she abruptly changed her tune.

Eric Rowland '86

My summer job during high school and college was mowing lawns in my neighborhood. I’d get \$20 per cut and \$25 if they wanted me to collect the clippings. I took care of several lawns in the neighborhood, and during the summer between my freshman and sophomore year, I made more spending money than I thought I would need at school.

After a few conversations with my dad, I decided to splurge on **\$500 in Apple Computer stock**. At the time, that seemed like a pretty risky investment because IBM had just introduced its personal computer and John Sculley had just been hired to lead Apple. The stock didn’t do very well at the beginning. My dad’s advice was to not pay attention and wait to see what happened.

A few years later when I was in graduate school, the opportunity came up to study at the École des Beaux Arts in Versailles, France, but my dad wasn’t convinced it was really a studious endeavor. I told him to sell my Apple stock to help pay for the trip and to try to convince him that I was serious about the effort. He agreed and I had a great—and studious—year in France.

He and I never mentioned the stock thereafter, even though it had almost hit junk status. Unfortunately, dad contracted lung cancer and died in 2000—12 years after my trip.

My wife had a battle with breast cancer in 2012. We were fortunate to have insurance cover most of the medical costs, but the ordeal was stressful and changed our priorities a bit. We became more focused on finding experiences we could enjoy together, and she became more interested in pursuing retirement. We had done a pretty good job of planning for retirement and funding our kids’ education, but early retirement wasn’t something we had really factored in.

Apple started paying dividends in 2012 and we received a check from them in the mail. We were a little puzzled because Sally and I had some Apple stock in our portfolio, but we had given our broker direction to reinvest the dividend. It was also odd that the check was addressed just to me rather than both of us and its amount was substantially higher than what it should have been for our

JOHN ROBERTS '83

Definitely a two-week cruise and land **trip to Alaska**. Worth every Benjamin to ride in a de Havilland Beaver bush plane to a glacial lake and then hike the glacier.



investment. I checked with my dad’s broker, who is a family friend. He revealed that my dad had never sold the stock as we had discussed, and after the introduction of the iPhone, its value had ballooned to several hundred thousand dollars!

It turns out that my lawn mowing money helped my wife retire earlier than planned, and it has allowed us to enjoy many experiences we might not have felt comfortable doing otherwise. It also reinforced my understanding of my dad as a thoughtful and caring man who loved his kids very much.

Ken Ogorek '87

We tend to spend money we don’t have on experiences likely to be good **family memories** for our kids. A few summers ago we drove out to the western U.S. and back—different routes—when our oldest wasn’t too old and our youngest was old enough. As young adults they now refer back to that trip with fondness and appreciation. Experiences like that are worth splurging on.

John Moyer '77

In 1985 I received a large annual bonus from my employer at the time, Siemens. I decided to split it with my wife, and use my half to pay for something that I had wanted to do since looking up at airplanes as a child—take **flying lessons** and obtain my private pilot’s license. The classroom learning was about as intense as freshman biology at Wabash, but with a really cool lab.

One beautiful fall day, late in my training and after being signed off to fly solo, I rented a now-very-familiar Cessna 152 and flew over the Wabash campus, Shades State Park, and Turkey Run, enjoying the beautiful fall colors spread out before me in every direction. Later, while a salesman for a manufacturer’s rep agency, I rented a Cessna 172 and flew it to cities in my multistate territory whenever it made sense and the weather cooperated. My boss at the time didn’t care how I covered the territory, as long as I did it. Nearly every small airport has a courtesy car, which I used to get from the airport to my customers. My wife appreciated that I was able to leave home at 7:30 a.m., visit a big customer in Erie, Pennsylvania (for example), and be home for supper at 6 p.m. the same day.

I never did what would have been an even bigger splurge, owning an airplane. As much as I wanted to, it just didn’t make sense financially. So, I continued to rent airplanes at Indy Metro Airport in my hometown of Fishers, Indiana, and never got to know what they say are the two happiest days in an airplane owner’s life: the day he buys his first airplane, and the day he sells it.



# HUMANIZING THE DATA

by ALLIE NORTHCUTT

**J**OHNN HENRY REITH '22 thought working in healthcare meant he'd go to medical school and put in years of training to earn a long white coat. He thought the only way he could *really* help people in his community was by becoming a physician.

When Reith got to Wabash, a world of possibilities opened up for him—especially after the biochemistry major and public health minor took biology Professor Eric Wetzel's intro to global health course his sophomore year.

"I realized there's so much more that goes into healthcare and how we experience it beyond frontline workers," says the Lilly Scholar. "It's very interdisciplinary.

"I wanted to dive more into what goes on behind the scenes, and learn how I could help shape those systems for the better."

And that's exactly what he did last summer as a data analytics intern with the Allen County (IN) Health Department.

**HAVING GROWN UP** in rural Leo, Indiana, northeast of Fort Wayne, Reith was aware

of the struggles his hometown experiences with the opioid epidemic, but was unsure of how the community was addressing the issue. So, he reached out to Allen Superior Court Judge Wendy Davis, who had led a local reform program that provided victims of drug abuse disorder treatment opportunities instead of incarceration. She put him in touch with the county health department.

During his internship, Reith analyzed Allen County overdose records collected from police reports, coroner's reports, and other medical documents. He examined a number of factors ranging from the person's demographic background to the type of drugs found in the person's system.

"My job was to consolidate, interpret, and analyze the data, and then, present my findings to the board of commissioners of the health department to educate and provide insight on what intervention plans are needed to help the community."

Reith found that Allen County had a total of 874 overdose deaths between 2008 and 2019, and that fentanyl was found in two-thirds of all overdoses. Additionally, the data

showed that 80% of victims had at least a high school diploma, and 75% were employed or on disability at the time of their deaths.

**BEFORE THE INTERNSHIP**, Reith admitted to stereotyping and using negative language, like "drug addict" and "drug abuser," to describe people who struggle with substance use disorder. The more he read records and police and crime scene reports, the more he developed empathy for these victims.

"I saw the death record of one of my childhood friends whom I hadn't seen in years," says Reith. "I paused when I read his name. It was like, *Holy cow*. I've had surgeries and orthopedic procedures and been prescribed opioids. This could have been me.

"That was the moment I realized how important it is to make people aware of the vastness of this serious issue, and the fact that addiction is nondiscriminatory. It can come for anyone."

Another part of Reith's internship included working at a local needle exchange clinic.

"It was eye-opening. I heard people's stories firsthand, face-to-face. That was really meaningful in helping me contextualize the work that I was doing and why it's important," says Reith. "Even if it's hard or boring sometimes sitting in front of a computer with long lists of numbers, there's a reason for it."

When Wetzel heard about Reith's internship experience and how it changed his perspective, he got choked up and teary-eyed.

"One of the things that Jill Rogers [health advisor and GHI program coordinator] often tells our students is that empathy is our superpower," says Wetzel. "Behind the numbers, there are people. We can lay out all of the national statistics and get these big numbers, but they need to be understood. There are human stories behind all of them, and it's a lot more complicated than what it looks like on the surface.

"For John Henry to recognize that, step out into the community to talk to people, and dig into what the data means is what public health is all about," Wetzel continues. "He's a natural leader. We need more people like him out in the field."

**AFTER CONDUCTING HIS RESEARCH**, Reith compiled his findings into a 15-minute presentation before the board of commissioners, where he proposed solutions to help address the opioid crisis in Allen County. One approach called for increasing police presence and community policing practices in areas of the county that had the highest rates of overdoses.

"There's a really big street presence with hard drugs, fentanyl specifically. The opioids get people addicted, but the fentanyl is what's killing them," says Reith.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid typically used to treat patients with chronic severe pain or severe pain following surgery. According to the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), fentanyl is a controlled substance that is similar to morphine, but about 100 times more potent.

Fentanyl is being distributed across the country and sold on the illegal drug market. It is often mixed with other illicit drugs to increase the potency, and increasingly pressed into pills made to look like legitimate prescription opioids.

There is significant risk that illegal drugs have been intentionally contaminated with fentanyl, according to the DEA. Because of its potency and low cost, drug dealers and distributors have been mixing fentanyl with other drugs, including heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine, increasing the likelihood of fatal overdoses.

"We have to find a balance between cracking down on drug distributors and finding help for people who are addicted," Reith continues. "You can't just punish the abusers. They are a victim to their disease. The distributors are causing the problem."

Another solution Reith suggested was increasing the placement of Narcan boxes in affected areas.

opioid-related overdose. Pharmacies, local health departments, and other entities can register with the Indiana State Department of Health to sell or distribute and provide training on the drug to anyone who wants it.

"There is a direct relationship between the time of overdose, the first Narcan admission, and survival rates," Reith explains.

Standing before the board, other local physicians, and community leaders felt intimidating at first, but Reith says thanks to Wabash he felt prepared and more excited to engage with people on such an important topic.

"I think they were happy with the presentation. As always, it's shocking to see the reality of this issue with the data showing increases in opioid use and deaths every year. I think it was important and provided an extra drive to act," says Reith. "The plan for the health department moving forward is to continue this project so they can make the best-informed decisions to help the community based on the most current data."

**"I saw the death record of one of my childhood friends whom I hadn't seen in years. I paused when I read his name. It was like, *Holy cow*. I've had surgeries and orthopedic procedures and been prescribed opioids. This could have been me."**



After graduation, Reith will be attending the University of Notre Dame's master of science in global health program.

The program has a focus on community-based capstone research, Reith says, and will help him continue to develop the skills needed for a career in public health, "while still connecting with current issues." ■

photo by Anna Tiplick



# PREACHER MAN

by Kim Johnson

Kenny Coleman '22 may have first stood out to coaches because of his athletic abilities, but once they got to know him, they knew he was meant to be a Wabash Man.



photo by Kim Johnson

**K**ENNY COLEMAN '22 didn't want to come to Wabash. But persistence by the coaching staff paid off and the College is a better place because of him.

"It was evident to me throughout the recruiting process that Kenny was supposed to be at Wabash—based on his work ethic, his personality, and his maturity at that age. He just didn't know it yet," says Olmy Olmstead '04, the football coach who began recruiting Coleman. "It was quite a hard sell, too."

One difficulty for the Muncie Central High School graduate was transitioning from a diverse school system to a place where he is more of a minority, and has experienced racism and acts of discrimination.

"Kenny has always carried the additional weight that Black students must bear on predominately white campuses, like at Wabash," says Sabrina Thomas, associate professor of history.

Coleman turned that weight into a podium to speak out for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"I was really closed off and reserved as a freshman, even a little bit as a sophomore," says the rhetoric major and Black studies minor. "But taking more and more rhetoric classes changed the way I look at the conversation. I'm not going to be passive in terms of how I feel. If I say something, I'm going to really say it."

"When it comes to racism, I'm more inclined to speak up and speak out, even if it offends people," he continues. "At the end of the day, you can't be scared to step on toes. This is going to happen when the room is crowded."

**COLEMAN HAS PROVEN HIMSELF** as a leader on campus. In Spring 2021, Coleman was awarded the Lewis Salter Memorial Award given to a member of the junior class who best exemplifies the characteristics of scholarship, character, leadership, and service of former faculty member and Wabash's 12th president, Lewis Salter H'57.

**Kenny Coleman '22** has been cutting hair of staff and fellow students at the MXIBS barbershop since he was a freshman at Wabash.

"As a Black man and leader of the MXIBS Brotherhood," said Thomas in Coleman's Salter Award nomination, "Kenny continues to temper the emotions and pain that currently define race relations in America, in Crawfordsville, and at Wabash College, with thoughtful and patient action—including a willingness to discuss these issues with his white peers even when they are the source of some of the pain."

Last Fall, Coleman was awarded an Orr Fellowship. After graduation he will be working at Genesys, a tech-based company that specializes in creating software that helps businesses create a better customer service experience.

**"At the end of the day, you can't be scared to step on toes. This is going to happen when the room is crowded."**

"Getting the fellowship is something I couldn't have done without Wabash," Coleman says. "I hope that being a fellow enables me to open the door for other students of color at Wabash to explore and better themselves."

The football and track and field athlete has also emerged as a strong and trusted voice in diversity, equity, and inclusion on the field, around Wabash, and in the Crawfordsville community. He has been an integral part of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS) on campus, holding leadership positions all four years, including serving as chairman as a junior. He also served on the mayor's special commission for racial equality and justice. He is passionate about helping people solve problems and being a resource for other Black students.

"There are a lot of people to talk to about how you're feeling or about the things you've experienced as a student here, but not a lot of people who actually understand from [the Black] point of view," says Coleman. "A big issue is finding connections where we can actually talk and feel like we're being heard, not more like we're informing somebody."

What started off as just a way for Coleman to make a little extra money while in school has proven to be the perfect outlet for creating an open space where fellow Black students feel like someone is listening.

"I love cutting hair. I picked it up in high school helping cut my little brothers' hair," he says. "But once I got here, it hit a new level."

"I am sharing a space with someone, where they're completely vulnerable, they're trusting me with their hair, which for some people is a really big deal. I know it is for me," Coleman continues. "The fact that the person trusts me, they're open to talk about whatever it is in their life that's bothering them—it's almost like a sanctuary, or even like an altar where they're just pouring out themselves."

Perhaps Coleman was destined to create a safe, sanctuary space for Black men on campus. He grew up the son, stepson, and nephew of pastors and has even been nicknamed "Preacher Man" by Steven Jones '87, dean for professional development and director of the MXIBS.

"My faith is something I feel strongly about," Coleman says. "If anybody knows anything about me, I want it to be that I'm definitely a believer."

While he has been around the church his entire life, it wasn't until he got to Wabash that he solidified what his faith meant to him.

"Being away from home and still trying to keep that religious connection has been a challenge, because there's always so much going on," says Coleman. "I had to do some reconstruction and figure out why I believe in God."

"Some of the things I do now, like what I'm involved with, or different passions and motivations, have stemmed from me



photo by Kim Johnson

Coleman at football senior day in September 2021.

reasserting why I believe. There's definitely a higher power at work. There's something everybody has to believe in, that they can't really explain in human terms. But I know there's somebody there. And I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that, and give thanks, whether it's God or somebody else. For me, it's God."

The Bible verse that has become one that guides Coleman is Philippians 4:5-7: "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Those who have been tackled by the 255 pound defensive lineman or who have witnessed his 48-foot weight throw probably don't think of "gentleness" as a first-word descriptor of Coleman. But he is seen around Wabash as a thoughtful, quiet listener.

"His number one quality—he gets quiet and he's able to process stuff," says Clyde Morgan, head track and field coach, "because he's listening."



Coleman participates in the campus unity walk hosted by the MXIBS and La Alianza.

Coach Olmstead was right—Coleman does belong at Wabash. Yes, he is a great student and athlete, but also because these past four years Wabash has needed Coleman's voice just as much as his presence on the field and in the classroom.

"Kenny is definitely a leader and has the ability to influence those around him to do the right thing," Olmstead says. "He has added tremendous value to our campus throughout his career here. Kenny didn't just go through the motions at Wabash." ■



# “He’s Got That Teacher Bug”

by Allie Northcutt

**Devin Vanyo ’22 has always loved mathematics—so much so that he was taking advanced pre-algebra by sixth grade. He always thought that passion would turn into a career. After studying abroad in Budapest, Vanyo realized he might want something else, and that it’s OK to not know exactly where he’ll end up after graduation.**

**T**HERE WAS A LOT that attracted Devin Vanyo, from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, to Wabash College—the beautiful campus, rigorous academics, athletic opportunities. But what got him most excited about the liberal arts institution was its students.

“I found my people,” says the Lilly Scholar. It was the first time the math major and religion and Greek double minor felt like he didn’t stand out as “the smart kid,” but fit in with others who understood his analytical way of thinking.

“Coming into college, I was thrilled because there were people who I could *actually* talk with about math,” Vanyo continues. “I could just keep going deeper and deeper, and they would keep going with me. It was amazing!”

**VANYO HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF** at Wabash through a variety of campus leadership roles and academic achievements. He serves as a consultant in the Wabash Writing Center, is a member of the tennis team, participates in Moot Court, and is the former president of the math club.

“Devin is one of the finest students I’ve ever taught,” says Colin McKinney, associate professor of mathematics and computer science. “When I first met him as a high school senior, we started talking and he mentioned he was taking math classes at a university near where he lives.

“It became very clear this kid seriously knows his stuff—and that’s just not mathematically. He took Greek. He wrote a paper for a class that he submitted to a classics journal on an obscure and poorly

understood part of ancient Greek grammar,” McKinney continues. “If you look liberal arts up in a dictionary, you might see a picture of Devin Vanyo.”

Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett says Vanyo is a phenomenal athlete and leader on and off the court. His teammates all look up to him.

“It’s more than just his athletic ability,” says Bickett. “When I put together a drill, there’s a certain aspect that we’re working on. Devin is the one person that will constantly focus on that one aspect and get it perfect almost every time. He’s the one I’m able to point to and say, ‘He’s doing a great job. We all need to try and be a little bit more like Devin.’”

**Opposite page:** When he wasn’t in class or studying with Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, **Devin Vanyo ’22** spent his semester abroad exploring the cultural life, history, and diverse landscape of Hungary’s capital.

**VANYO IS A GOAL-ORIENTED PERSON** who’s always had a plan. Coming out of high school, he thought getting through college and then earning a PhD in math “just made the most sense.”

As he continued taking more math classes, conducting more research through summer internships, and meeting more professionals within the mathematics community, he started questioning whether following that career path would bring him the most happiness.

“I don’t think I want to be a mathematician,” Vanyo says. “And that uncertainty is really, really scary. When people see me, they see me as a mathematician. That’s always been my thing. And now I’m trying to do something unexpected. Breaking that mold is not easy.”

Vanyo studied abroad last semester in Hungary as a Gilman Scholar. He joined the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics, one of the most prestigious study-abroad programs for undergraduate students in the world.

Not only did he get to enroll in graduate school-level math courses, but he also got the chance to participate in a sister program that focuses on the learning and teaching of secondary mathematics. Vanyo visited multiple schools and got to explore Hungarian pedagogy, which places an emphasis on problem-solving, mathematical creativity, and communication.

“Watching teachers engage with students was really eye-opening,” says Vanyo. “The level of content awareness the teachers had, at a middle and high school level, was amazing. They could just talk in math. They were completely fluent in the discourse, as well as the emotional and social aspects that go into running an open, welcoming classroom.”

Vanyo got to step into a teacher’s shoes, and had the opportunity to lead a 45-minute math lesson.

“I really loved working with the kids,” says Vanyo. “There was something really rewarding about seeing all those light bulb moments when the math problem finally clicked and they were able to find the answer.”

McKinney says Vanyo would be a great educator one day, if that’s the path he chooses.

“He’s very good at being able to explain and communicate, not just mathematics, but anything else. His ability and knack for explaining things to others is another reason why I say he’s destined to become a professor,” says McKinney. “He’s got that teacher bug.”

**“There was something really rewarding about seeing all those light bulb moments when the math problem finally clicked and they were able to find the answer.”**

**VANYO SAYS STUDYING ABROAD** in Budapest was a blessing for him on his journey of figuring out what’s next. Being put in a different environment, with different ways of educating and thinking, opened up opportunities for him that he never thought about exploring.

“It was astounding to witness how, systemically, the way educational institutions are set up in Hungary compared to the United States are drastically different,” says Vanyo. “Here, you often hear about schools doing away with gifted programs in math education. There, it’s more of an emphasis on extended learning opportunities and challenging students who have mastered the basic curriculum. They’re encouraged to advance.”

Vanyo referenced an eighth-grade math camp he joined while studying abroad.

“These kids were surrounded by other students who were just like them. They all got excited talking math,” says Vanyo. “It was cool and encouraging to see that level of community for people like me—something I didn’t really have when I was that age.

“I think I would really enjoy being a teacher in that kind of system.”

Vanyo is focusing on balancing his last semester at Wabash. While finishing his classes and extracurriculars, he’s also making more of an effort to pause and “listen to myself and my own personal needs.”

He may apply to join the Peace Corps, spend some time doing more traveling, or ultimately decide to further his education and training after graduation. Thanks to his diligent work up to this point, he has plenty of options.

“I’ve always loaded myself up and worked really, really hard. All of that has paid off, and I’ve been blessed with great opportunities because of it,” says Vanyo. “But I need to take time for myself, too. It’s a lot less professionally sexy or glamorous, but I think it’s important right now in my journey.

“My identity isn’t professionally determined, and after spending time in Budapest and reflecting, I’ve come to realize that’s OK. I feel like there’s a lot that I am still able to do, and I have hope I’ll figure it out.” ■



Devin Vanyo presenting at the Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship & Creative Work in 2020.





by Richard Paige

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**EAD BASKETBALL COACH KYLE BRUMETT** first spotted Jack Davidson '22 eight years ago when he was in a junior varsity game at Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers, Indiana. Davidson was a sophomore at the time—maybe 5-foot-5 and 95 pounds according to Brumett—but had things going for him: confidence and a high skill level.

“The more we watched him, the more we could tell how

much of a part he played in them winning,” Brumett says. “We knew he was a hard worker. We knew his skill set. We knew basketball was important to him. No one could have predicted how driven he is.”

Indeed, Davidson’s drive led to a remarkable athletic career at Wabash. The 2022 basketball season that he, his teammates, and coaches produced will be forever etched in the institutional memory of this College.

“He’s the best ever,” says Brumett. “That’s the perspective. I think he’s the best Division III player ever.”

The Little Giants have won 84 games since Davidson first set foot on campus, including a school-record 28 wins in 2021–22, to go with the program’s first-ever NCAC regular season and postseason championships, an NCAA Tournament berth, and a run to the Division III finals.

photo by Anna Tiplick

He was named the Jostens Trophy Award winner for Most Outstanding NCAA Division III Men’s Basketball Player. He’s a two-time All-American, a two-time conference player of the year, an NCAA record holder, and a three-time Academic All-American.

He’s the Wabash all-time leading scorer, with 2,464 career points, and holds the career records for scoring average (22.4 ppg), field goal attempts (1,468), free throws made (718) and attempts (822), and games played and starts (110). In many of those categories he’s the single-season school record holder as well. In 2021–22, Davidson scored more points than any other Division III player (817) and is the NCAA all-divisions record holder for most consecutive free throws made (95).

Associate Head Coach Patrick Sullivan and teammate Ahmoni Jones ’23 see Davidson’s drive in his analysis while watching NBA or other college games, where he focuses on certain plays, actions, or ways to attack defenses.

“It blows my mind how he can read a game,” says Jones. “He literally reminds me of Stephen Curry.”

In studying film on upcoming opponents, he anticipates what the defense will try and take away, and what the counter might be offensively. Then he peppers Sullivan with questions to prepare for opponents, and practices the shots he’s likely to get in the games.

“He’s in the gym all the time,” Sullivan says. “He shoots so many more shots than most guys. There isn’t any shot you see in a game that he hasn’t already practiced.”

His shooting statistics reflect that. Davidson is a 50–40–90 player—one who shoots better

than 50% from the field, 40% from three-point range, and 90% from the free throw line—a rarity on any level. This season, Jack connected on 53%, 48%, and 91%, respectively.

“If you put in the work, you’ll get the results,” Jones says. “Jack is a walking example of that.”

Davidson’s work ethic has rubbed off on his teammates. “Every time he would go to the gym, he would ask if I wanted to go,” says Kellen Schreiber ’22. “He would come up to me after games and help me on things that he knew would make me better.”

Davidson’s drive follows him off the court as well.

Professor of Education Studies Michele Pittard saw it early in her fall 2017 freshman tutorial, The “American” Family, where Davidson’s hard work,

“Being consistent with your work is the most important part,” Davidson explains. “Repetition helps a ton. You can put in the work, but you have to put in the right work, and that’s something I take into every class and every game.

“Failure scares me,” Davidson says. “It’s not just on the court; you have to carry that over to all aspects of life. I try to be passionate about the things I do.”

Jones, Schreiber, and his other three roommates from the team laugh about his competitive drive even in their townhouse on campus.

“His competitive nature is not limited to the basketball court,” says Jack Hegwood ’22. “Whether we’re messing around in the gym after practice or at home playing NCAA Football

**“He’s the best ever,” says Brumett. “That’s the perspective. I think he’s the best Division III player ever.”**

preparation, engagement, and focus were just as evident within the walls of a Wabash classroom.

“Students respected him,” she says of the economics major with a 3.68 GPA. “In a good way, his classmates sort of expected Jack would be the one ready to contribute to discussions.”

The balance it takes to be an accomplished student and athlete is what impressed Pittard, herself a parent of three former collegiate athletes.

“I never got the sense early on how important basketball was to him,” she starts, “and I mean that as a compliment. He came well prepared and engaged every time. He took things seriously. Once I realized how good he was, his success didn’t surprise me because I see the commitment, the hard work he’s put in.”

on the PlayStation, his desire to win and be the best at anything he does is very evident.”

In a season that included a 24-game win streak and plenty to be excited about, Davidson knows it’s the relationships with his roommates and other teammates that are important.

“You dream of being a part of teams like this,” he says. “The run was amazing, but the moments we spent together off the court, the bus trips, the hotel rooms, just hanging out. It all felt so seamless. Achieving what we did together was awesome.

“None of this would have been possible without my teammates and coaches,” he continues. “Without team success, there is no individual success. To see it pay off in this way is unbelievable.” ■



photo by Jacob Paige '23





photos by Anna Tiplick

**“I’ve never been around guys that work as hard as this. It was hard figuring out how to fit all the pieces of the puzzle together, but we have a really beautiful puzzle. You get to the Final Four with guys that want to work like these guys did. And it’s not a guarantee. But they have laid it on the line and they deserve it. It’s an awesome feeling.”**

—Head Coach Kyle Brumett



photo by Tom Runge '71



photo by Tom Runge '71

**“It’s been a grind for four years. We had to lose before we learned to win. I remember going places, just getting my butt kicked. You had to get better, you had to take note of it, you had to learn from your mistakes, you had to get yelled at, you had to be coached. And man, it feels good. I love these guys because they taught me how to work. They pushed me. They said I wasn’t ready coming in; I didn’t believe it. I’m proud of these guys. And I’m proud of the team.”**

—Tyler Watson '22

### Wabash Basketball has Record-Setting Year

- 28–4 record: the most wins in school history.
- 24-game winning streak: the longest in modern school history, surpassing the 19-game streak in 1982.
- North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) regular season championship (16–1).
- NCAC Tournament Champions.
- Three 1,000-point scorers (Davidson/Watson/Schreiber): 5,111 combined career points from the senior class.
- First Wabash team to make the NCAA Division III Tournament since 1998.
- First Wabash team to make the NCAA Division III Final Four since 1982.
- Wabash defeated more nationally ranked teams in this year’s NCAA Division III tournament than any other team (No. 21 Berry, No. 12 Emory, No. 22 Williams, and No. 7 Illinois Wesleyan). Two of those wins came in true road games.

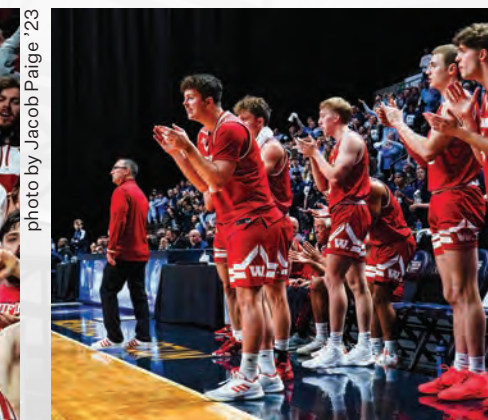
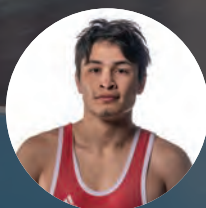


photo by Jacob Paige '23

photo by Jacob Paige '23





**“We carry ourselves as elite. We’re Wabash men in the classroom and in competition. We compete every single day in the practice room. We just [went to Nationals] and had fun. I take pride in representing the Wabash brand.”**

—Carlos Champagne '22



The seven wrestlers who competed at the NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championship Tournament. Pictured left to right: Carlos Champagne '22, Kyle Hatch '22, Maxwell Bishop '22, Jack Heldt '23, Chase Baczek '25, Daniel Uribe '24, and Alex Barr '22.

### Little Giants Place Second at NCAA Division III Championships

- Highest finish in school history, National Runner-up, out of 67 teams competing overall.
- Set a new school record with five All-Americans:  
125-lb. Carlos Champagne '22  
149-lb. Alex Barr '22  
165-lb. Kyle Hatch '22  
184-lb. Chase Baczek '25  
197-lb. Jack Heldt '23
- Tied the school record for most wrestlers competing at the championship tournament (7).
- Hatch is just the second four-time All-American in Wabash history.
- Heldt was awarded the NCAA's Elite 90 Award.
- Wabash swept the coaching honors. Brian Anderson won Head Coach of the Year and his assistants were named Division III National Assistant Coaches of the Year. It marked the first time a Wabash coach had won either award.

**“I am extremely proud of Jack for all that he accomplished this season. Great things happen to guys who buy in and do the right things on a daily basis. He did that in the classroom and on the mat—becoming an individual national runner-up and the first Elite 90 Award winner in school history! That shows you how special Jack Heldt is, and what he means to our program.”**

—Head Coach Brian Anderson



**Jack Heldt '22** was awarded the NCAA's Elite 90 Award, presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average competing at the national championships. Heldt, a double major in biology and rhetoric, currently holds a 4.0 GPA.





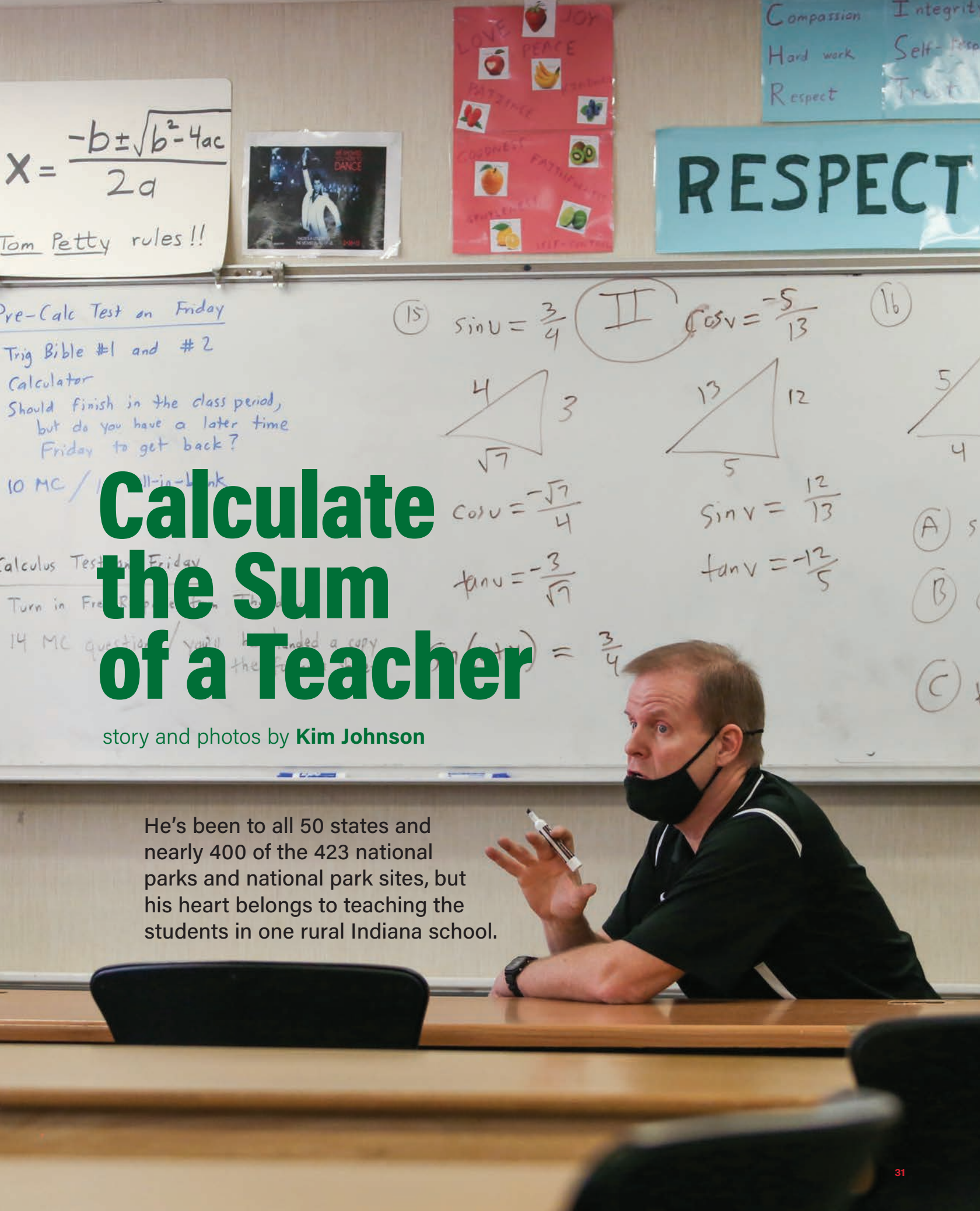


**Wabash Track and Field** captured its eighth North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Men's Indoor Track and Field Championship. It was the program's 16th indoor and outdoor title overall. The Little Giants earned 13 all-conference titles and won six event titles (Max Bigler '22 x2; Jose Franco '23; relay team of Franco, Howie Steele '24, Keith Abramson '22, Will Neubauer '25; Leo Warbington '22; and Ethan Pine '22). Wabash Head Coach Clyde Morgan and assistants Tyler McCreary, John Bute, Emile Conde, Courtney Cotton, and emeritus coach Rob Johnson earned the NCAC Men's Coaching Staff of the Year.

The Little Giant **Swimming and Diving** team topped the 1,000-point mark, and placed third at the NCAC Swimming and Diving Championships. Caleb McCarty '23 set a school record in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 44.67 and a second-place finish. McCarty, Ethan Johns '25, Connor Craig '25, and Daren Glore '22 tied the existing school record in the 400-yard medley relay, finishing in 3:03.57 and placing third. Coach Will Bernhardt was named NCAC Men's Swimming Coach of the Year.

In the second year of competition, the Little Giant **Volleyball** team made marked improvement, winning matches over Maranatha Baptist, Millikin, and Wisconsin Lutheran.

**Photo captions:**  
1. Jake Oostman '25  
2. Daren Glore '22  
3. Keane Albright '25  
4. Carson Meadors '24 (left), Luis Rivera '25 (middle), and Ricky Sessions '24 (right)  
5. Clarke Criddell '22  
6. Connor Wakefield '23  
7. Justin Dusza '22  
8. Will Beikes '25  
9. Ricky Sessions '24  
10. Nathan France '24 (left) and Howie Steele '24 (right)  
11. Jack Pendleton '25



# Calculate the Sum of a Teacher

story and photos by **Kim Johnson**

He's been to all 50 states and nearly 400 of the 423 national parks and national park sites, but his heart belongs to teaching the students in one rural Indiana school.



**THE BELL RINGS.** In the hall, voices bounce between backpacks and lockers.

“Hi Mr. Wilson!” repeats as students trickle into seventh-period calculus and take their seats. One student takes the teacher position in front of the class, marker in hand. The bell rings again and she begins the discussion of the four-part group test question.

Jeff Wilson ’91 stands in the back listening, giving no hints as the students work through the problem.

“Can somebody say the answer and then look at his face to see if we’re right?” asks one of the dozen upperclassmen in the room. “If we’re wrong, he’ll make this face,” she says, scrunching her face in concentrated doubt. Wilson shrugs his shoulders and laughs.

A few minutes into class, a student sits down in the back to take a makeup test. Wilson tends to the student while continuing to follow the classroom conversation. Once the discussion has ended, he collects the

group portion of the exam and takes over at the head of the class, answering questions and walking through sample problems before the individual section of the exam the next day.

The bell rings again and the students file out, heading to various after-school activities. The makeup test continues. A student in a forest green letter jacket comes in. “Mr. Wilson? Can you help me with this?”

While he’s at the board walking through an explanation, a second student sits down in the back. The first student leaves and Wilson checks in with the new student—back to board—triangles, right angles, SOH CAH TOA. The student has been out of school for three weeks quarantining; Wilson reassures her that he will help her get caught up and make sure she understands the material she’s missed.

“When you go to drama rehearsal, can I stay here and work on my other homework?” she asks. “If I go home, I know I won’t get it done.”



**“I want kids to be able to relate to things and visualize what’s going on. I don’t care if they memorize formulas or not. But do they understand what they’re doing? Can they communicate it back?”**

“Sure,” Wilson answers. “The door is always open.”

The school day ended 30 minutes ago. Without a moment to catch his breath, Wilson heads down the hall to the auditorium for the first off-book rehearsal of the upcoming theater production. He watches, listens, feeds a line here and there, and calls out lighting cues. Two hours later, he’s almost ready to leave the school, where he has been since 6 a.m. Next, he’s headed to town to get the last few props for the play.

**IN HIS 30TH YEAR TEACHING** math and leading the drama department at Triton Central High School, southeast of Indianapolis, Wilson’s teaching mimics much of what and how he learned at Wabash—interaction, student discussion, and letting students lead the conversation to find solutions.

**Jeff Wilson ’91** and his wife, Tiffany, have been a host family for the Program of Academic Exchange (PAX) for several years. She coordinates the program, placing 10 to 12 students per year with local families. They have hosted students from Germany, Hungary, and, this year, **Anna Gumenyuk**, from Ukraine.

While Gumenyuk has been in the U.S., she has had to watch from afar as her hometown, the southeastern port of Mariupol, has received extensive damage from the Russian invasion in Ukraine that began in February. Fortunately, her family moved to another city in eastern Ukraine soon after she arrived in the U.S.

“Mom and Dad taught me the little bird has to leave the nest and fend for itself. That’s what’s going to happen.”

She will likely return to Prague for a summer internship or job before beginning college in the fall. She does not know if she will ever be able to return to her hometown or see her classmates again.

Gumenyuk is happy to have found a temporary home with the Wilsons. “They are just wonderful people who love each other and share this love with others surrounding them,” she says. “They’re very helpful and very kind. I’m not surprised that they host exchange students. I hope I’m not the last one because I wish more kids could have such a wonderful host family to introduce them to United States traditions.”



“I was a great student in high school,” Wilson says. “I studied really hard and I had great grades, but I was a memorizer. And memorizing will only get you so far.”

“I had a graduate assistant at Wabash that finally told me, ‘You’re trying to memorize everything instead of understanding the big picture.’ So I work hard as a teacher to make sure kids are seeing the big picture, letting them talk through stuff and arguing points so they understand it and aren’t just memorizing formulas for the test.”

Both Wilson’s parents were teachers. Seeing the time and energy teaching took and the lack of respect they received, he headed to Wabash with no intention of pursuing a career in education. He had his sights set on engineering.

“My parents said, ‘That’s fine, go find what you want to do,’” says Wilson. “But God really got ahold of my heart. He started showing me He made me to be a teacher.”

Wilson credits his academic advisor, Dr. Robert Cooley H’77, in the math department for keeping him engaged.

“He was really my dad on campus,” recalls Wilson. “I was getting really frustrated with math. He called me into his office one day and said, ‘Jeff, you are not a natural mathematician. But I’ve never seen anybody grasp the big picture better. You find ways to learn it and to teach other people. You’re a teacher.’”

Even with the nudges Wilson felt from God, he doubted he could get through to graduation as a math major at Wabash.

“Dr. Cooley told me, ‘We’ll make sure you get through the last two years,’” Wilson says. “And they did. The faculty did lots of office hours with me. They understood I was struggling, but knew I really wanted to learn.”

Later, when Wilson began teaching, Cooley visited his former student’s classroom.

“He would come and watch me teach. He told me, ‘You found ways to connect it. Most high school math teachers are also natural mathematicians. They expect kids to get it. You have the ability to reach those kids who don’t naturally get it. You explain it like I’ve never seen before by singing a song or doing a skit about it. And the kids really brighten up in your room like they don’t in other math classes.’”



## Ambassador Wilson

My parents were both very good public school teachers. We had every summer off as a family. For three summers we would load up the pop-up camper, go to Indiana State Parks, and see every single historical site in Indiana. Then every fourth summer, they saved up money to take a big, long trip somewhere in the United States, with their goal being to try to get me and my sister to all 48 contiguous states by high school graduation. We made it to 40. I have since made it to all 50.

When the National Park Service celebrated its centennial in 2016. They did a competition through the National Park Foundation where you could submit a photo you had taken in a national park and an essay as to why that particular park is so crucial to you.

I do a unit every year in my pre-calculus class on Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, which is one of my favorite national park sites, where we study the archaeological buildings and how the ancestral Puebloan people engineered them to line up with the winter and summer solstices.

I ended up making the final five in the competition.

One of the five judges was Bill Nye, the Science Guy. He selected mine as the winning essay. As a result, in 2016, I was named a National Park Ambassador. Nye sent my essay to lots of rangers and they wanted me to visit and talk about how I use the national parks in the classroom.

Since then, I've visited nearly 400 of the national park sites. Every vacation I'm constantly off—spring, winter, and summer breaks—trying to go out and visit different park rangers. It's been kind of a whirlwind.

It's been a lot of fun getting to share what I do in my classroom. A lot of it is just supplemental material. I'll make the answers to a worksheet line up in a puzzle where you fill in the blanks. Or we did a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day project where they learned which top-five African American sites are visited every year.

We calculated the surface area of Lake Michigan, and the kids were looking at me like, you're crazy—there's no formula for that. That's kind of the whole point. Let's see if we can adapt this formula to how the cartographers do it. See how they come up with that number and how close you can get. It's fun watching the kids spend a whole period just doing that one problem. Obviously, they can Google the answer. But they have to show the calculations and most of them get within about 1,000 square feet, which is pretty impressive.

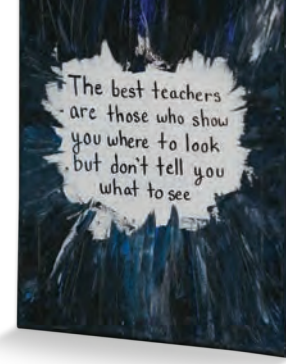
Anytime I have a chance to adapt math to the national parks, the kids can learn a little more. That's what impressed so many of the rangers—just realizing you don't need to have a whole curriculum on parks, you just need to find places to talk about them any chance you get.

I want to promote the parks and help kids realize there's more to America than just going to Florida every spring break and lying on the beach.

—Jeff Wilson



Hearing that inspired Wilson to continue pulling from his wealth of experiences growing up, like working in a live theater and hiking through state



“He gives us enough time to work things out ourselves. But he’s also willing to answer questions, no matter how many we have.”

“He has really funny concepts that help me remember. He was talking about Christmas and presents under the tree for getting common denominators.”

“Song parodies are one of the things he’s known for.” “Right! There was the quadratic formula to a Tom Petty song.”

“He makes it fun.”

**LIKE MANY GOOD TEACHERS**, the Frankfort, Indiana, native has been recruited to teach in larger, more prominent schools. But even after 30 years at Triton Central, he has never considered leaving.

“This is just a wonderful community.

It's a perfect fit for me. For the most part, students come from the same background I did—small, rural farming communities. I can relate to their background much more than I could have in a bigger school system.

"I love these kids." ■

## Can you pass Mr. Wilson's test?

1. An observer at the top of the 210-foot Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, the tallest in the U.S., spots two sailboats directly offshore. The angles of depression to the two sailboats are 4 degrees and 6 degrees, respectively. How far apart are the two sailboats?
2. Each cable in the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco is suspended in the shape of a parabola between two towers that are 1,280 meters apart. The top of each tower is 152 meters above the road. The cables touch the roadway midway between the towers. Write the parabolic equation that models one of the Golden Gate Bridge's main cables.
3. The Johnstown Inclined Plane in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, was built in 1891 to carry all the town residents quickly out of the valley to avoid another disastrous flood. (The flood in 1889 killed 2,200 people, the worst disaster of its kind in American history. The National Park Service has a touching visitor center located at the site where the man-made earthen dam collapsed.) The railway is 896.5 feet long with a 70.9% uphill grade. Calculate the change in elevation of the inclined plane.
4. A large mesa in northwestern New Mexico called Fajada Butte may hold the “key” to the mysteries of Chaco Canyon, the largest archaeological site in the U.S. The top of the 550' mesa has been off-limits to the general public, after the discoveries of Anna Sofar's team. Analyzing a pictograph containing seven elliptical spirals, a shaft of light suddenly crossed the pictograph at high noon through a crack in some strategically placed boulders. Tracking this light shaft over several months, Sofar's team realized the spirals tracked the solstices and equinoxes. Impressive as that is, the spirals also tracked the 18-plus-year moon alignments. No other such device has ever been created by any culture.  
Assuming that the elliptical pictograph measures 26 cm across and 30 cm up and down, what is the equation of the ellipse, if we reference the bottom point of the ellipse as (0,0)?

**See page 62 for the solutions.**

## Keep Foilin'

(Sung to Tom Petty's "Free Fallin'")

She's a good girl—does her math homework.  
She loves algebra, and geometry.  
She's a good girl—crazy about numbers.  
Loves calculus and trigonometry.  
And it's a long day sittin' in this classroom—  
as Mr. Wilson lectures on for hours.  
And I'm a bad boy 'cuz I never do my homework.  
I'm a bad boy 'cuz I never do my part.  
While they keep—keep foilin'.  
Yeah, they keep—they keep on foilin'.

They learned a method for multiplyin' binomials.  
A hard topic that really seemed too long.  
It seemed boring, and sometimes real stupid—  
like Mr. Wilson singin' this song.  
But they keep—they keep foilin'.  
Yeah, they keep—they just keep on foilin'.

FIRST—OUTER—INNER—LAST (repeat)

You take the first terms, and you multiply 'em together. Then the outers and the inners come next. Then multiply the last ones, and then you add together like terms.

I really love it now—this subject is the best.

So I'll keep  
(FIRST—OUTER—INNER—LAST)  
I'll keep foilin'  
(FIRST—OUTER—INNER—LAST)  
Yeah, I'll keep  
(FIRST—OUTER—INNER—LAST)  
I'll keep on foilin'  
(FIRST—OUTER—INNER—LAST)

## Quadratic Formula Song

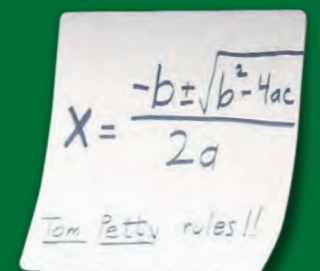
(Sung to Tom Petty's  
"Runnin' Down a Dream")

It was a beautiful day in Mr. W's class. We had quadratic equations that wouldn't factor down. But it never fazed us—we did 'em anyway—with a simple formula that we found.

**CHORUS:**  
It goes  $x$  equals negative  $b$ , plus or minus  
square root of  $b$  squared minus  $4ac$ .  
All over  $2a$ , you see—I'm gonna raise my 'D'.

It felt so good—like anything was possible.  
My grade soared up—I was fulfilled.  
It all seems clear now—anyone can do it.  
Even if you live in Shelbyville.

**REPEAT CHORUS TWICE**





# GORDITO'S TACOS

story by **RICHARD PAIGE**  
photos by Becky Wendt

Memories from his grandmother's kitchen, mixed with Latin American flavors from trips abroad, a dash of Wabash, and 12 years in the food business have melded into a food adventure for Levi Kinney '16 and his restaurant in the Fishers Test Kitchen.

**L**ONG BEFORE IT'S OFFICIALLY OPEN FOR THE DAY, the Fishers Test Kitchen is filled with the delicious smells of onions, ancho chiles, and tomatillos, thanks to Levi Kinney '16 and his restaurant, Gordito's Rust Belt Tacos & Tortas.

"I was a chubby little kid, so the restaurant's name is a play on that," Kinney begins. "I loved food and playing around the kitchen. My grandma was a big proponent of that. I cherish those memories."

The owner and head chef grew up in Jackson, Michigan, a town about an hour and 15 minutes west of Detroit and not that dissimilar from any other small Midwestern town. When his parents divorced in 2004, his mom and brother relocated to Indianapolis.

"Being from the Midwest, there is a blue-collar, hard-working attitude in the way we treat food," the former standout rugby player and member of the Little Giant wrestling team says. "We like hot food and a lot of it."

As an All-American rugby player in high school, Kinney had the opportunity to travel to Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina for matches. That created an interest in other cultures, which was bolstered by his decision to attend Wabash.

He tested into Spanish 103, where his instructor, now Associate Dean of Students Marc Welch '99, noticed Kinney's affinity for the subject. Marc pushed Kinney to think about a minor, and as Kinney progressed, Welch talked about a major and possibly studying abroad.

"Levi was a hard worker and surprisingly attentive in an 8 a.m. Spanish course," says Welch. "His energy was infectious, and he was naturally inquisitive about the language, people, and culture. He was like a sponge, constantly processing and asking questions."

Once Kinney decided on and settled in Segovia, Spain, for his semester abroad in January 2015, he was completely mesmerized by the food and culture. From his first bite of paella to a Tortilla Española and a coffee in the morning, he was hooked.

"Everything felt like it was out of a storybook," says the Spanish and psychology double major. "Once I landed in Spain, I was truly taken by everything."

His host family, especially his host mom, Emy Gonzalez, taught him about the food they were eating and the history of the people in the surrounding area. He felt the connections as he shared food with others.

Back in the States, he began working in restaurants in earnest, returning to the food service industry that he had started in at 16.

"There was no epiphany when I decided I'm going to be a chef, but it was just an accumulation of these experiences," he says. "Food is something special. It can influence people in a really positive way. This project is really about the food that I'll cook for the rest of my life."

Every morning that effort takes shape in a long galley kitchen shared with two other

restaurants in the Fishers Test Kitchen. This is where he and business partner Scott Bebee work through the daily prep, which often starts with tending to brisket that has smoked overnight, roasting onions, peppers, tomatillos, and beef and chicken bones that make the foundation of Gordito's Rust Belt Tacos & Tortas savory dipping sauce.

**"Being from the Midwest, there is a blue-collar, hard-working attitude in the way we treat food..."**

It takes time to make Gordito's unique dipping sauce—two days to be exact. The consommé starts out with 30 pounds of beef and chicken bones, vegetable scraps, ancho chiles, and adobo seasoning in a stockpot before it becomes the rich red dunking accompaniment to any taco or torta.







Levi Kinney '16 presents a plate of tacos at Gordito's Rust Belt Tacos & Tortas.

"Let's be honest, dipping things is delicious," the chef says through a big smile. "The tradition of street food that came up from Mexico into Southern California is what made the light bulb go off. I could blend these concepts and make flavors work together."

The menu features pork, chicken, and slow-braised brisket as its go-to meats,

along with tortas, the flavorful Mexican sandwiches; tacos; and, true to his palate and upbringing, two Mexican-infused Detroit-style coney dogs.

**MELDING FLAVORS IS** one thing. Opening a restaurant is another.

Kinney, 28, has experienced plenty in his dozen years in kitchens working his way up from busboy. During

that time, he and Bebee had worked together at a number of Indianapolis-area establishments, became friends, and built a history around food, often talking, eating, and bouncing ideas off each other over food in the back of a kitchen.

As the partnership grew from those shared moments, Bebee understood the weight behind the question when Kinney asked,

"Do you want to try selling tacos?"

"The first thing I asked was, 'Would you want to eat it?'"

Bebee says. "Some people think of what's marketable, and that's important, but with us, talk of food is common and essential. It just felt organic. This idea seemed like something that came from the conversations we have all the time."

Things progressed quickly as they put pencil to paper and worked through concepts, developed a menu, determined viability, and decided how best to scale up. There was a lot of trial and error before Gordito's opened as a pop-up in April 2021, eventually landing at the Fishers Test Kitchen five months later.

The goals were simple when Gordito's opened and the first tortilla was dropped in a little fat on the cooktop: to make a sandwich that featured Mexican flavors and build a taco that connected to his home in the Rust Belt. He's quick to point out that he's not trying to appropriate these flavors, but is using them out of respect.

Kinney acknowledges the thread that has run through much of his life, from the rugby trips to South America, to studying Spanish at Wabash, and the doors that language has opened for him.

"I cook the food I feel called to cook," he says, "and we do that with a tremendous amount of humility. It's not authentic Mexican. It's Midwestern Mexican. It's where we come from that creates this food, and what we share is a celebration of those cultures coming together. It warms you up from the inside out." ■

# The Magpie

story and photos by **Kim Johnson**



The magpie is known for its long tail, beautiful plumage, and fondness of shiny objects, but digging into the folklore around the creature reveals a much broader picture.





**Jennifer Evans** didn't have dedicated studio space until moving to Denver 10 years ago, "In the closet behind Jack's office, where he kept extra paper and a copier. It was tiny." Evans says with a laugh while sitting in her newer, larger studio. "I kicked him out and started working in there, making things with stuff I found on the street."

**Photo on prior page:** Evans in her studio surrounded by several pieces from her *Blue Women* series.

W

**ALKING ALONGSIDE CHERRY CREEK** in downtown Denver, Jennifer Evans turns right as the creek flows into South Platte River, following a dusty path that stretches hundreds of miles through Colorado. Along the way, she picks up a coil of rusted wire, some railroad spikes, and a handful of circle-top landscape pins that have worked their way out of the ground. She'll later add them to her found-object collection in her art studio next to the jars and jugs of baubles, beads, tiles, jingles, paper, fabric, twine, and tools.

The artist and cultural anthropologist sees these things as precious treasurers, not cast-off junk.

"I love finding little shiny objects, but they also have meaning," Evans says. "My son once called me a trash picker, but I prefer to think of myself as a magpie in that respect."

Many Native American tribes see the magpie as a friend and helper, and wearing a magpie feather as a sign of fearlessness. Ancient Romans believed the magpie to be intelligent with the

ability to reason. Eastern cultures say the magpie foretells good luck and happiness. In Scandinavian culture, the magpie represents balance. The magpie has also become a symbol of expressiveness and refinement.

**LIKE MANY 18-YEAR-OLDS**, Evans entered college at the University of California Berkeley with little idea of what she wanted to study.

"I spent the first couple of years just taking classes," Evans says. "I ended up taking intro classes in anthropology, African American studies, Scandinavian studies. And they were amazing."

Her interest in folklore was born. "Folklore is cultural anthropology, as opposed to physical anthropology," Evans continues. "It's more understanding a culture's stories, its crafts, its myths; to understand who the people are. It's not only studying another culture; but learning how that culture relates to other cultures appealed to me."



Since Berkeley did not offer an undergraduate major in folklore, Evans and her advisor created an individual major consisting of coursework from several different departments and writing a thesis. That was where the folklore seemingly ended, but creating her own path was just beginning.

"I was at Berkeley in the '70s. Even in high school, I started reading and hearing about the women's liberation movement, and realized it was a real thing," says Evans, who went on to become the first woman to serve on the Board of Trustees at Wabash College. "It was important. This idea of strong women became part of me—women in leadership positions, women in positions that weren't traditionally for women."

"At the time I thought, *I've got to go into business*, because that's what women were supposed to do."

After graduation, Evans started a training program at Continental Illinois National Bank, got her master's in business administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, and worked her way up to vice president. With two children, she went on to hold a range of leadership positions at Citizens Fidelity Bank, Silicon Valley Bank, Citibank, and The Cradle Adoption.

"Folklore studies was always part of my interest, but I didn't pursue it as a career," Evans says. "I went into my career in banking—blindly isn't quite the right word, but not with a lot of direction. I tried different career paths a couple times, and then went back to banking because it was a way to support my family."

Dean for College Advancement Michelle Janssen recruited Evans to participate in the ad hoc committee for resource development in 2015. She applauds Evans' fortitude.

"She was a single mom. She raised her daughter, Lindsay, and her son, Jack (Montgomery)'15, and she was a professional banker in a very competitive field dominated by men," says Janssen. "She goes for what she

wants with grit and determination, but with this grace and lightness about her purpose that draws people in."

In 2016, Evans was invited to join the Board of Trustees at Wabash, her son's alma mater.

"I am incredibly proud of my mom and her work as a trustee," Montgomery says. "I am excited to see her paving the way for a more diverse board. I admire her commitment and embodiment of the College's core values. She is a critical thinker and compassionate leader in all she does."

**AS EVANS' DAUGHTER BECAME** a teenager, she began showing an interest in becoming an artist. The busyness of raising and sustaining her family by herself gave Evans little time to pursue her own interests, but she did all she could to ensure her kids could pursue theirs.

"There was a collage class at the Evanston Art Center," says Evans. "But it was from 7 to 10 p.m. and my daughter didn't want to do something late at night by herself. I said, 'How about if we do it together?'"

"It ended up not really being her kind of art. But I realized I was really enjoying it. It resparked my creative outlet."

Evans began making some things here and there in what little spare time she had, but it wasn't until a friend saw her work that she realized how much art had become a budding passion.

"A friend came over and said, 'Jennifer, these are really good. You should put these on the wall.' So, I thought, *Okay*. I put them up on the wall and decided, that's kind of fun and I kept working on it."

It wasn't until 10 years ago when Evans married Jack Tankersley and moved to Denver that she created a dedicated studio space. Then, in 2019, Evans took a class at the Chicago Mosaic School taught by Australian artist Pamela Irving. The four-day class reopened her world of artistic and cultural exploration.

"I could see that Jennifer was naturally inquisitive and a very creative person," says Irving. "She arrived early each day and worked incredibly hard during class hours. Her work has a quirkiness I really relate to. She was eager to learn and absorb information, and her work had a quiet confidence."

Evans sees it as a breakthrough for her as an artist.

"I had no idea what I was going to be doing. I didn't know what this class was about," says Evans. "I had never done anything with mosaics."



*Wandjina, The Folklore Major*

**"The mythology fits right in to my sense of creating art. I realized my piece, *Wandjina, The Folklore Major* is influenced by several cultures—African, Mexican, Greek and Mideastern, American, and French. I was returning to my passion and my story."**



“I ended up making an upright piece like an African *Nkondi*, which are usually male figures with a bunch of things sticking out. There’s usually an opening for placing things to represent dreams or desires, for warding off evil spirits, and preserving the lives of people you love.”

Irving told Evans the piece reminded her of the *Wandjina*, the cloud and rain spirits from Australian Aboriginal mythology. This comment helped Evans recognize that the inspiration for her art went all the way back to her days at Berkeley.

“The mythology fits right into my sense of creating art. I realized my piece, *Wandjina, The Folklore Major*, is influenced by several cultures—African, Mexican, Greek and Mideastern, American, and French. I was returning to my passion and my story.”

What followed was a flurry of pieces, as Evans became a sort of *griot*, using each piece to pass down the stories of the people who had influenced her life and art.

Much of Evans’ work continues to stem from what she learned about various cultures and the art and relics that were important to them. She takes the opportunity while creating her art to reflect and remember the experiences of the people within the different cultures her pieces represent.

“There are cultures that I am not a member of and cultures that I am a member of, and I have an understanding that it’s important not to meld the two, but to have an appreciation for both,” says Evans.

“At Berkeley, I took a Native American folklore class that was more Native American history—how the white culture in the U.S. oppressed and decimated their communities,” Evans says. “I subsequently found out I have a great-grandmother who was Native American, specifically

Choctaw. That history of oppression continues to be of interest to me to learn more about, to understand more about, and to be sad about.”

Another piece she recently completed pays homage to the African American quilters of Gee’s Bend, Alabama. The women quilters reused fabric scraps and old work clothes to create quilts to keep their families warm. Later, many were sold raising money and support for voting rights drives during the Civil Rights Movement. The quilts were made to be functional, but many now hang in museums because of their artistic value.



Evans’ recently completed quilt includes many recycled fabrics, hand embroidery and quilting, beading, and is adorned with jingles.

The idea of reusing things and the process of embroidering and quilting help Evans feel connected to the stories of the generations of women artists before her, including her own mother, who began painting watercolors at age 60.

“While I have always been impressed by my mom’s creativity, I find her curiosity and willingness to explore new techniques and artistic methods most inspiring,” says Montgomery, “her passion for learning and commitment to growing as an artist.”

**STEPPING INTO EVANS’ LOFT** in downtown Denver is a lot like entering an art museum. She and her husband have collected art from all over the world, but their collection also includes the work of her daughter, stepson, and mother, and, of course, many of Evans’ own pieces.

However, there is much art yet to be unveiled in their personal gallery.

“I have a whole series that I haven’t shown anybody other than my husband and son,” says Evans. “They are all photographs of my grandmother that I’ve made into collages, some of which I have added embroidery stitching to. My son is writing a piece on each of them.”

The other series in progress is the *Blue Women* series born from a paper-cutting class during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We were doing all these different things with paper, using different images. I wasn’t sure what I was going to do with it,” Evans says. “Then I posted it on Instagram, which was something that I’d never done before.

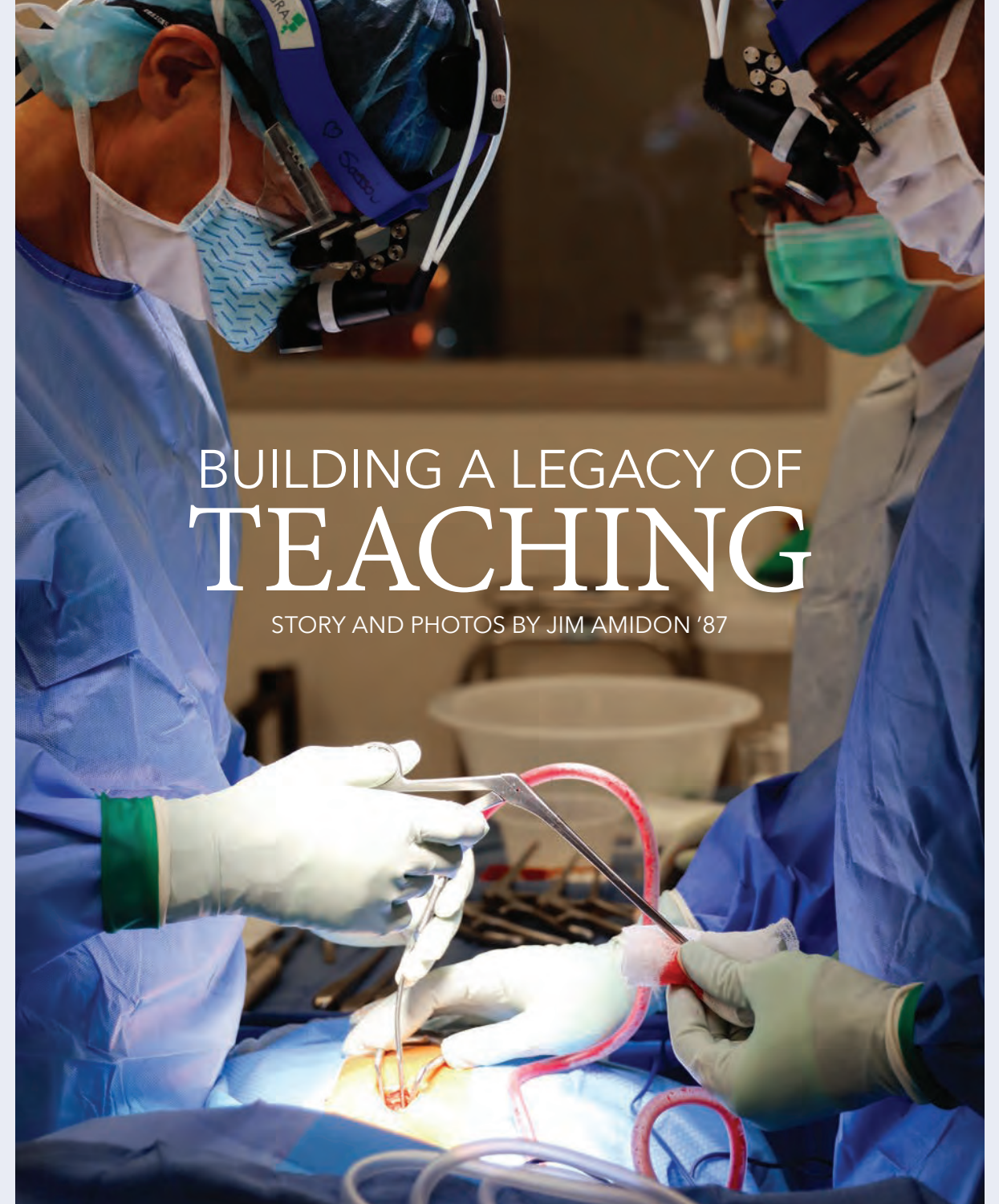
“Over the next few months, I made two or three more. There was something about the cutting out,” says Evans. “My collage making is very organic. I don’t have any idea when I pull a piece of paper out what’s going to happen to it exactly.”

Each piece in the series includes at least a little bit of Evans’ favorite color—blue. “I remember when I made the first one, I was feeling blue”—and so the *Blue Women* began.

The series now includes more than 80 women, each representing the emotion, strength, playfulness, boldness, or expressiveness of a different woman or group of women.

“I don’t know if I’m going to stop creating them,” she says. “It needs to keep going for a while.”

As the folklore suggests, Evans is a magpie after all. ■



# BUILDING A LEGACY OF TEACHING

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JIM AMIDON '87

**I T'S 7:15 A.M. AT THE NORTH MERIDIAN SURGICAL CENTER** in Carmel, Indiana, on a cold January morning. Dr. Rick Sasso '82 has already completed one spine surgery and is preparing for a second—a minimally invasive microdiscectomy surgery on a woman in her mid-40s with debilitating leg pain.

Using devices and procedures he has developed and patented, Sasso

is focused as he begins to carefully remove pieces from a herniated disk and other tissue pressing on a bundle of nerves. “This is going to be an incredible result for her,” he says after he leaves the operating room to meet with the woman’s family.

Two hours later, at 9:28 a.m. in the pre-op/post-op area of the surgical center, just steps from the operating room, “SASSO” is hand-written on signs on two rooms for his patients

from the early morning surgeries. The beds are empty. A charge nurse says, “Oh, they were out of here lickety-split. They’re both on the way home and doing great!”

Sasso, who leads the Indiana Spine Group medical practice, North Meridian Surgery Center, and the Indiana Spine Hospital, smiles and says, “We do one thing and one thing only, and we do it remarkably well.”





Dr. Michael McCarthy uses three-dimensional imagery prior to surgery as **Dr. Rick Sasso** explains how the systems he helped develop work in the operating room.

## “We do one thing and one thing only, and we do it remarkably well.”

With the equipment and facilities in the surgical center and spine hospital, it’s obvious why the Indiana Spine Group has doubled in size in the past two years alone. It attracts some of the top talent in the country, including Dr. Michael McCarthy, who trained in his fellowship at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City and was named a top-20 surgeon under 40 nationally.

“If you look across the country, you won’t find the amount of technology that is in this building; you won’t find this in many level-one, large academic centers,” McCarthy says. “We’re in a unique situation here. The capabilities that we have here in Carmel, Indiana, will blow a lot of billion-dollar institutions out of the water.”

is what I’m most passionate about.’ They said, ‘We can’t account for it; we can’t make it work financially.’ And I said, ‘I don’t care. This is what we’re going to do.’”

At the center of the MAC Bioskills Lab are two fully equipped operating tables with cameras, in addition to eight other operating stations, high-speed drills, general instrumentation, an O-arm, and robot.

Trained surgeons like Sasso can demonstrate surgery in the center of the room using a cadaver, while medical students, residents, and fellows can watch the monitors as they practice the technique on their own cadavers. Or live video feeds from the hospital’s operating rooms can be sent to the MAC so doctors can replicate while watching an actual surgery in real time. Other surgeons can moderate a discussion from the operating room for a truly interactive teaching and learning experience.

The MAC is doing far more than training future spine surgeons; it also hosts groups of high school and EMT students for gross anatomy labs. In the year before the pandemic, nearly 1,300 high school students experienced one of these hands-on, faculty physician-led gross anatomy labs. The level of excitement from them encouraged MAC Director Sandra Haugo to start a medical-training boot camp program for high school students interested in a healthcare career.

“Students attending the camp have the chance to dissect a cadaver from head to toe, and in the last two days of the program they perform real procedures,” says Haugo while standing in the room full of freezers where human tissue is stored. “The students are guided through a knee replacement surgery; a resident shows them the procedure, then they go to the cadaver and do it themselves. They also have the chance to experience spinal navigation and robotics, suturing, casting, a craniotomy, and plate a broken bone. They learn so much in a single week with us.”

Sasso adds with pride, “Most medical students won’t get that experience in their first two years. We have better spine equipment up here in our cadaver lab than most hospitals in the city.”



Dr. Rick Sasso and Medical Academic Center Director Sandra Haugo.

**AFTER AN ENERGETIC AND FAST-PACED TOUR** of the facility, Sasso slows down momentarily to reflect on his career. He has helped develop devices that are in use all over the world, but for him it’s not about the technology. His legacy is the hundreds of residents, fellows, and spine surgeons he’s taught, encouraged, trained, and nurtured.

“Alan McGee is an unbelievably good spine surgeon in Fort Wayne,” Sasso says. “He called me one day and asked, ‘Would you train my son and let him come back to Fort Wayne to practice with me?’”

“That’s just a huge honor for a really top spine surgeon to ask me to train his son.” He pauses, getting emotional. “Fellowships are about sharing your skill set.”

Hardy Sikand, CEO of Sasso’s medical conglomerate, sees it simply.

“What I like to tell people when they ask me why guys like Dr. McCarthy leave prestigious places like the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York to come here is, ‘Why do you think Nick Saban gets the best recruiting class every single year?’ It’s because people want to be with the best,” he says. “That’s the environment we have here.”

“Talent attracts talent.” ■

To read more about Rick Sasso from WM in 2007, visit [wabash.edu/go/sasso](http://wabash.edu/go/sasso).

**IT ALL STARTED** in the late 1990s with the three founders of Indiana Spine Group—Sasso, an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in spine surgery; Ken Renkens, a neurosurgeon who specializes in spine surgery; and Kevin Macadaeg, an anesthesiologist who performs spinal diagnostic and pain management procedures. In 2010, the group expanded and built a professional office building in Carmel, which includes the North Meridian Surgical Center.

Sasso and his partners began to imagine a spine hospital on the same footprint as the other facilities to provide a turn-key, highly specialized approach to care for patients with a wide range of spine issues. Six years ago, the 20-bed Indiana Spine Hospital opened. It has become a model for patient care and efficiency.

It is there where spine doctors can meet and diagnose patients, get instant MRI and CT scans, and in cases that call for outpatient surgery, they simply go down the hall. Even though about 90% of the patients they see don’t require surgery, when they do, everything is under one roof—a one-stop shop entirely focused on the spine.

“I didn’t set out to build a hospital; I really didn’t set out to build a medical office building,” Sasso says. “It’s all about what’s best for our patients. And we discovered that when the physicians have control, we are way better at taking care of our patients.”

The hospital boasts oversized rooms with Murphy beds in the walls so parents can stay with their children recovering from scoliosis surgery. Sasso is proud of the design, architecture, and even the food service: “People literally come here to have lunch because the food is super good!”

**WABASH MAGAZINE** last profiled Sasso 15 years ago when the devices he had created—a complex set of screws, plates, and rods used in spinal fusion and stabilization—were revolutionary. But in the hands of capable surgeons who had done the right amount of diagnostic work before surgery, the actual procedures were, even then, pretty routine in most cases.

“If we’ve done the right work ahead of time, through conversations with patients and reviewing the scans, the surgery is not that difficult,” Sasso says.

While the screws, rods, and cages used in spinal fusion and other surgeries have evolved somewhat since then, the real leaps have come in the areas of guided navigation and interoperative CT scanning.

Years ago, Sasso’s patients would get X-rays or scans in another part of the hospital, and the images from that fixed point in time and different physical position were of little use. Today’s navigation system is not unlike the GPS found in most cars—constantly adjusting with every movement and turn. The system involves a camera mounted in the operating room above the table, a reference frame with a series of sensors on top, a portable three-dimensional O-arm scanning device, a computer, and a half-dozen screens, which display precise three-dimensional images and data in real time all around the operating room.

“The engineers who first developed this idea 20 years ago had the frame in the wrong place and we couldn’t work around it,” Sasso explains. “The idea was good and there was potential to really help patients, so I came up with a different system. I used a pin that we use in trauma cases, and I ‘MacGyver-ed it’ to put it into the iliac crest, which made a lot more sense to me. It’s a more stable place, it was out of our way, and allowed us to get images before we started the operation. That’s how truly minimally invasive surgery is done.”



Dr. Rick Sasso manipulates the 360-degree, interoperative images captured using the O-arm.

**EVEN WITH ALL THE TECHNOLOGY**, Sasso’s favorite spot in the building is the Medical Academic Center (MAC) on the third floor. The sprawling MAC is a teaching facility that has 10 operating stations, a 90-seat high-tech auditorium, kitchen, cafeteria, and cold storage area. The entire focus is education and training.

“When we were designing this place, our accountants and all the smart people said to only build a two-story building,” Sasso says. “And I said, ‘You don’t understand. The third floor is what gets me excited; the MAC



# A PRESS FREEDOM FIGHTER

by Allie Northcutt

**WHO WILL TELL THEIR STORIES?**

It was a question that dawned on Philip Eubanks '06 as he visited refugee camps spread out across Zahlé, Lebanon, at the height of the Syrian Civil War.

He was working as a development officer with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, a papal agency dedicated to giving pastoral and humanitarian support to Northeast Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and India. At that time, the organization was helping provide aid to Syrian and Palestinian refugees at local schools and hospitals.

"I'll never forget seeing a sign over the door of one of the medical clinics. In Arabic, it said, 'Religion is for God. This clinic is for everyone,'" Eubanks recalls. "The nuns there were serving Iraqi refugees, Syrian refugees, Lebanese poor, and members of Hezbollah. It was this place where critical care came first.

"Seeing aid in action, I had this epiphany—if no one tells these stories, nothing happens," says Eubanks. "Forget Human Rights Watch, International Rescue Committee, all these different service and aid organizations—if there's not a journalist behind it in the first place, then nothing will make a difference.

"The more and more I dove into press freedom issues, the more it became clear to me that if a journalist is stopped from being able to tell what's happening in their region, then the world cannot act."

Eubanks then made it his mission to get involved with an organization that supports journalists around the world. In 2019, he joined the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) as a major gifts officer.

CPJ is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide and defends the right of journalists to report the news safely and without fear of reprisal, according to cpj.org. When press freedom violations occur, CPJ mobilizes

a network of correspondents who report and act on behalf of those targeted. Action can range from winning the release of imprisoned journalists and securing convictions in journalist murders to effecting positive legal reform and providing emergency support to journalists.

"There's a feeling of moving from crisis to crisis," Eubanks says. "We're still dealing with the aftermath of the fall of Afghanistan and will be for a while as we support journalists there. There are ongoing emergent needs out of Ethiopia and Myanmar. And since the start of the year, CPJ has already confirmed murders of journalists in Mexico. Unfortunately, these past and ongoing crises have prepared us for the Russia-Ukraine war.

"The outlook is grim, to be honest. War reporting is always dangerous," he says. "I have such admiration for the courage of journalists to bring us the news, especially local reporters for whom this moment is a story about their own neighborhoods, their own homes."

**EUBANKS IS IMPACT DRIVEN**, and it shows in the path he has taken since graduating from Wabash as a religion major and psychology minor.

He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt University in 2009 and was on a PhD track with the goal of becoming an educator. "My dream was to come back and teach at Wabash," says Eubanks, but after spending more time in divinity school he realized that path wasn't for him.

Eubanks signed up for the Peace Corps in 2010 and was assigned to Morocco. Living in the country for two years was an enlightening experience for Eubanks, who until taking Professor of Religion David Blix's world religions course, had never been exposed to a world so different from what he knew growing up in Tennessee as a "Bible Belt southern boy."

"I learned Moroccan Arabic and was fascinated with the Muslim world," says Eubanks. "Being able to live in Morocco really opened my eyes.



Philip Eubanks '06 (holding camera) and his colleague, Chris Kennedy, showing photos to Syrian refugees in a school CNEWA was supporting.

"I was a senior in high school when September 11 happened. I had a very preconceived notion of what Islam was that was steeped in everything that happened around that terrorism attack. That was my first encounter with Islam. I took those young eyes, that hadn't yet learned critical thinking, and a decade later, moved to a place where I was learning Arabic," Eubanks says and then pauses, thinking about the host family who welcomed him as their own while he lived in the North African country.

"My host mother, Fatima, didn't know English at all, but she made a point to learn one phrase: 'I love you. You are my son.' And she gave me the biggest hugs," Eubanks recalls. "All those preconceived notions I had of Islam were shattered, right then and there.

"The time I spent there and the friends I made, both in the Peace Corps and Morocco, were powerful experiences in a lot of ways and inspired me to take the next steps forward in life to live more humanely."

## PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND RELIGION

Bob Royalty remembers Eubanks as a good student who was attentive in classes and eager to learn more about the world.

"Philip was always all in and committed," says Royalty. "I could see that he was figuring things out and opening up his world."

Royalty has kept in contact with Eubanks over the years, and has noticed his former student's passion develop even more as he traveled and discovered cultures "outside of the traditional religious worldview that he grew up with."

"I think his passion is for justice, transparency, and democracy, which in a way, is what he was looking for in the Peace Corps—seeing the world and recognizing what's worth fighting for," says Royalty. "He's perfectly melded that passion with his profession in fundraising, and that takes hard work in the nonprofit world. That work is very important right now because journalism worldwide is in crisis."

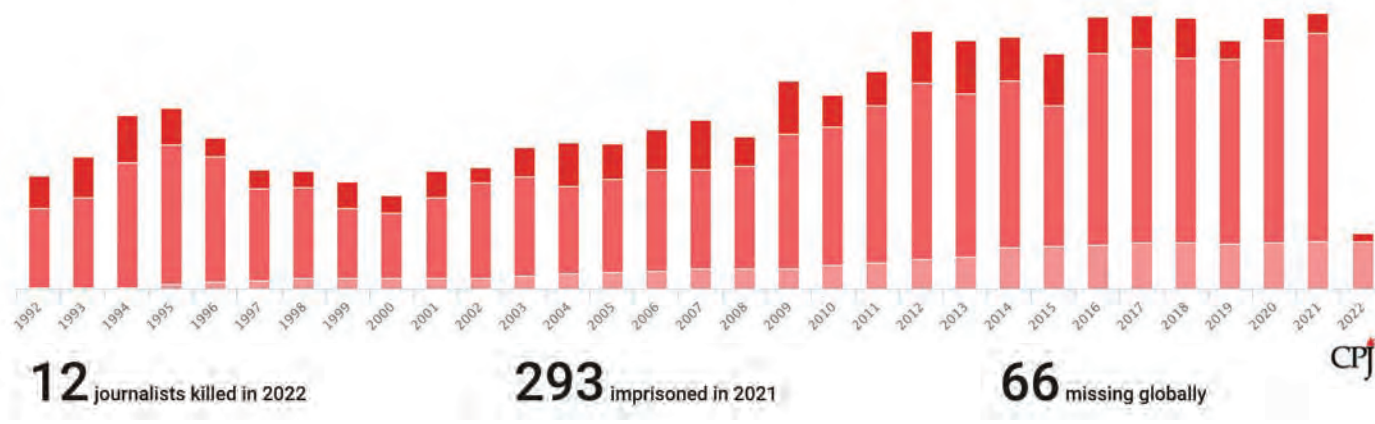
**"I'll never forget seeing a sign over the door of one of the medical clinics. In Arabic, it said, 'Religion is for God. This clinic is for everyone,.'"**

Blix echoes Royalty's remarks and says the work Eubanks is doing now with the Committee to Protect Journalists, is "just extraordinary and an act of great courage."

"Journalists today are really fighting against great odds, and he's out there fighting for them and with them," says Blix. "He's a young man who is an advocate for truth."

**FUNDRAISING, SAYS EUBANKS**, is especially difficult during this time in history with the ongoing pandemic and the increasing need to protect journalists and defend press freedom.





The Committee to Protect Journalists’ research staff documents hundreds of attacks on the press each year. The bar graph above shows the number of journalists killed (as of April 6, 2022, demonstrated in red), journalists imprisoned (light red) and journalists missing globally (pink), per year since 1992.

“...if a journalist is stopped from being able to tell what’s happening in their region, then the world cannot act.”

CPJ’s prison census in 2021 found that the number of reporters jailed for their work hit a new global record of 293. Additionally, at least 27 journalists were killed because of their coverage and 18 others died in circumstances too murky to determine whether they were specific targets.

“Already, reporters have been shot at, shelled, and robbed in Ukraine. Russia shelled a TV tower in Kyiv,” Eubanks says. “In some cases, journalists have had to spend several days in a bomb shelter without adequate food or water. Within the first month of Russia’s full-scale invasion, at least seven journalists had been killed (as of April 6, 2022), and several others wounded.”

The reasons for the increase in the number of journalists being detained differ among countries, according to CPJ, but all reflect a trend in growing intolerance of reporting.

“I don’t think anybody would have ever thought there would be a scenario where a CNN journalist would be arrested on live TV, but it happened,” says Eubanks. “It was wild to see Omar Jimenez in Minneapolis covering protests over the death of George Floyd arrested right then and there.

“And suddenly you go, ‘What? Wait a minute, what country is this?’”

Even with these challenges, Eubanks says CPJ has experienced wins for press freedom worth celebrating. In 2021, more than 100 imprisoned journalists were released, convictions were made in 10 journalists’

murders, and crucial assistance was provided to more than 400 journalists globally.

Those successes were made thanks to the hard work of Eubanks’ CPJ colleagues, who constantly leave him in awe.

“I watched them start their day at 7 a.m. on a Saturday and work into the late evening Sunday to begin documenting cases of journalists trying to escape Afghanistan as the emergency team’s inbox filled up with hundreds of emails,” says Eubanks. In the weeks surrounding the fall of Kabul, CPJ helped 60 journalists, along with their families, flee Afghanistan.



Philip Eubanks ’06 in 2012, with his friend Ahmed Achou in his hometown, Oulad Ali Youssef, during his time in the Peace Corps.

“During 2020, when attacks against journalists in the U.S. skyrocketed 1000% [according to the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, which CPJ co-founded with Freedom of the Press Foundation], I watched them meticulously work to demand justice in every instance. I’ve no doubt many of them are exhausted and worried and yet pressing forward—they’re my heroes for that.”

The journalists Eubanks has had the opportunity to interact with and support through CPJ motivate him to continue fighting for press freedom.

He specifically names Filipino journalist Maria Ressa, the founder of Rappler, a Philippine news website created in 2012 that is renowned for its critical coverage of President Rodrigo Duterte’s controversial policies and actions. Ressa, a 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winner, has been convicted on a criminal cyber libel charge and is facing extreme threats in the Philippines as state-orchestrated attacks continue to escalate against her and Rappler.

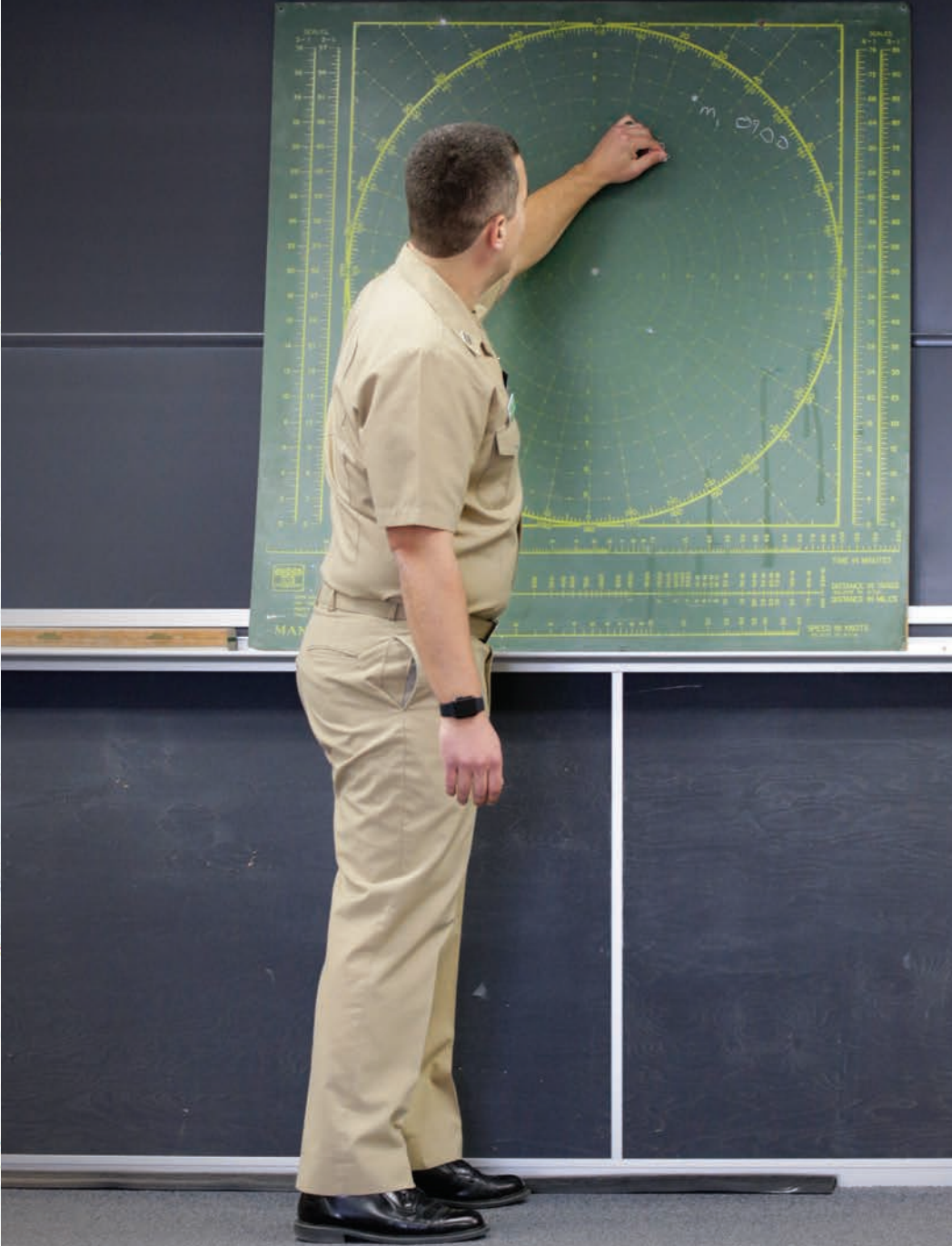
“I look at somebody like Maria, who still faces criminal charges in the Philippines, and chooses to live there even though she has an American passport and could theoretically evacuate. She ‘holds the line,’ as she likes to say, because she is so devoted and committed to the belief that a free press is really the foundation for all other human rights,” says Eubanks.

“If Maria can go through her day knowing that she could be harmed or arrested and detained forever at any moment, then surely I can hang in there and keep fighting for people like her.” ■

# Navigating the Next Generation

His current post in South Bend, Indiana, is only 89 miles from his hometown of Holland, Michigan, but physics has taken him from the labs in Goodrich Hall to the U.S. Navy as a navigator on ships that have carried him all over the world.

by Richard Paige



**C**RUISING THROUGH THE AEGEAN SEA on a midnight to 4 a.m. shift as the leader of a watch team aboard the USS Porter, Tyler Buresh ’12 stepped outside on the bridge wing. His crew was responsible for the ship’s safe passage from the shores of Spain and through the Suez Canal and Straits of Turkey, but that particular night the sight of the stars hit him a little harder than usual.

“Looking up at the night sky and seeing the same stars that the ancient Greeks and Romans had seen was absolutely amazing,” Buresh says. “It was a very quiet evening. We weren’t going anywhere very quickly. Hearing the ship move through the water, the water lapping against the hull, the stillness made it hit home.”

Buresh’s thoughts went to a history class at Wabash that focused on first-person narratives.

“I was thinking about Odysseus and his travels, and the people who might have listened to Homer’s stories looking up and seeing the same stars,” he says. “Sailing through those same waters there was a kinship, a sharing of that experience with them.”



**THE NAVY WASN'T PART** of his plan when he made the choice to attend Wabash, but physics, which captivated Buresh in high school and was his major, served as the thread that connects a wealth of experiences both home and abroad.

The former defensive lineman on the Little Giant football team thought back to kinematic equations in high school and remembered a final exam where he needed to describe how a ball would fly through the air and predict where it would land. Even for a mild-mannered Naval officer there was tangible excitement in his voice.

"I love testing things and working to understand them," Buresh says. "Being able to work it out through math, using calculus to determine where it's going to land, and seeing it happen right in front of me was very rewarding. I view physics as solving puzzles, really. I've carried that into the nuclear power program. I know if we do a certain function, this is how the reactor is going to respond.

"I love the way physics is real and tangible."

Now an assistant professor of naval science in the U.S. Navy's ROTC program at the University of Notre Dame, Buresh teaches naval operations and navigation to the next generation of officers, thanks to a chance meeting on the Wabash campus one day during his junior year.

On his way to football practice at the Allen Center, Buresh bumped into former trustee Rear Admiral Alex Miller '71, a career Navy man who specialized in cryptology and signals intelligence.

Miller, who also played football for the Little Giants, discovered in conversation that Buresh was a physics major. Miller suggested taking a look at the Navy nuclear power program.

**"To think he would be so vested for no reason other than the bond that we share through Wabash. That's been so, so meaningful."**

"We hit it off," Buresh says, "and that was the first time I was exposed to the idea."

"You want to help people find their niche," says Miller, now retired in Sarasota, Florida. "Part of guiding is to give advice. When they take it, and they're successful, it's the greatest reward you can get."

Miller helped Buresh get an internship at his company in northern Virginia, and their paths crossed again when Buresh landed full-time work in the Washington, D.C., area in the contracts division of a small company doing work with the federal government.

A year-and-a-half later, Buresh decided to apply to the Navy.

"I am not where I am today without Alex's impact, both as a mentor and friend," Buresh says. "To think he would be so vested for no reason other than the bond that we share through Wabash. That's been so, so meaningful. Alex has been there for me every time, to answer questions, to help me out. He is always so supportive."

After gaining navigational experience on the USS Porter, Buresh switched gears and went to nuclear power school to learn how a reactor works.

"These guys get the equivalent of a master's degree in nuclear physics and become a qualified nuclear reactor operator," says Miller. "This is a tough program, maybe the toughest in military academics."

That included an intense six months of classwork and six months on a nuclear submarine before being assigned to the USS Gerald R. Ford. There, he was a part of a crew operating two A1B nuclear reactors, providing propulsion to the ship, making the steam that allows fighter planes to be launched from the deck, and generating the electricity the Ford needs to operate.

Buresh, who has risen to the rank of lieutenant and is a nuclear trained propulsion plant watch officer, marvels at the pressurized water reactors and the questions that come with operating them.



photo by Becky Wendt

**Tyler Buresh '12** on the campus of Notre Dame University.  
**Below:** The USS Porter in port in Albania.



photos courtesy of Tyler Buresh

"The physics of nuclear power are absolutely beautiful," he says. "It provides a unique inquisitiveness, an appreciation of the world around us. I'm still amazed that we have the ability to use elements of the earth to heat up some water, take steam through turbines, and propel a 100,000-ton warship through the water."

The Navy utilizes officers from operational ships with knowledge and expertise, like Buresh, as teachers at ROTC or the Naval Academy. Much of his teaching relies on experience he's gained out in the fleet.

"In nearly every class period, there's an experience I've had where I'm able to say, 'Hey, this is what we're talking about here,'" says the surface warfare officer. "That is invaluable. It's not about teaching which equations to use, but how to best think through the information you have available."

**"THE BIG LESSON FROM WABASH** was to always pursue your passion," he says. "Students make a purposeful decision to go to Wabash. That's what leads me through life—continuing to make purposeful decisions."

That passion has taken Buresh to the coast of the United Kingdom, where he imagined

**"I'm still amazed that we have the ability to use elements of the earth to heat up some water, take steam through turbines, and propel a 100,000-ton warship through the water."**

Vikings leaving to explore the new world. While traveling through the Turkish Straits, he marveled at the sight of Istanbul, the major metropolis where eastern and western cultures meet. And as he used the Blue Mosque as a navigational aid, he thought back to key battles fought there.

"You can't help but think of Gallipoli or Xerxes and the history," he explains. "There are quite a few places I went that I never would have imagined going. There are times where I'm marking position, and I just think, 'Wow.'" ■

**Top far right:** Tyler Buresh '12 passing through the Strait of Gibraltar. **Bottom far right:** The Blue Mosque in Istanbul. **Right:** The USS Porter at night.





# Pigs and Pageants

by Allie Northcutt

Growing up on a farm outside of Ladoga, Indiana, Nikki Carpenter, Wabash's Senior Administrative Assistant for Enrollment and Operations, remembers spending her summers walking pigs, sewing and baking with mom, and perfecting modeling for the Miss Montgomery County 4-H Queen Contest. The 10-year member learned valuable life skills participating in 4-H, and now she's excited to watch her own kids follow in her footsteps.

**WM:** You grew up in a family of 4-H'ers, and participated in swine, foods, sewing, and modeling—among other projects. What got you excited the most? What kept you motivated to put in the hard work every year?

**NC:** The pigs are my passion. I've been around them my entire life. You have to put in blood, sweat, and tears when it comes to raising livestock. There were definitely days I didn't want to walk my pigs, feed them twice a day, give them water several times a day, and clean the pens, but I had the discipline to do it.

It was always rewarding to get recognized and earn that trophy at the fair, but I don't think the competition was what kept me going. I just love the pigs. They're like dogs. When you go into the barn every day, they learn to like you. They like their ears grabbed and bellies rubbed. We've had several over the years that if you just touch them, they flop over and want love.

photo by Kim Johnson

Caelyn Carpenter cleans and brushes one of the four pigs that will be shown this summer at the Montgomery County 4-H Fair.

**What was showing like? Did you ever get nervous before going in front of the judges?**

Montgomery County is super competitive with its pig shows, and has one of the best in the state. Aside from showmanship, judges are looking at the body style of the pig—how it walks, holds its head up, if it is groomed properly. When it's showtime, the pig needs to be between you and the judges, so that they can see both sides of it, front and back. A lot goes into getting your pig ready from when you first sign up in January to fair time in July.

You can show up to four pigs, and every year my brother and I always showed four. I was never really nervous—maybe my first year with my very first pig, but after that it was just second nature.

**As the 1999 Miss Montgomery County 4-H Queen, there's another side of you that loves the glamour with fashion and modeling. Tell us about that passion.**

As a little girl, I remember watching the pageant shows and saying, 'I'm going to do that.' Back then, you could be crowned queen at 16. Current regulations require contestants to be 18 to compete for the 4-H queen title. I ran my first year and I got first runner-up for county queen, and was crowned pig queen. My second year, I got first runner-up again. I was excited, but pretty bummed and questioned whether I was going to run my last year. I felt like I was just 'first runner-up material.' With encouragement from my mom and friends, I tried again my third year, and I'm glad I did. I was shocked when they called my name. The tears were everywhere. Winning queen wrapped up my 4-H career, and was the perfect cherry on top.

I handmade my formals every year for my sewing projects. They were my prom, Christmas dance, and homecoming dresses, and I wore them in the queen contests as well. When I won, I asked my parents if we could buy a real dress from a shop to wear at the state fair queen competition, and they thankfully let me do that.



Nikki Carpenter won the Miss Montgomery County 4-H Queen contest in 1999.

**As a co-coordinator for the Miss Montgomery County 4-H Queen Contest since 2000, what's it like being on the other side of the pageant?**

The best part is watching the growth of these girls. When they come in at 16, some are scared to death. We had one girl who cried the entire time she was modeling her professional wear. She was terrified and shaking, but she got through it. She got through her speech. She got through the contest, and at the end of it all she said, "I did it. I will come back next year and know what to do. I got this." Her confidence blossomed. I get goosebumps thinking about it. I love being there for the girls, mentoring them, sharing my own experiences, and watching them pull it all together and succeed.

**This is the first year your oldest daughter, Courtlyn, is running for Miss Montgomery County 4-H Princess. How are you feeling?**

I'm just beside myself! She's a mini-me. She does fashion review and loves modeling. She's already got her dress and has been practicing interviewing and perfecting public speaking. She's confident, outgoing, and personal. She's so focused and excited for her first year. I really think she is going to do well. Even if she doesn't win this year, I know she has a bright future in the contest.

**All three of your children are involved with 4-H. What do they participate in?**

Cohen (10) will be a second-year, Caelyn (13) is a fifth-year, and Courtlyn (16) is going into her eighth year as a 4-H member. They do a lot of the same projects I did, but they've also found their way and discovered their own passions. All three show pigs. My son also participates in tractor driving and farm toy scene. Both girls take foods (baking), flowers, sewing, and fashion. Courtlyn also takes photography, and has an amazing eye for it.

**What skills did you gain in 4-H that you hope your kids will develop as members?**

Time management is definitely the first, and probably biggest, skill I gained that's helped me succeed in life. With every project, you only have a set amount of time to get everything done. Let's look at foods, for example. You have time to practice and tweak recipes for a couple months after you sign up in January, but the finished project presented to judges needs to be made the night before so it's fresh. If you want to have the best-tasting and

best-decorated cake, you have to keep practicing to get to that point. You can't procrastinate and hope for the best.

There are so many other important life skills and traits I hope my kids gain—responsibility, leadership, the ability to communicate effectively, and take constructive criticism—and I've already started to see all of that. But another big thing I hope they appreciate are the friendships made along the way.

**Any fun facts you'd want the Wabash community to know about you?**

I was bored one day in college and decided, *Hey, I want to be on a game show. Let's try Wheel of Fortune.*

Random, I know, but that's just how my mind works. Two weeks after applying and going to a casting call in Indianapolis, I got a letter in the mail that they chose me. That November, I flew out to L.A. for filming. They have contestants draw numbers to see what episode they are going to be on and who they'd play with, and my episode aired in 2003 on New Year's Eve. I made it to the bonus round and won \$22,500. ■



Caelyn (left), Nikki, Patsy McMullen (Nikki's mother), and Cohen care for the new pigs at their family farm in Ladoga. The children are third-generation 4-H'ers.

photo by Kim Johnson



# Jazzed to Return

by Allie Northcutt

**John Cheek '91** was career-focused after graduation, and as a result, a beloved passion was left to collect dust. After a 15-year-intermission, the jazz player's spark was reignited.

**IT STARTED IN SIXTH GRADE**, when John Cheek's mother convinced her son to join the middle school band.

"She played trumpet and suggested I give it a try," says the Crawfordsville native. "I picked it up and could barely make any noise out of the instrument for a couple days. And then, by the third day, something clicked and suddenly I could play—I could *actually* play."

"I didn't know what to do with my fingers," Cheek recalls, "but I was playing, and the sound coming out was pretty good."

Music has greatly influenced Cheek's life. During his middle school years, he remembers comparing himself to a popular Saturday-morning cartoon character from the 1960s.

"Baby Huey was this giant, naive duck that acted like a little child. He was always getting picked on. He was so much bigger than everyone else," says Cheek. "That was me. I'm 6'6", and was always the biggest kid in my class. I was shy and quiet. I was a good student and stayed out of trouble, but I felt out of place."

Those feelings began to fade once he got to high school. At the conclusion of marching band his freshman year at North Montgomery, Cheek participated in a blind audition to join the concert band and ended up in the first-trumpet section.

"I beat out a couple of seniors and it was like the shot heard around the world. I thought that one of the guys I beat was going to kill me. He wasn't bigger than me, but he was definitely meaner," Cheek says and laughs.

"Suddenly I became this star, and it gave me all the confidence in the world."

That experience was the defining moment for Cheek and one that set him off on a successful leadership path in school and life.

**WHILE STUDYING MATHEMATICS** at Wabash, Cheek played trumpet in every band in the music department, joined pep band, and was the department assistant for three years beginning as a sophomore.

Cheek was first introduced to jazz by John Alston, visiting assistant professor of music. Alston was a "very accomplished jazz piano player" on the Wabash faculty in 1988, and directed the College's concert and jazz bands and chamber orchestra until 1990, when he joined the faculty at Swarthmore College.

Under Alston's leadership, Cheek and a couple of his classmates created a jazz quintet on campus called The Bobtet. The group was popular for playing '50s bebop-style music.

"It wasn't a formal band program, but it was special and something [Alston] put together after class to teach us more about jazz improvisation and how to play," says Cheek. "Being a part of that group really inspired me to want to be a better jazz musician."

Jonathan Burke '92 met Cheek his first semester living in Martindale Hall. Cheek was jumping around housing units trying to recruit students to join the various bands.

"I played trumpet as well, so when we realized we both shared that interest, we became close friends," says Burke, who would go on to pledge Delta Tau Delta with Cheek.

"Most students in band were just noodling around and playing our instruments like we did in high school, but John took advantage of his resources and grew as a musician."

"He was learning how to improvise in jazz, and while that sounds easy, like, 'Oh, you just pick up the instrument and play something,' it's definitely not like that at all. It's tough. You're playing with a group, within a song, within a chord structure. You can't just play anything. You have to play something that works with all of that," Burke continued. "It's very mathematical, and John's got a very mathematic mind. He grew significantly in his playing ability and understanding of music."

**CHEEK STARTED OUT STUDYING PHYSICS** at Wabash, but by the end of his freshman year he realized the major wasn't for him and was "lured over to the math department" by his faculty advisor, the late mathematics professor Robert "Bob" Cooley H'77. When Cooley later encouraged Cheek to consider law school—and a career in intellectual property (IP) in particular—Cheek's focus shifted solely to the profession.

"The horn went into the case and that was it," says Cheek. "Life and work went on."

Cheek is a brass instrument collector, and finds joy in playing his B flat trumpet, an old 1960s cornet, and flügelhorn.

"If we all play our parts correctly, whether it's in band or in a company, at the end of the day, people will stand up and cheer for us."







photo by Anna Tiplick



The Wabash Jazz Band, led by Professor John Alston, performs during a 1989–90 recital inside Pioneer Chapel.

After earning his JD from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1994, Cheek began his career in private practice in Dayton, Ohio. He worked as an IP attorney for Dybvig & Dybvig, and provided patent, trademark, and copyright services to small, medium, and Fortune 500 clients.

“It was a small law firm in town and a great place to get started in my career,” says Cheek. “It had a lot of the same characteristics as Wabash. It was about the learning and doing it right, and not so much about the almighty billable hours. I certainly wasn’t making as much money as a lot of my classmates, but I was learning about how to be a good lawyer. That experience was invaluable.”

In 1997, Cheek joined heavy machinery icon Caterpillar as an IP attorney. Over the next 20 years, he held multiple roles at the company, including managing IP attorney for Europe and chief counsel of innovation and strategy.

Cheek met a colleague who played piano and the two decided to jam.

“It didn’t sound the best, after all of those years of not playing,” says Cheek, “but it was fun.

“In 2007, Caterpillar hired a patent attorney who was a professional jazz pianist. He’s just phenomenal,” Cheek continues. “At that point, I got inspired to *really* start playing again. I started listening to music more, got my trumpet restored, and was doing a lot of practicing at home.”

**CHEEK WOULD GO ON** to play as a regular in various local bands and combos in Peoria, Illinois, until he moved to Michigan in 2017 to join Tenneco, an automotive equipment manufacturer, as its chief IP counsel.

There, he connected with a local drummer in Ann Arbor, and joined the Saline Big Band as its lead trumpet player.

“We did a lot of concerts around town, joint events with some of the big professional bands in the Detroit area,” says Cheek. “It was all good, and super fun, and then COVID came crashing down on us. The band hasn’t been together since late February 2020.”

But that hasn’t stopped the music from echoing through his Bloomfield Hills home. In late 2021, Cheek did a digital music project with about 50 other intellectual property lawyers from around the world who are also musicians.

“People from Singapore, South Africa, Europe, the U.S., and all over the world went to their own little studios at home and recorded their part of a song,” explains Cheek. “We all submitted our video and it was edited into one production. It turned into this great music video of all of us performing an original song. It was so cool to see and have that feeling of normalcy again. Even though we’re all separated because of the pandemic, it felt good to be able to come together again and share that experience.

“Music is a big part of my life. My golf game has gone to hell because I only have time for one-and-a-half hobbies—trumpet became my one, and golf became the half,” Cheek says with a laugh.

“I’m thankful I picked it back up, and am proud of the progress I’ve made. I’ll keep playing at home, and keep my eye out for when and where I am going to play next once the pandemic settles down.” ■

## Slip, Skip, Loop, Repeat

story and photo by Anna Tiplick

**C**AMPUS VISIT COORDINATOR MARY TOWELL has been crocheting for 40 years.

“I just kind of picked it up myself,” she says. “I had great-aunts and both of my grandmothers that crocheted, and they tried to teach me when I was younger.”

One thing she likes to crochets is afghans.

“Everyone in my family has afghans I’ve made,” Towell says. “In the 25 years I’ve worked at Wabash, I think everybody I have worked with who has gotten married or had a baby got an afghan, even a few students. Nobody’s going to go cold around me.”

During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Towell heard on the news how the illness was particularly devastating in retirement and nursing homes. It really hit home because her father had spent time in a nursing home before his passing. She thought about what she might be able to do to brighten up the residents’ days. She set a goal to make 100 afghans in a year to donate to area retirement and nursing homes.

Towell figured out the perfect size for the afghans. She wanted them to be long enough to cover the person’s lap and knees but not long enough to get stuck in the wheels of their wheelchairs. Her friends and others helped by donating yarn for her special project.

She works on the afghans mostly in the evenings when she doesn’t have other activities. Each afghan takes about four or five nights to finish. With her four decades of experience and hundreds of patterns in her handful of crocheting books, Towell says, “It’s just fun to try new things, learn new stitches, and do something new on each one.”

On November 21, 2021, Towell met her goal of finishing her 100th afghan.

She says, “I feel happy I got to my goal, but I feel like I’m not done.” So, she will keep crocheting.





# DUNGEON MASTER in the BOARDROOM

by RICHARD PAIGE

When Ben Scanlon '04 decided that brushing up on his presentation skills might help him move up the corporate ladder, he learned that an old favorite pastime held the tools he needed.

**B**EN SCANLON '04 was relocated to Philadelphia a dozen years ago when his wife started medical school. He found a position in product development for Zenith Home Corp., a producer of bathroom products.

Through feedback and experience, he quickly learned that in the world of product development, presentation and delivery are everything. And he needed to improve.

"I knew my preparation was intelligent," Scanlon says, "but I wasn't doing a great job at communicating that at meetings. I knew I wasn't presenting myself as positively as I could."

Ben used Dungeons and Dragons, the tabletop role-playing game (RPG), to sharpen his presentation skills.

An avid gamer through high school, he got away from playing as he headed to Wabash. After moving to Philadelphia, Scanlon joined a gaming group to establish friendships and soon discovered there were additional benefits to the group.

"I really enjoy the creativity of these games," Scanlon says.

But the vice president of product development at Zenith Home Corp admits the strengthening of his social communication skills was a pleasant surprise.

"If I think back to when I graduated, that would never have occurred to me at all."

**SCANLON DESCRIBES HIS ROLE** of dungeon master as the one responsible for describing environments and running the game.

"No matter what you think the players are going to do, they're always going to do something different," he says. "That's where you need to deal with these changes in direction. To run the game well, you need to deal with the unexpected and do so as seamlessly as possible. You are reading the table and the players' reactions."

Lon Porter—Wabash's resident RPG enthusiast, professor of chemistry, and faculty advisor to the Tabletop Gaming Club (Dork Club)—agrees that the skills of a dungeon master are transferrable.

"It's about balance," says Porter. "I see [dungeon mastering] as the same skill set used to moderate a successful discussion in Enduring Questions or freshman tutorial. You clearly have an overarching path in mind for where you'd like the discussion to go. It takes a delicate hand in steering the conversation. Just like my students, I want my players to arrive at a goal, not have it dictated to them."

In gaming, as in the world of product development and production, making those reads is essential. Just as some players might be bored with an overly long battle—sometimes lasting months—a potential client may not have interest in the product being pitched. RPGs helped Scanlon sharpen those skills.

"I can better adjust the message. I'm also more comfortable responding to those unexpected questions and not letting it shake me," says the political science and history major. "Finding that comfort zone has made a significant difference. In the game, as in dealing with buyers, if you're able to speak confidently about something, people are going to believe in you."

Such confidence is a big change for the kid who originally got into gaming. Self-described as "painfully shy," Scanlon has established a strong group of friends in the nine-plus years he's been a part of the group and has honed skills that have helped him succeed in a very competitive marketplace.

**"Finding that comfort zone has made a significant difference. In the game, as in dealing with buyers, if you're able to speak confidently about something, people are going to believe in you."**

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**, he stopped playing games to act more like an adult as he entered Wabash. Now that he has rekindled his enjoyment of gaming, made friends, and even honed professional skills, he sees no reason to stop.

"Over the last five years, it has become a lot more popular and more widely accepted to play these games in a way that would have, frankly, astonished me when I was a teenager," says Scanlon.

"I still find meaning in it," he says. "I realized playing games doesn't mean I'm less of an adult. Other people like playing golf. I still enjoy gaming and I'm going to keep doing it." ■



1949

**Dick Cherry** was honored by Phi Delta Theta as a 75-year member. Two other Wabash Phis, **Norman Beesley '61** and **Steve Mihalko '69**, presented a pin to Dick along with Walt Henry, son of physics professor **Robert Henry H'59**.



1954

**Richard Rose** announces that his mystery/thriller book, *Retribution*, the sequel to the award-winning *The Lazarus Conspiracies*, has been released.



1966

**Ned Luce** reports, "My wife, BJ, and I live in Port Ludlow, WA, on the Olympic Peninsula two hours away from our two children and their families, which includes four grandsons. The oldest is a freshman at Macalester College. I have now been retired from IBM longer than I actually worked there. I am the part-time CFO for the Printery, a small printing company in Port Townsend. I also write a weekly column for the *Port Townsend Leader*. We bought our first Porsche in 1970 and are currently on number six, a 2012 911 C4S."

1973

**Frank Buerger** was selected as a professor at the U.S. Army War College as the chair of Defense Intelligence Studies. Frank was previously assigned to the Joint Staff, Directorate of Intelligence (J2) in the Pentagon. He writes, "As a former naval aviator, it should be an interesting transition to my new Army position." ■ **Dennis Dean** was elected as a new member of the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.



1975

**Gene Miiller** was named as one of the inaugural recipients of the National High School Basketball Coaches Association's John Wooden Legacy Award. Gene guided Washington High School's boys' basketball team to three Class 3A state championships.



1977

**David Rea** is president of Salem Investment Counselors in Winston-Salem, NC. David has helped Salem grow into an entity that manages \$4 billion in assets and has rated among the top two financial advisory firms in the country in the past three CNBC Financial Advisor 100 Listings, including two years at number one. ■ **Richard Shapiro** is congratulated by Lake Superior Court Judge Samuel Cappas after being sworn in as the town judge in Lowell, IN. He began his service as Lowell town judge in 2020.



1978

**Jimmy Pace** continues to hand-paint canvases, and his artwork was recently on display at Commerce Bank's lobby in University City, MO. He writes, "I'm living as a bachelor at Castle Park Apartments, a Section 8 housing project in Normandy, MO, a building which once served as Saint Vincent's Home for the Mentally Insane, founded in 1893."

1979

**Jerry Sheward** recently rejoined Aspire Indiana Health as associate medical director of behavioral health.



1980

**Mike Perkins** writes, "I had a stroke in 2019 and it forced me into retirement from Ivy Tech Community College. I am doing fine, but continue to have lingering physical issues. I would appreciate hearing from former Wabash football players I knew, plus those basketball players I got to know from 1982 to 1987. My email address is waflittlebigman@outlook.com. I have also begun a sports blog called 'Watching Wabash's North Coast and Beyond,' which can be found at [www.somelittlegiant.com](http://www.somelittlegiant.com)."

■ **Ken Turchi** retired from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in December 2021 and has moved to Mt. Pleasant, SC. His newest book, *Looking Forward, Giving Back: The Jewish Merchants of Downtown Indianapolis*, was published in December 2021 by the Indiana Historical Society Press.



1981

**Steven Hartenstein** retired last month and transitioned to emeritus status. He reflected on his career as Idaho National Laboratory's chief science officer for National and Homeland Security research in a feature story published on [EastIdahoNews.com](http://EastIdahoNews.com). ■ **Jeff Warbinton** received a Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree and the Moffit Music Education Award from St. Paul Christian University Covenant Divinity Seminary during ceremonies held in December. Jeff is the Indianapolis Scottish Rite orchestra director.



1982

**Laurent Kahl** joined the international trade (export/import) consulting team of the Small Business Development Center of the University of Georgia's Gwinnett Campus. Kahl has moved to Marietta, GA. He wishes everyone a great, healthy, and safe 2022! ■ **Mark Rutherford** writes, "I'm proud to announce that Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb reappointed me to an additional four-year term to the Indiana Public Defender Commission. I'm the governor's non-Republican appointee as required by law. My good friend and fellow commission member and Wabash alumnus **David Hensel '79** was reappointed as a Republican appointee. David and I have both served on the Commission since 2007."

1983

**Chris Denari** was recently inducted into the Hamilton County (IN) Basketball Hall of Fame. Denari played for his father, Bob Denari, and was an outstanding player for the Westfield High School Shamrocks and was also on the 1982 Wabash National Championship team. Chris has been the television play-by-play announcer for the Indiana Pacers for the past 16 years, and also called games for the Indiana Fever and Butler University men's basketball team for 17 years. ■ **John Van Nuys**, pastor of Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church in Crawfordsville, IN, coordinated a donation drive for Afghan refugees housed at Camp Atterbury.



1985

**Tom Denari** was promoted to CEO of Indianapolis-based advertising agency Young & Laramore. Tom will retain the titles of president and chief strategy officer, which he has held since 2005. Tom joined Y&L as an account manager 32 years ago and previously served as the agency's director of client services. ■ **Mike Raters** was named principal at Southside Middle School in Muncie, IN.



1987

**Steven Jones** is among the 22 new members to join the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Steven is the director of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies and Wabash's dean for professional development. ■ **Todd Shellenbarger**, a deputy prosecutor in Porter County, IN, is featured in a documentary produced by Investigation Discovery. The program recounts the events surrounding the investigation and successful murder prosecution of a sexual predator without the recovery of the victim's body. *Murder in the Heartland Season 3*, "Serial Killer in the Making" (episode 11), is available on Discovery and streaming services that carry Discovery programming.



1989

**David Callecod** was named interim CEO at Ochsnor LSU Health System in December. ■ **Jim Doyle** retired from the FBI in 2021, and participated in the investigation of the 9/11 attacks. He writes, "I was watching a documentary about 9/11 and mentioned to my wife that I was a member of the Glee Club in 1986 when we performed at an alumni gathering at the Midtown Manhattan Club in one of the World Trade Center Towers in the spring of that year."



1991

**Luke Messer** joined Bose Public Affairs Group LLC as a principal, where he will counsel clients on state and federal policy matters in Indiana and Washington, DC.



1992

**Marc Nichols** was named chief counsel for the Federal Aviation Administration. Marc provides legal advice for all aspects of agency operations and works closely with the Department of Transportation's Office of General Counsel on issues of national significance to the aviation industry. Marc has more than two decades of extensive experience

in the legal, technology, aerospace, and defense industries. ■ **Jeremy Walker** was one of 18 Indiana educators celebrated during the College Football Playoff National Championship weekend held in Indianapolis in January. Jeremy is a Crown Point (IN) High School geometry teacher and blended learning specialist. The 2022 College Football Playoff Indianapolis Host Committee and College Football Playoff Foundation recognized Jeremy, who was nominated by his peers and community as a 2021-22 Teacher of the Year.

1993

**Eric Clark, Dave Martz, Drew Welborn, Adam Weliver, Dustin White, Brian Mantel, Tim Hoftiezer, and Ben Thompson**, all Delts, got together for golfing in Michigan to celebrate 50th birthdays.



1995

**Roy Sexton** was appointed as the 2022 Legal Marketing Association (LMA) Board of Directors president-elect. LMA represents thousands of legal marketing and business development professionals around the globe.



1997

**James Brennan** reports, "In July 2020, I assumed command at Information Warfare Training Command in Virginia Beach, VA. It is a two-year tour, and I will be headed back to the D.C. area in June 2022 to obtain a master's degree in National Security Strategy at National Defense University."

1998

**Jake Gilbert** was recently highlighted as one of the best high school head coaches in the nation and was chosen for the second time as the Midwest region's winner of the American Football Coaches Association's Power of Influence Award. Gilbert completed his 11th season as head coach at Westfield High School. He led the Shamrocks to a 12-2 record and



a second straight appearance in the IHSAA Class 6A state championship game. Jake also serves on the Westfield City Council and is president of the Wellbeing Coalition of Westfield.

■ **Steve Mackin**

was named president and CEO at Mercy Hospital St. Louis.

■ **Brian Tucker**

has written a book, *Theodor Fontane: Irony and Avowal in a Post-Truth Age*. Tucker is with the department of modern language and literatures at Wabash.



1999

**Derek, Kelly, and Madeleine Nelson** are happy to welcome Maya Joy Nelson, born December 16, 2021, to their family. Derek reports, "While adoptions can take a few months to be completely finalized, the Nelsons have begun life as a family of four." Derek is a professor of religion at Wabash.



2001

**Phil Nelson** writes, "My wife, Meredith, and I welcomed our third child, John Wesley Nelson, on February 17, 2021. 'Jack,' as we call him, is thriving and is deeply loved, especially by his older brother, Will, and sister, Kate." ■ **Luke Prifogle** has accepted a position as CFO for AES Restaurant Group. He writes, "My wife and two kids are relocating with me to Zionsville, IN. We are thrilled to be back in the Hoosier state and close to Crawfordsville, IN. Wabash Always Fights!"

2004

**Dustin DeNeal** recently joined First Internet Bank as first vice president counsel. Dustin will be responsible for a range of legal and regulatory matters, while also providing guidance to the bank's executive leadership team.



2005

**Jonathan Horne** was promoted to partner with the law office of Murtha Cullina LLP in Connecticut. Jonathan is a member of the firm's litigation department and bankruptcy and creditors' rights group.



2006

**Leo Priemer** was named to the annual list of "Next-Gen Wealth Advisors" by *Forbes* magazine and SHOOK Research. Leo is an Edward Jones financial advisor in South Bend, IN.



2010

**Rob Arnett** finished the IBJJF (International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation) NoGi season ranked the #1 competitor in the world for his division (Brown M1). Arnett is the 2021 NoGi Pan-American Champion and 2021 NoGi World Champion. He was promoted to black belt in November. Arnett wrestled at Wabash for coach Brian Anderson.



■ **Sam Prellwitz**,

who has served as a pastor at Ripon (WI) Community Church, for the past 12 years gave his first sermon as lead pastor on January 16, 2022.



photo by Anna Tiplick



photo by Becky Wendt



2011

**Adam Brasich** reports, “In May 2021, I was called to serve as the pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church (Winter Haven, FL) and Our Savior Lutheran Church (Lakeland, FL). I was ordained to the ministry on July 4, 2021.

**Zach Rohrbach ’12** made the trip to attend the service.” ■ **Nolan Eller** was named Digital Archives Librarian at Wabash College’s Lilly Library.

■ **Jacob German** and his wife, Dori, welcomed their first child, Harris Albert German, on September 21, 2021. Grandparents are Diane and **Charley German ’70**. In addition, Barnes & Thornburg elected German into the partnership in January. He writes, “Couldn’t have done it without the support of **Bob Grand ’78** and **Brian Burdick ’91**.”

2012

**Peter Guiden** is an assistant professor of biology at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. ■ **Andrew Kunze** earned his PhD in religion from the University of Chicago.

2013

**Jordan Surenkamp** was named the head coach of the Greensboro Swarm NBA G League basketball team.

2014

**Francisco Heurta** writes, “On October 22, 2021, I married, Gabrielle Gazzola, who is an alum of Gustavus Adolphus College. Three of my groomsmen were Wabash men: **Kevin Downey ’14**, **Jake Ponton ’14**, and **Kenton Armbruster ’14**—all Phi Gams.”

2015

**Emiliano Aguilar** signed a tenure-track contract in the history department at the University of Notre Dame. ■ **Connor** and Natalie **Hammerle** announce the birth of their son, Oliver William Hammerle. Connor writes, “He was born on July 26, 2021, at 8:05 a.m. and weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz. He is our first child and is well loved by grandparents Amy and **Rick Hammerle ’86**.”

2017

**Lincoln Kyle** is an assistant wrestling coach at Indiana University.

2019

**Nolan Callecod** earned his master’s degree in fine arts with distinction in filmmaking at Manchester Metropolitan University in England. He focused on music and sound design for film. ■ **Luke**

**Rowles** joined the Community Foundation of Randolph County (IN) team as its full-time program officer, donor relations, and communications specialist.

2020

**Sam Henthorn** is headed to Bulgaria to teach English under the Fulbright Teaching Assistantship.

2021

**Canton Terry** recently signed to play with the Cologne Cardinals in Germany. He most recently played as catcher for REX Baseball. Canton talks about his experience with REX, a collegiate summer baseball team based in Terre Haute, IN, and going pro with Cologne Cardinals in a rexbaseballblog.com post.

Solutions to Mr. Wilson’s math test on page 35.

1. Ship #1 is 1,998 feet out to sea. Ship #2 is 3,003 feet out to sea. So the two ships are 1,005 feet apart.
2.  $X^2 = 2695y$
3. There is a 518-foot gain in elevation.
4.  $X^2 / 169 + (Y - 15)^2 / 225 = 1$



photo by Anna Tiplick

1947

**Clarence Robert Branson**, 97, died September 18, 2021, in Hendersonville, NC.

Born June 26, 1924, in Decatur, IL, he was the son of Faye and Clarence Branson. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Kappa Sigma and was part of the V-12 Program.

He graduated from Decatur High School in 1942. He later went to Harvard University and Wabash as part of the U.S. Navy’s V-12 officers training program and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1948 after his service as an ensign in the Navy in World War II.

During World War II, as a supply corp officer, he was in the Pacific and at Pearl Harbor. During the summer of 1945, he was stationed in Oakland, CA, awaiting orders for the possible invasion of Japan.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, he had a career as a commercial paper salesman, vice president, and president of commercial paper sales at Sears Roebuck Acceptance Company, Goldman-Sachs, Gamble-Skogmo, and Dean Witter.

Taking up the trumpet at the age of 15, he continued playing trumpet throughout his life in jazz bands in college and during World War II, and later with many bands in Hendersonville.

Branson was preceded in death by his wife, Nancy; and daughter, Sue.

He is survived by his children, Robert, Nancy, and Jill; and two grandchildren.

1949

**Frank A. Beardsley Jr.**, 96, died November 29, 2021, in Frankfort, IN.

Born July 8, 1925, in Frankfort, he was the son of Mabel and Frank Beardsley. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta and was a Mud Hollow resident.

Beardsley lived a long, full life of many days, spending his entire life in Frankfort, IN. He graduated from Frankfort High School, Wabash College, and Indiana University School of Medicine, and interned at General Hospital (now Eskenazi) Indianapolis. His college

years were interrupted by his enlistment in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Beardsley truly loved the practice of medicine and delivered well over 2,000 babies, perhaps most notably one that he was called to emergently deliver in the restroom of a Greyhound bus that was passing through town. He performed countless anesthetics, for a time as the only doctor in the county providing that service. Somehow, he managed to navigate a very full schedule in his family medicine office. He typically got home late in the evening to quickly eat supper and then set out on house calls. There were no ER doctors back then, so when called in the night by the emergency room, he would go out and see his own patients there. Despite this grueling and sleep-depriving schedule, he never once complained about it and in the peak of his career said, “I am working harder than I ever have, but I am enjoying it more than ever.” He was one of the early doctors to study for and be board certified in family medicine, a true Marcus Welby figure.

Beardsley was very forward-thinking, always open to something new. He had the city’s first electric car in the 1970s. He plugged it in overnight, it went up to 40 mph, and he drove it to the hospital, office, and house calls. He was a meticulous woodworker and made some exceptional furniture.

He personally designed a wooden model of the house that he later had built for his family, precisely to scale. Beardsley really loved music throughout his life, and his 1940s big band and Dixieland jazz music continued to provide him comfort to his last days. When Beardsley was in high school, he hitchhiked to the Lyric Theater in Indianapolis (without telling his parents) to see Frank Sinatra the first time he ever performed with the Tommy Dorsey band. He began playing the tuba at age 8 and played it into his 90s. He was in the Frankfort Fun Time Band for many years and regularly played in the all-tuba band for the Indianapolis Tuba Christmas event.

He really enjoyed golf, but was never exceptional at it. Golf did, though, serve to introduce his sons to some new vocabulary, for they learned to swear with him after his bad shots as they caddied for him. He and Maryann

thoroughly enjoyed RVing for many years, highlighted by their long trip to Alaska as well as trips to countless IU football and basketball games, and state and national parks.

Beardsley was very civic-minded and was a long-standing member and president of Kiwanis Club, elder in the Presbyterian Church, member of Symposiarchs, and president of the Frankfort Country Club, and he served on the boards of Ladoga Federal Savings and Loan and the Clinton County Chamber of Commerce. He founded the Frankfort Medical Clinic and the local high school Key Club, helped get the local Habitat for Humanity off the ground, and was inducted into the Frankfort High School Hall of Fame. He was very proud of Frankfort’s four state basketball championships and spoke publicly many times (perhaps too many) about the career of Everett Case, their championship coach. He was a devoted Chicago Cubs fan back to the 1930s and he was thrilled that they finally won a World Series in his lifetime. He cherished Wabash College and regularly sang their fight song, even in the last days of his life. Sadly for him, his sons and several other family members chose to attend DePauw University, but he swallowed that bitter pill as gracefully as possible.

The last chapter of his life was spent at Wesley Manor, where he received truly excellent care. Many times employees would come to his door to say, “You delivered me,” or “You delivered my children.” All in all, it is fair to say that Beardsley was one who “rode all the rides at the fair.”

Beardsley was preceded in death by his wife, Maryann.

He is survived by his sons, Richard and Steven Beardsley; six grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

1950

**Robert A. Cook**, 95, died October 29, 2021, in Crawfordsville, IN.

Born May 31, 1926, in Darlington, IN, he was the son of Bessie and Arthur Cook.

He attended Darlington schools and served in World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1944 to 1946. While at Wabash, he was an independent.

He retired from R.R. Donnelley and went to work for the Crawfordsville Public Library for many years until retiring.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Roberta, Catherine, Allen, and Tina; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

**John R. “Jack” Houston**, 94, died September 14, 2021, in Mishawaka, IN.

Born October 18, 1926, in South Bend, IN, he was the son of Elizabeth and Earl Houston.

Houston was a World War II Army veteran. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and the basketball team and was named to the Indiana All-Stars.

He had been employed with Rheem Manufacturing from 1950 to 1981 and was the owner of Houston Pro Hardware in New Carlisle, IN, from 1981 to 2013.

Houston was preceded in death by his wife, Marie.

He is survived by his sons, John, James, Jeff, Jerry, and Joel; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.



photo by Becky Wendt



1951

**Thomas Jay Lee**, 97, died December 18, 2021, in Boise, ID. Born February 26, 1924, in Bedford, IN, he was the son of Mary and Gordon Lee.

Lee's life was defined by a combat wound sustained in the Battle of the Bulge, followed by five years of surgery in a failed attempt to save his injured leg. While attending Wabash, he was an independent.

He contributed to education as a teacher, administrator, and developer of curriculum at Divernon (IL) schools; Colorado Academy; Ojai Valley School; and the Idaho Department of Correction.

He wrote and published his autobiography, *Depression, War, Disability Be Damned: Praise God*.

Lee was preceded in death by his wives, Joan and Patricia.

He is survived by his daughters, Elizabeth and Lisa; four grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.



**William Norman Von der Lehr**, 94, died November 13, 2021, in Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Born June 9, 1927, in Petersburg, IN, he was the son of Sarah and Norman Von der Lehr.

After graduation from high school in 1945, he joined the U.S. Navy, and later served in the Army Medical Corps in Japan.

While attending Wabash, he was a member of Glee Club and Kappa Sigma and wrote for the *Wabash Review*.

In 1955, he earned his doctorate of dental surgery from Loyola University and opened his private practice in Rochester, IN, where he practiced for 14 years.

While a professor at the University of South Carolina, he earned a master's degree from The Citadel in 1971. Later he served as a professor and administrator at Louisiana State University and the University of Texas.

Von der Lehr was preceded in death by his wives, Mary Anne and Martha.

He is survived by his children, Beth, Lori, and John; and seven grandchildren.



1952

**Brad Johnston**, 91, died December 29, 2020, in Culpeper, VA.

Born December 18, 1929, he was a member of the track team, Sphinx Club, and Phi Gamma Delta while attending Wabash.

Johnston retired from Winegrape Crop Enhancement.

He is survived by his sons, Michael and Charles.

1953

**E. Charles "Charlie" Crume Jr.**, 89, died October 18, 2021, in Oak Ridge, TN.

Born November 14, 1931, in Dayton, OH, he was the son of Evangeline and Enyeart Crume.

He graduated from Stivers High School in 1949. While attending Wabash, he was an independent.

He earned his master's degree from Wesleyan University and joined Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and worked at the Connecticut Advanced Nuclear Engineering Laboratory.

He served for three years in the U.S. Army Reserve, rising to the rank of sergeant first class.

Crume moved to Oak Ridge in 1964 to work at the Y-12 plant as a nuclear criticality safety specialist. He took advantage of Union Carbide's educational assistance program to earn a PhD in physics from the University of Tennessee in 1972.

He then transferred to the thermonuclear division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and spent the next two decades conducting theoretical and experimental research in fusion energy.

In 1989, he wrote a paper, "Bifurcation Theory of Poloidal Rotation in Tokamaks: A Model for L-H Transition." When national funding for fusion research was reduced, Crume returned to nuclear criticality safety, serving as head of ORNL's program until retiring in 1994.

For many years, Crume was active both on- and offstage at the Oak Ridge Playhouse. He made his mainstage debut in *Once Upon a Mattress* in 1973 and enjoyed large and small roles in many plays. He was a member of the Playhouse board in the 1980s and was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995.



Crume realized his lifelong dream of learning to fly in the late 1970s. He held a commercial pilot certificate and was a certified flight instructor. For nearly 20 years, he was the owner of N2606X, a Cessna P206 Super Skylane, which he flew to many destinations.

Crume was preceded in death by his son, Laurence.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie; children, Marjorie and David; stepchildren, David and Laura; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

**Fred P. Warbinton**, 89, died November 30, 2021, in Carmel, IN.

Born December 29, 1931, in Crawfordsville, IN, he was the son of Maude and Fred Warbinton.

Warbinton graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1949. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha, and Concert Band, and wrote for *The Bachelor*.

He received his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1958. He interned at Methodist Hospital. He practiced family medicine in Plainfield, IN, from 1959 to 1971, and Crawfordsville from 1971 to 1997. During his time in Crawfordsville, he served as the Southmont High School sports physician.

He served as captain in the Indiana National Guard, was president of the Kiwanis Club of Crawfordsville, and was an elder for Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Warbinton bled Dodger blue for more than 80 years, both the Brooklyn and the Los Angeles versions, and was an assistant coach for the Crawfordsville Eagles baseball team. His love for music was shown through his playing percussion for the Montgomery County Civic Band, Sugar Creek Players, Scottish Rite Orchestra, Zionsville Community Band, and New Horizons Band (both in Indianapolis and in Bonita Springs, FL).

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, **Jeff Warbinton '81**, Lee, and Craig; and five grandchildren, including **Kyle Warbinton '20**.

1954

**Alan S. Ganz**, 88, died October 31, 2021, in Evanston, IL.

Born January 29, 1933, in Gary, IN, he was the son of Joan and Alexander Ganz. While attending Wabash, he was a member of the basketball team and Sigma Chi. He graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa.

Following two years of honorable service in the U.S. Army, he enrolled in Harvard Law School, graduating in 1959. He began his career as a prosecutor in the Cook County (IL) State's Attorney's Office, after which he went into private practice, becoming a partner in the Chicago law firm of Rooks, Pitts, and Poust.

His artistic talents shone through in the colorful gardens he designed each year at his home. He loved international travel, especially to Florence, Italy, and fishing in Canada.

He was left paralyzed below the knees by spinal stenosis in 1995, but learned to walk again. In 2019, his right calf was amputated, and as recently as three weeks before his death, he was learning to walk with an artificial leg.

Ganz was preceded in death by his wife, Eileen; and daughter, Alexandra.

He is survived by his children, John and Nina.

1956

**Thomas Sullivan Hollett**, 87, died November 19, 2021, in Indianapolis, IN.

Born February 27, 1934, in Indianapolis, he was the son of Rosemary and **John Hollett '28**.

He graduated from Shortridge High School in 1952. While attending Wabash, he was a member of the tennis team, Sphinx Club, and Sigma Chi.

After Wabash, Hollett served in the U.S. Army stationed in Frankfort, Germany, and then went on to earn his MBA from Stanford University in 1960.

His professional career began in 1960 with Blythe and Company, where Hollett followed in his father's shoes as a stockbroker. He moved on to Collett & Company before retiring as a money manager from Goelzer Investment Management in Indianapolis in 1996.



Hollett, a lifetime Indy Car fanatic, rarely missed an Indianapolis 500 in over 65 years, and was a proud member of the AJ Foyt Fan Club.

In retirement, Hollett was an avid hiker, a member and former president of the Indianapolis Hiking Club, and a distinguished member of the 18,000 Mile Club. He hiked all over the world.

Hollett was preceded in death by his son, Jeffrey; stepsons, Mark and James Van Wagenen; and uncle, **Barney Hollett '36**.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy; children, Julie and Thomas; stepdaughter, Karen; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three step-grandchildren; six step-great-grandchildren; and brother, **John Hollett '59**.

**William Michael "Pop" Baran**, 90, died October 6, 2021, in Bullhead City, AZ.

Born November 11, 1930, in East Chicago, IN, he was the son of Elizabeth and Michael Baran. While attending Wabash, he was a member of the baseball team and Sigma Chi.

He served in the Korean War and graduated from Valparaiso University in 1960.

Baran worked in his brother's courthouse as a bailiff. He was then employed at the Chicago Ford Assembly Plant for 23 years.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; and children, Beth, Billy, and Michael.

1957

**Jay Lee Huffman**, 86, died October 15, 2021, in Muskegon, MI.

Born March 1, 1935, in Wabash, IN, he was the son of Florence and Hugo Huffman.

In 1953, Huffman became the first statewide football all-star in Wabash High School history. He graduated that year after winning three letters each in football, basketball, and track. He earned First-Team All-Central Indiana Conference honors in football and Second-Team All-CIC for basketball, plus went on to be selected to the First-Team All-State roster at tackle in football. From there he earned a spot on the inaugural north team in the first North-South Football All-Star game after his senior season.

While attending Wabash, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi and the football team, winning four varsity letters. He was scouted by the Chicago Bears, but that opportunity ended after he sustained a serious knee injury.

From 1964 to 1969, Huffman served as an assistant football coach at Wabash High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from Manchester College and a master's degree from St. Francis College.

Huffman taught middle school and coached football and basketball in Wabash, and from there he moved to Tipton, IN, where he coached football and started the wrestling program.

After moving to Michigan, Huffman taught at Hesperia Public Schools for 30 years. He completed additional graduate studies at Western Michigan University and Central Michigan University and retired from teaching in 1994.

Huffman was preceded in death by his daughter, Maria.

He is survived by his wife, MaryLou; children, Christine, Dan, and Anthony; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

1958

**Charles Haddon Spurgeon**, 85, died December 18, 2021, in Berne, IN.

Born March 29, 1936, in Berne, he was the son of Edna and William Spurgeon. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

He received his doctor of medicine from Indiana University in 1962.

Following his education, he started his medical career as an intern at the Minneapolis General Hospital from 1962 to 1963, U.S. Medical Corps lieutenant commander for public health service from 1963 to 1965 in Oregon, neurology residency at Indiana University School of Medicine from 1965 to 1968, assistant professor of neurology at IU School of Medicine from 1968 to 1973, and chief of neurology service at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Indianapolis from 1968 to 1995. He was promoted to associate professor of neurology, IU School of Medicine in 1973.

In his professional life, he was a member of the Indiana Neurological Society (president 1972–74), Indiana State Medical Association, Marion County Medical Society, and the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electro Diagnostic Medicine. He was a member of Indiana Nut and Fruit Growers Association, Master Gardner Association, and Indiana Native Plant and Wild Flower Society.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; and daughters, Dacotah and Pamela.

1959

**Marvin E. Buck**, 84, died September 26, 2021, in Erie, PA.

Born July 3, 1937, in Urbana, OH, he was the son of Ruth and Marvin Davey. After his father's passing at a young age, he was adopted and raised by Donald Buck.

Buck worked the family's dairy business and graduated from Urbana High School in 1955. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha.

He earned his master's degree from Western Michigan University in 1967 and a master's degree in business administration in 1971.

Buck worked for General Foods Corporation for 13 years in both Battle Creek, MI, and White Plains, NY.

His last job was with Dad's Products in Meadville, PA, for more than 27 years as director of research and development and quality control.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1959 to 1965 as a group captain in the Aviation Cadet Program and AF Reserves.

He is survived by his wife, Pat; children, Scott, Brandi, and Craig; and seven grandchildren.



1962

**Frank W. McMurry**, 84, died December 24, 2021, in Carmel, IN.

Born July 17, 1937, in Crawfordsville, IN, he was the son of Ruby and Noel McMurry.

He graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1955. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Sigma Chi.

McMurry was in various technical computer positions for his professional life. Those positions ranged from entry-level computer operator in 1956, to marketing support representative in the 1960s, to network security technician in the 1980s, to vice president of computer operations in the 1990s.

He retired from the information network security staff of Indianapolis Power and Light in 2002, and immediately joined the staff of Carmel Lutheran Church as director of discipleship, retiring in 2014.

McMurry was preceded in death by his wife, MaryAnn; and daughter, Kimla.

He is survived by his son, J. Allen; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

1963

**Steven Michael Kain**, 80, died October 24, 2021, in Ellettsville, IN.

Born March 9, 1941, in Morgantown, IN, he was the son of Mildred and Maurice Kain.

He graduated from Martinsville High School in 1959. While attending Wabash, he was an independent.

He later received his master's degree from Indiana University.

Kain worked as a Latin teacher for Crawfordsville Schools, principal for Lebanon (IN) schools, superintendent of Logansport (IN) schools, and then superintendent of Richland-Bean Blossom schools. Additionally, he served as Cass County (IN) Commissioner.

Kain was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon.

He is survived by his children, Barbara, David, and **Bryan Kain '84**; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



**David E. Kern**, 79, died April 13, 2021, in Liberty Township, OH.

Born January 31, 1942, in Cincinnati, OH, he was the son of Leah and Carl Kern.

Kern graduated from Wyoming High School. While attending Wabash, he was an independent and a member of the football team.

He graduated from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center as a fluent speaker of the Turkish language. He then lived in Turkey while serving with the U.S. Army Security Agency.

Upon the death of his father, Kern stepped in to run the family business, Kern Nursery and Landscaping.

Kern was preceded in death by his brother, **Carl Kern '64**.

He is survived by his wife, Katy; children, Adelaide, David, Frances, and Thekla; and 11 grandchildren.



FIRST AND TEN

I LOOK AROUND AND TAKE IT ALL IN.

The sun is setting—as the song says—“across the skies with gorgeous dyes” on a cool, crisp fall evening in Indiana. I hear a small band and the noise of the crowd is building.

The players begin lining up in their assigned spots and provide encouragement to one another—a slap on the shoulder, a fist bump, a secret handshake. Some are jumping up and down in anticipation, others stroll in small circles like dogs preparing to lie down in the grass, while others just stand with their fists tightly clenched.

I watch as my own teammates do their last-minute duties, counting players, providing rule reminders, and checking alignment before each raises a hand to signal to me they’re ready. The band and the crowd now sound as if they’ve tripled in size.

Everyone is awaiting one thing: my signal. I raise my hand, my whistle shrieks, and I bring my hand down in a chopping fashion. The ball flies end-over-end in an arc as that sunset paints “in flashing glory.” The ball is caught and the ball-carrier runs toward the onslaught of opponents. I wind my arm to signal the clock to start.

This is the scene nearly every Friday night at 7 p.m. in the fall to kick off my next few hours in the middle of a high school football game as an official.

Yes. I’m one of those guys in the black and white stripes who everyone loves to blame.

Sports is one of my passions, and I’ve been a part of sports my entire life, as a player, a coach, a broadcaster, and now an official. And I enjoy officiating much more than I anticipated.

I encourage anyone passionate about sports to look into becoming an official. It’s not one of those things most people ever consider. But officiating is a chance to give back to sports, be part of a team that holds each other accountable, stay an integral part of the game, and meet some of the best people, including other officials, coaches, administrators, and players.

Officiating aligns perfectly with the liberal arts and Wabash, so it’s easy to see why so many Wabash men take up the call.

Wabash has dozens of alumni officiating football in central Indiana, including Steve Woods ’93 in the NFL and Tim Maguire ’86 in the Big Ten. This group even gets together for lunch a few times each year. Dave Parry ’57 was a longtime Big Ten and NFL official and later the national coordinator of college officials. And, if we look at sports beyond football, the number of Wabash officials is much higher.

Officiating aligns perfectly with the liberal arts and Wabash, so it’s easy to see why so many Wabash men take up the call.

Why? As officials, we need to communicate concisely and clearly, be resilient so that we are unaffected by those disagreeing with us, display confidence in our decisions, think critically, and lead effectively.

I wonder where we picked up those traits...

Steve Hoffman ’85 | Director, Alumni and Parent Relations  
hoffmans@wabash.edu

1965

Ross Abraham De Vuyst, 77, died August 24, 2021, in Racine, WI.

Born September 15, 1943, in Indianapolis, IN, he was the son of Gertrude and Lyle De Vuyst.

The family moved to Bristol, WI, where De Vuyst was raised. De Vuyst graduated from Salem Central High School. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Concert Band, performed in Scarlet Masque, and was an independent.

He received his master’s degree from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. He was self-employed as an accountant until his retirement.

Ross enjoyed volunteering for many years at Our Harmony Club, an elder day care that gives relief to families that care for elderly patients.

He is survived by his wife, Donna; children, Joe, Melissa, and Andrew; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

William Edward Weatherman, 78, died November 22, 2021, in Clinton, IN.

Born March 5, 1943, in Clinton, he was the son of Isabel and William Weatherman.

He graduated from Dana High School. While attending Wabash, he was an independent. He graduated from Indiana State University.

He was an industrial arts teacher for North Vermillion Schools. After teaching, Weatherman worked for IMC-Pitman Moore selling pharmaceuticals and biologicals to veterinarians.

Weatherman was preceded in death by his wife, Cheryl.

He is survived by his daughter, Lisa; three grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

1966

James M. Wason, 77, died June 3, 2021, in Virginia.

Born March 1, 1944, he was the son of George Wason ’29.

He was an independent while attending Wabash.

Wason was retired analyst for the U.S. government.

He is survived by his brother, William Wason ’68.

1969

David William Cotton, 74, died November 15, 2021, in Brownsburg, IN.

Born January 7, 1947, in Elwood, IN, he was the son of Anna and Elbert Cotton.

While attending Wabash, he was a member of Sigma Chi and Student Senate, performed in Scarlet Masque, and wrote for *The Bachelor*.

During his junior year at Wabash, he learned to sell life insurance to be able to finish school. Before graduation, he accepted positions in Fort Wayne and then Muncie. He was given the managerial reins and built Metropolitan Life’s top sales unit in the Midwest region.

Cotton was then tasked with building CNA Insurance a new distribution chain for its property and casualty and bond division on the East Coast. He built a top-tier team at CNA, that entailed travel throughout the country.

Despite his extensive travel for work, Cotton rarely missed his sons’ games or performances. It wasn’t uncommon for him to have a layover in Newark just long enough to run to a game or recital and then catch a late flight back to work.

By age 35, Cotton felt it was time to come closer to home for his family. He chose to form a new insurance agency in Indiana. It didn’t take long for the agency to become an area leader.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; sons, Chris Cotton ’91 and Chad; stepchildren, Tom and Elizabeth; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Thomas Day Hunter, 73, died

September 2, 2021, in Westerville, OH.

Born June 17, 1948, in Indianapolis, IN, he was the son of Barbara and Thomas Hunter.

He graduated from Sidney High School in 1966, where he lettered in football and track, and was elected senior class president.

While attending Wabash, he was a member of Sigma Chi.



Hunter went to University of Iowa College of Law. He began his career as a lawyer in Cleveland, OH, and later Columbus, OH.

He is survived by his wife, Kate; children, Christopher, Leigh, Paige, and Andrew; and four grandchildren.

1972

John Thomas Kemper, 71, died December 7, 2021, in Goose Creek, SC.

Born May 8, 1950, in Marion County, IN, he was the son of Charlotte and Weldon Kemper. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi.

He earned a master’s degree from Indiana University and went to work on Wall Street for two years before being called to a career in the U.S. Navy. He was a supply officer and retired as lieutenant commander.

Charles M.

Stocker, 71, died July 2, 2021, in Evansville, IN.

Born March 11, 1950, in Evansville, he was the son of Anita and James Stocker.

He graduated from F.J. Reitz High School in 1968. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta.

He graduated from the University of Evansville and further earned a degree in horticulture from Vincennes University.

For 21 years he owned and operated Stocker’s Garden Center in Evansville.

Stocker had been regularly featured on Evansville’s WEHT Local Lifestyles TV show, where he was known as “The Garden Guy.”

Stocker was preceded in death by his wife, Lynn.

He is survived by his children, Nathan and Kalah; and two grandsons.



1973

Robert James “Bobby” Adair, 70, died September 15, 2021, in Nashville, IN.

Born August 7, 1951, in Crawfordsville, IN, he was the son of Jane and Edward Adair ’49.

He was a graduate of Brebeuf Jesuit (IN) Preparatory School. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta.

Adair was a skilled contractor, carpenter, and furniture and cabinet maker who crafted utilitarian pieces. He built many of the doors on Nashville’s shops.

He was a founding member of the Brown County (IN) Craft Guild and Gallery.

Adair loved bluegrass music and was a longtime member of the White Lightning Boys in Brown County, playing dobro.

He is survived by his daughter, Lauren; and two grandchildren.

Michael F. Runau, 70, died January 1 in Topeka, KS.

Born October 6, 1951, in Evansville, IN, he was the son of Jo and Kenneth Runau.

He graduated from Bosse High School in Evansville in 1969. While at Wabash, he was a member of football and baseball teams and Phi Delta Theta.

He received his master’s degree in hospital administration from the University of Evansville.

Runau retired from the State of Indiana after 20 years as an administrator.

He is survived by his wife, Annette; and sons, Matthew and Zachary.



**1974**  
**William Frederick Brown**, 69, died November 13, 2021, in Colorado Springs, CO.



Born December 1, 1951, in Wewoka, OK, he was the son of Evelyn and Eugene Brown. Brown graduated from Thomas Carr Howe High School in 1970. While attending Wabash, he was a member of the swimming team, Glee Club, and Phi Gamma Delta. He was employed by the Colorado Department of Corrections in Buena Vista, retiring in 2004. He served on the Buena Vista Fire Department, and was a volunteer chaplain at the Buena Vista Correctional Center. He is survived by his wife, Jane; daughters, Nicolle and Erika; and two grandchildren.

**Michael Charles Keating**, 69, died November 5, 2021, in Evansville, IN. Born July 15, 1952, in Evansville, he was the son of Rosie and Robert Keating. Keating graduated from Memorial High School and played basketball. While at Wabash, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude*. He received his JD from Indiana University School of Law. Keating had a distinguished career as a litigator, arguing cases in local, state, and federal courts, and appeared in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. He is survived by his wife, Shelly; children, Jacob and Rachel; and three grandchildren.

**1975**  
**John Lurton Asbury**, 68, died January 3 in Marshall, IN. Born April 7, 1953, in Clinton, IN, he was the son of Eleanor and Harold Asbury. He graduated from Turkey Run High School in 1971. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Glee Club and Kappa Sigma. He graduated from Indiana University School of Law in 1978. He was admitted to plead before the Indiana Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. John was a member of the Indiana State Bar Association and served on the Board of Governors. In addition to his private practice in Rockville, IN, he served as council to numerous county and municipal bodies in Parke County. His civic involvements included finance committee at the Marshall Federated Church and board member for the Parke County Community Foundation. He was preceded in death by his father and uncle, **Bonner Allee '53**. He is survived by his wife, Kim; children, Michael, Rachel, and Samuel; nine grandchildren; and mother.

**John K. Miller**, 68, died October 26, 2021, in Greenfield, IN. Born January 20, 1953, in New Castle, IN, he was the son of Celia and Keith Miller. Miller graduated from New Castle Chrysler High School in 1971, where he lettered in swimming. While attending Wabash, he was an independent and performed in Scarlet Masque, and worked for WNDY radio station. Miller was an engineer, overseeing civil improvement projects across Indiana and Texas. He was particularly proud of his inspection and approval of the plumbing installation at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. He is survived by his children, Aaron and Cara; and three grandchildren.

**1979**  
**Stephen W. Weiland**, 62, died October 11, 2019, in Las Vegas, NV. Born November 27, 1956, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi while attending Wabash. He was a physician with The Plastic Surgery Group in Decatur, IL. He is survived by his wife, Debra; and daughters, Lexi and Nikki.

**1983**  
**Paul Eugene Gregoline**, 59, died December 6, 2020, in Hallandale Beach, FL. Born June 2, 1961, he was the son of Rita and Eugene Gregoline. While attending Wabash, he was an independent and performed in theater productions. He was a doctor of podiatric medicine in Homestead, FL. He is survived by his sister, Gina Haining; brothers, Raymond and James Gregoline; and longtime companion, Jeanne Druz bik.

**Richard A. Huber**, 60, died December 19, 2021, in Carmel, IN. Born January 1, 1961, in Indianapolis, IN, he was the son of Judith and Robert Huber. He graduated from Carmel High School in 1979. While at Carmel, he participated in football, and track, among other activities, and was a member of Carmel's first state football championship team in 1978. While at Wabash, he was a member of Phi Delta Theta. Huber was an executive board member of the Carmel Dads' Club for more than a decade, and he donated countless hours in supporting young men and women through sports. He worked for the Eden Group from 1983 to 2012, mainly in senior housing management, along with numerous other projects. For the last seven years, Huber worked as the CFO for Cohoat and O'Neal Management Corporation, managing golf courses and restaurants.

Huber was preceded in death by his father-in-law, **W. Donald Martin '51**. He is survived by his wife, Jane; and children, Bradley, Mark, and Kyle.

**1991**  
**Matthew Philip Sadowl**, 43, died August 30, 2014, in Tucson, AZ. Born September 16, 1969, in Bridgeport, CT, he was the son of Patricia and Earnest Sadowl. While attending Wabash, he was an independent and a member of the football team. Sadowl taught mathematics and science at Presidio School in Tucson. He is survived by his wife, Cyra; and parents.

**2004**  
**Justin Allen Bauserman**, 40, died October 17, 2021, in Wake Forest, NC. Born September 17, 1981, in Hendersonville, TN, he was the son of Kathy and Jim Bauserman. He was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at two months of age. Because of lung complications from CF, Bauserman received a lung transplant in 1994 at St. Louis Children's Hospital. He graduated from Hamilton Southeastern High School in 2000, where he was an honor student and an active member of the marching band. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.



He earned a mater's degree in English from Indiana State University in 2006. Bauserman was an English instructor at Ivy Tech Community College for several years. Bauserman began pursuing a doctorate in English at Ball State University in 2007. However, after the birth of his daughters, he chose to be a stay-at-home dad. In 2019, he and his family moved to North Carolina, where he received his second lung transplant at Duke. He is survived by his wife, Stefanie; daughters, Elle and Clara; and parents.

photo by Anna Tiplick

During his oral comprehensive exams at Wabash, Jason Hand '94 was asked, "What are you going to do in your future?" He said, "I don't know exactly, but I want to get a job where I can travel. I want to go to 100 countries." So far he has been to 64. This photo is from a tour he took in the Cappadocia region of Turkey.







photo by Kim Johnson

## DEAR OLD WABASH

**A**S I LOOK BACK AT OVER 20 YEARS IN THE ARCHIVES at Wabash, I see thousands of stories still untold. To me, it is always about the story. Yes, we house a lot of facts and figures—lists of clubs, fraternities, athletic teams, and more. We have photographs—thousands of photos of students, faculty and staff, teams, glee clubs, visitors to campus, events, and even the landscape. But what these photos represent are stories.

I have written about the great and the good, the known alumnus, and the fellow who was not widely known outside of his sphere of influence. Take the story of Tiny Knee W1924 as an example. From a blog post I wrote about him: “As a senior at Wabash, Tiny was a member of the four-man team which won the 880-yard and medley relay at the Drake Relays in Iowa. On campus, Tiny was a big man. He studied psychology, served on the student council and as president of the Athletic Association, and was a member of Kappa Sigma and the Little Giants Club.

“More than just a great athlete, Tiny was also a great man. For 40 years he coached in Ripley, Tennessee, and is described in a half-page Happy Birthday ad placed in the Ripley paper by the local bank in 1968 as, ‘Outstanding coach in football and basketball, and a prime mover in the development of track and field sports in West Tennessee. Planner and builder of one of the state’s most beautiful sports arenas, named after him, Irvin Knee Field, and one of this area’s outstanding recreational complexes, known after him, as Tiny Town.’”

**I HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO STUDY**, in depth, Will Harrison Hays W1900, president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors and head of the Hays Office, which enacted a production code for the movies. More than just a censor, Hays was at the center of Hollywood for more than 20 years.

Byron Price W1912 was in charge of the World War II Office of Censorship, created to ensure that sensitive defense information did not appear in the press. Price responded to President Theodore Roosevelt’s plea to

head the office by saying that the system must be voluntary. He thought, given the chance, the press would cooperate in this war effort.

At the time of WWII there existed magazines, newspapers, radio, and movies. Price was in charge of the first three and Hays had the last one covered. During the war, every bit of media in America was overseen by Wabash men. And both were Phi Delts!

**ONE MORNING, AS I CAME IN**, the phone was ringing. It was a fellow from the National Biography Project wanting information on Andrew Jackson Moyer W1922. It seems Moyer was instrumental in the industrial production of penicillin during WWII.

Or there is the story of one of our greatest archival treasures—an original poster of the first Notre Dame University vs. Wabash College football game. Notre Dame beat the pants off us 30–0, but the poster survived and it is a fragile beauty. I did a post on this rivalry, featuring an article by Dick Banta W1926.

Dick Hughes ’65 read the post, which included a very bad picture of the old poster. Hughes contacted me to see if Wabash might want the original poster. “We sure do!” I answered. The poster formerly hung in the cafeteria of the Ball Brothers department store in Muncie, Indiana. When it closed, a friend of Hughes’ attended the auction and bought the poster for him. We took the poster to Chicago for preservation treatment and conservation framing. It was then that we discovered that on the back of the poster was a letter from a Notre Dame player to his parents, reporting on the game. The poster is now safely double framed for our visitors to enjoy both the poster on the front and the letter on the back.

**I HAVE MADE SOME VERY GOOD FRIENDS** while at Wabash. There is Jon Pactor ’71, perhaps the greatest friend to the Archives. Jon and his wife, Andrea, paid for the digitization of the historic *Bachelor* newspaper from its founding in 1908 up through 2010. The digitized issues are now loaded onto a platform accessible on the

alumni web page via the e-services section. With a Wabash login, you can search more than 100 years of student journalism. What did grandpa do at Wabash? Look him up. What about the national championship basketball team—the first one in 1922? Look it up.

The Pactors have recently made another significant gift dedicated to the preservation of Wabash’s archival materials. They are true friends of the history of Wabash.

There is Jim Rader ’60, who, as a student, stumbled onto the fact that Ezra Pound taught here in the early 1900s. He wrote a *Bachelor* Pan-Hel article on the subject, which led to a lifelong research project on the life of the troubled poet.

Or there is Moe Brand ’57, who, not long after I started here, sent along an Arvin countertop clock radio—a wedding gift from Frank Sparks, former president of Arvin. Later, when Brand came back for Big Bash, he came to visit his radio. We have been friends ever since.

Getting to know Dick Ristine ’41 is perhaps one of my greatest delights. That man knew and lived more history than any other single member of the Wabash family. Descended from a founder, son of the treasurer of the College, and nephew to Insley Osborne, revered professor of English in the first half of the 20th century, Ristine saw and heard a great deal of history. As he visited the College for the last time, I was privileged to chat with him. Sharp as ever and with a welcoming smile, Dick was, even at the end, the epitome of a Wabash man.

As I come to the end of my career here, my only regret is the many stories still out there. Because in the end, each member of the Wabash family has a unique story. As they say, so many stories...so little time.

**Beth Swift** | Archivist for the College

**Editor’s note:** Wabash Magazine gives a huge shout-out to Beth Swift for her 21 years of service to Wabash College. We wish her well in her retirement!



**Randolph Deer**, 91, died September 17, 2021, in Naples, FL. Born June 13, 1930, in Crawfordsville, IN, he was the son of Elizabeth and Paul Deer.

Deer graduated in 1932 from Springfield High School and Culver Summer Naval Academy. At Culver, Deer was the company commander and battalion commander, and received the Fowler Cup as the most outstanding midshipman of his class.

Deer earned a degree from Indiana University. Upon graduation, Deer served in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant operating a petroleum laboratory.

In 1954, Deer joined the family business, Bonded Oil Company, and served as the executive vice president. During his tenure at Bonded Oil, he was a member of the American Petroleum Institute Travel Development Committee, and served as chairman of the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers Association based in Washington, DC. He served on the boards of the Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky Petroleum Marketers Associations.

In 1975, Deer acquired Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Logansport and South Bend, IN. Shortly thereafter, Deer founded Interactions Incorporated, which included the Pepsi-Cola facilities, a real estate development company, four farming operations, a polled-Hereford breeding operation, two restaurant operations, and an equipment leasing operation. Deer served as chairman of the board for 46 years for Interactions Incorporated. In 2005, Deer purchased an Oregon-based emerging chocolate company, Endangered Species Chocolate, and moved its operations to Indianapolis. Deer served as chairman of the board.

In Indianapolis, Deer served as a patron for many art and education institutions. He served the Indianapolis Museum of Art as a lifetime trustee, member of the board of governors, vice president, vice chair, and chairman of the board. Deer was the chairman of the Interior Building Committee during its historic reconstruction. In 1992, Deer received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from the State of Indiana. He received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Award from

Wabash College in 1993. Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis awarded Deer its Spirit of Philanthropy Award. Deer received the inaugural Distinguished Service Award from the Indianapolis Museum of Art; an Honorary Professor in Painting Award from the Herron School of Art and Design; and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Services from Indiana University.

Deer was passionate about supporting education and using his philanthropy to improve the lives of others. His philanthropy includes Indiana University; Wabash College (Randolph H. Deer Art Wing); Wittenberg College; Culver Academies (Visual Arts Center and Naval Building); Indianapolis Museum of Art (Randolph H. Deer Special Events Pavilion); Indiana Nature Conservancy; Indianapolis Symphony; Wishard Hospital; The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis; Arizona Children's Cancer Center; Kuss Performing Arts Center in Springfield, OH; and many others.

Deer was preceded in death by his parents; former wife, Darline; and daughter, Amy.

He is survived by his children, Jenny, Colby, and David; 15 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

**Sherry Macy**, 74, died January 12 in Cary, NC.

Macy was an administrative assistant for the Wabash Center from 1998 to 2003.

Born May 12, 1947, in Fort Wayne, IN, she graduated from North Side High School in 1965 and Ball State University in 1969.

Macy taught English at Martinsville High School before relocating to Crawfordsville, IN.

Macy was preceded in death by her husband, Steve Macy.

She is survived by her daughters, Laurie, Kristin, and Carrie; and 10 grandchildren.

**Keith Lindow**, 92, died December 18, 2021, in Crawfordsville, IN.

Lindow served as an usher, along with his wife, at many fine arts events on campus. He also audited many classes at Wabash beginning in the fall of 1992.

Born June 22, 1929, at Plymouth, WI, he graduated from Plymouth

High School in 1947. A member of the Armed Forces from 1951 to 1953, Lindow graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1957. He retired from R.R. Donnelley & Sons after 35 years.

He is survived by his wife, Marian; and children, Trudi, Phillip, and Jane.

**Curtis Edward Allen**, 60, died January 6 of natural causes at his home in North Port, FL.

Allen was born in Crawfordsville, IN, to Clifton (Eddie) and Marilyn Seybold Allen.

He married Debbie Jones Allen of New Market, IN, on May 24, 1986.

Allen was a 1980 graduate of Southmont High School and a 1984 *magna cum laude* graduate of MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL, where he played basketball. He was the Academic Athlete of the Year in 1983 and 1984.

Before starting his career as a basketball coach, Allen worked at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center, the Indianapolis Colts, and the Pan American Games.

After his family, basketball was Allen's passion. He was a graduate assistant basketball coach at Western Illinois University. He was an assistant basketball coach under Head Coach Mac Petty at Wabash College, and head basketball coach at North Montgomery High School, where, in 1999, the Chargers won their first sectional title since 1984.

After moving to Florida, he taught at North Port High School, where he was head basketball coach 2007–2013, with over 100 career wins. He was inducted into the North Port Athletic Hall of Fame in 2021. Along with his family, Allen leaves behind many beloved players, students, and friends.

As everyone who loves Allen knows, one of his claims to fame was playing his part in the movie *Hoosiers* on the opposing Dugger Bulldogs team.

He is survived by his wife; parents; brother, Brad; and sisters, Cindy, Pam, Sally, and Kelly.



**Max Edward Servies '58**

**Max Edward Servies**, 85, died October 9, 2021, in Crawfordsville, IN.

Born May 15, 1936, in Crawfordsville, he was the son of Ruth and Edward Servies.

Servies retired in 2000 from Wabash after 40 years of service. His tenure at Wabash included 40 years as wrestling coach, 28 years as assistant football coach, five years as assistant in track, and 33 years as athletic director. He was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Wabash. He received the Alumni Award of Merit in 1983.

He was previously employed at Crawfordsville High School 1958–60 as a teacher of biology and coach.

He graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1954. While attending Wabash, he was an independent and a member of the football and wrestling teams.

He earned a master's degree in biology from Purdue University in 1962, and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Wabash in 2009.

He was a member of several national athletic associations and received numerous honors during his career in coaching at Wabash. The wrestling facility at Wabash was named in his honor. With the help of **David Phillips H'83**, he wrote the book, *Some Little Giants*, chronicling the athletic history of Wabash.

His wife, Nancy, died January 12, 2022.

He is survived by his children, Alisa Maloney, Christina Elmore, Stacy Adams, M. Kirk Harrington, K. Kent Harrington, and **Tim Servies '87**; 21 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

#### A Remembrance

I met Max in 1979, during the spring of my junior year at a wrestling tournament. He was recruiting a teammate. I won the tourney and caught Max's

eye. The following week, he sent me a congratulatory letter. In his letter, he praised the academic reputation of what he called "the best little liberal arts college around," subtly mentioned that the Little Giant wrestlers had just completed their 18th consecutive winning season, and invited me down to Crawfordsville for a campus visit. Over the next 13 months, I received nine such letters from Max.

I took Max up on his invitation to visit campus, but I didn't bother informing him that I was coming. I arrived by bus early one Saturday morning and asked a "townie" kid for directions to campus. He led me to the entrance across the street.

I found my way to Sparks Center, and loitered until a member of the "Green Army" arrived and asked if he could help me. I told him I was looking for Coach Servies. He asked if Max was expecting me, and I sheepishly said, "No." He called the campus switchboard to connect him to Max. Within five minutes, Max showed up in his little green matchbox-sized VW and picked me up.



He gave me the nickel tour, drove me around the perimeter of campus, identified every building and landmark, and gave me his in-depth version of the College's history. He took me to his home, an enormous brick house that had been the home of two Wabash presidents and later served as the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He fed me a sandwich, let me take a nap on his couch, took me to a store in town to buy a Wabash T-shirt, and put me on the afternoon bus.

This man had promptly carved out five hours to show me

around campus with no regard for the plans he may have had for his day. Max was flexible and accommodating, and he went out of his way for others, at the drop of a hat.

Max's 10th letter to me was addressed to the team and came in late July. It included an invitation to visit the Servies bunch at the big old brick house on South Washington Street. He proceeded to fill us in on the comings and goings of all six of their children, Lisa, Kirk, Tina, Kent, Tim, and Stacey. Max always concluded these letters with a brief personal note scribbled at the bottom in his "scarlet" felt-tipped pen and signed them, "Max Servies." From these letters, I learned that Max's family was vitally important to him and that he was big on the maxim "Persistence prevails when all else fails."

Max came from humble beginnings. He was a country boy who had to work to pay his way through Wabash, splitting time between work, studies, and sports. His own experiences created a soft spot in his heart for those of us from modest means. He helped guys like me find jobs on campus. Max was also an exceptional judge of character. He didn't recruit "bums," as he called them. He recruited "winners."

He developed tremendous relationships with a network of successful high school coaches from established programs around Indiana and the Midwest. They weeded out the wheat from the chaff for him. He brought us in and let the steel sharpen steel in the wrestling room. Max wanted good students first, good citizens second, and good wrestlers third. He must have figured that the guys with the discipline and work ethic to get into Wabash were going to have the ability to also excel in the wrestling room. As a coach, especially as one of Max's boys, I never wanted to send him a bum. I sent a handful of guys down to Max over the years, and I'm awfully proud of the fact that he never sent any of them back.

When Max retired in 2000, his dual meet record of 487–118–8 (.795) was the second-most wins of any active wrestling coach in NCAA Division III. But, impressive as this record was, to dwell only on his wins and losses is to lose perspective of what really made him a special coach. Academics always came first for

Max. He coached three NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship winners, 21 Phi Beta Kappa members, and dozens of NWCA Academic All-Americans, and two of his final three teams were crowned NCAA Division III GPA National Champions by the NWCA. All of these achievements bear witness to Max's emphasis on academics.



Max was admired by his former athletes and fellow coaches for his honesty and integrity. When we would have an on-your-honor weigh-in at noon, sometimes six hours prior to a match, Max would allow no slack from Wabash wrestlers. If the scale's balance didn't drop, you put your sweats back on and worked out until you made weight. I cursed Max under my breath on several occasions when he sent me out in the cold to go lose 1/16th of a pound to verify that I'd made weight. Then we would arrive at colleges, with less reputable coaches, and compete against guys that couldn't possibly have been within 15 pounds of their weight class at noon.

Max taught us, "It's always right to do what's right. It may not be easy, but it is always right."

I can't even begin to fathom the time commitment that Max made to Wabash and the athletics department from 1960 to 2000. He undoubtedly missed some family functions over the years. On behalf of all the Wabash men he so unselfishly served during this time, THANK YOU to his family for sharing him with all of us.

Max Servies was Some Little Giant, he was my friend, and he was my Coach!!

I hope I did you proud, Max; I LOVE YOU!!

—Jim Wadkins '84  
Excerpted from his eulogy delivered on Sunday, October 17, 2021



# THE WABASH TEAM

I LOVE BASKETBALL.

Growing up, my dad was my coach. We traveled all over the country for games. And then I had the good fortune to play for Coach Mac Petty at Wabash. Now, following in their giant footsteps, I coach my sons’ basketball teams. It brings me so much joy to watch them mature in their skills and learn how to be better teammates.

It takes a lot of work—for them and for me. Hours in the gym practicing alone and with teammates, drills, shooting, honing, sharpening. Hours of teaching, guiding, encouraging, even in the losses—especially in the losses.

It’s not always easy to keep up the grind, but because we are so passionate about the sport, we understand we have to put in the work to keep bettering ourselves and our team.

**ANOTHER TEAM I AM PROUD** to be a part of is the National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM). This board spends hour upon hour working with the College to help recruit the next generation of Wabash men, and to keep our alumni engaged and connected with our alma mater.

I am inspired to be a part of this journey. I get to hear the stories and endeavors of so many associated with the College—a few of those are shared here in each issue of *Wabash Magazine*. These stories are an active reminder that the cities, towns, states, and countries we all reside in need us. These places need our gifts of talent and time. These places need our ideas, our treasure, and our passions.

Passions drive us intellectually in our career endeavors and steer us at home and in our communities. During our January NAWM Board of Directors meeting, we asked each other, “What are you passionate about outside of work?” The answers, as you might imagine, mirrored the breadth and diversity of our collective Wabash community. Answers included training as an America Ninja Warrior, baking bread, coaching, blogging, biking, managing a child actor, photography, cooking, producing music videos, and being an equestrian.

These are just a small portion of the passions of the NAWM board members. Mind you, this is an alumni board that boasts a group of professionals including a presidential appointee to help lead the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), a professor at Chicago State University, a managing director at Guy Carpenter, an internal medicine physician in New York City, managers for KPMG and Boston Consultant Group, the CMO for Stitch Fix, a partner at Barnes & Thornburg, a Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer in the U.S. Army, and multiple presidents and CEOs of small businesses.

The dialogue on the board’s personal passions provided a reminder that the story of Wabash College and all associated with it continues to be a work in progress. What makes this community a good place is not that people leave Wabash and are successful in a chosen vocation. It is more than that. It is because those people continue to lead incredible lives even outside their chosen vocations. Lives that are focused on helping and bringing joy to others.

The Wabash community is powered by passions.

Time and again, the Wabash alumni community does indeed fill the gap so the next generation of teachers, doctors, lawyers, artists, and business leaders can flourish. We help students get internships all over the globe. We work to ensure that our students get a good start in their professional lives—many being hired by Wabash graduates. We assist them in getting into their vocation or graduate and professional schools of choice.



Kip Chase '03 with his father, Alan Chase, at a Wabash game in 2002.

This is why the Wabash alumni network consistently ranks at the top nationally. *Princeton Review* ranked Wabash No. 1 for “Best Alumni Network” and No. 3 for “Best Internship Opportunities.” *Forbes Magazine* says, “Wabash ranks No. 9 in schools with the Happiest, Most Successful Alumni.”

Why is this? Why does this place continue to be one of impact on students during their four years on campus, and one of lifelong commitment thereafter?

Look across the breadth of our Wabash community. The Wabash community is powered by passions. The Wabash experience shapes classrooms, public policy, scientific exploration, artistic expression, and economic sustainability across the globe.

This has been the case for more than 190 years. And our journey continues to push us to live and lead in a way that leaves the world better off than we found it.

What are you passionate about?

Kip Chase '03 | President, National Association of Wabash Men

Stephen Miller '64

Stephen G. Miller, 79, died August 11, 2021, in Ancient Nemea, Greece.

Born June 22, 1942, he studied ancient Greek at Wabash and classical archaeology at Princeton University. While attending Wabash, he was a member of Phi Kappa Psi and Student Senate.

He was a professor of classical archaeology at University of California at Berkeley and director of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens (1982–87). His work emphasized the central place of ancient sport in the life of the Greek city-states.

He demonstrated his belief in practice through the modern Nemean Games, which are a major draw in the town and customarily close with a communal meal in honor of all participants.

Miller was one of the most important figures involved in the archaeology of ancient Greece, and the founder of the Society for the Revival of the Nemean Games. His name stands alongside some of the finest Greek archaeologists in the country.

He is survived by his wife, Effie.

A Remembrance

Stephen Miller '64 was a giant in the field of classical archaeology. I became familiar with his name when I first visited Greece in 1999 as a graduate student, having won a fellowship to study at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. The point of the fellowship was to visit major archaeological sites and museums around Greece, and as I did so, I began to learn what a powerhouse the Wabash classics department was. I trekked up Cretan mountains on the heels of Tom Brogan '88, and learned of the legendary hospitality of John Fischer, and the prolific scholarship of Leslie Day and Joe Day. Yet one name stood out especially during that year of immersion: Stephen Miller. Stephen is best known for his work at the Sanctuary of Zeus at Nemea, the site of one of the four Crown Games, where he directed excavations from 1971 to 2004 while professor of classical archaeology at the UC Berkeley.

He wrote many books, most famously on ancient athletics, including *Arete: Greek Sports from Ancient Sources and Ancient Greek Athletics*, and he was well known among scholars in Greece.



Stephen Miller '64 explaining the Temple of Zeus.

I did not meet Stephen that year; in fact, I would not meet him in person until 2018 when I, now a professor of classics at his alma mater, led Wabash students to Nemea for an immersion course on Greek religion. Stephen, wearing a Wabash shirt, welcomed us with enthusiasm, as he did many Wabash guests over the years. He regaled us with stories of his exciting discoveries, such as the ancient stadium with its mechanized starting blocks and a spectacular tunnel inscribed with ancient graffiti, through which athletes processed. He told us about his victory in bringing back the Nemean Games, which have been run in their modern iteration since 1996 and will be run again in 2022. It’s hard to overlook the coincidence that Stephen’s own name is related to the Greek word for crown, *stephanos*, the very prize given to winners in the Crown Games.

As a result of that Wabash trip, Stephen and I began a lovely correspondence. He would send me his latest publications as well as reminiscences about his alma mater. In his final email to me, on July 4, 2021, he wrote about how Nemea, with its striking architecture, was proving an attractive location for high-power ad campaigns by Vogue and Dior. He found that amusing.

In that same email, he mentioned a recent interview that in retrospect seems prescient: “A month ago a TV reporter gathering material for her program asked me, for reasons I do not understand, ‘Are you afraid of death?’ I responded that if Socrates was not afraid, how could I be? When I returned home I pulled down my textbook of the *Apology*, which I read with Dr. Jack Charles in 1961. There was my answer in the last sentence of the attached.”

Stephen attached a scan of the Greek text with annotations he must have made while studying with Jack Charles at Wabash. That last sentence of the *Apology* can be translated: “The hour of departure has come, and we go our separate ways, I to die and you to live. Which is better, only god knows.”

Tributes by the prime minister of Greece and the president of Greece on the occasion of his death attest to Stephen’s enormous impact in the field of classics and within Greece more broadly. He was a true philhellene: a lover of Greece. He was also a proud Wabash alumnus who had deep affection for his alma mater. *Requiescat in pace.* —Professor of Classics and Department Chair Bronwen Wickkiser

As director at the American School, Steve was an iconoclast, bringing to the sometimes stuffy, elitist School a breath of Wabash openness and egalitarianism. We witnessed this in person, since we were in residence at the School in 1984–85. For the long-term professional health of the School, the most important thing Steve did was his courageous decision, not without controversy, to open up the previously rather closed Blegen Library to the Greek and other foreign scholarly community. And the School has never looked back; that decision has had profound positive impacts, bringing School members into closer contact and collaboration with Greek and other foreign colleagues on a regular basis.

Steve was equally generous with his time for my Wabash immersion trip, in spring 2011, in connection with his seminar on ancient Greek athletics. Not only did he guide us around the site of Nemea, but he invited the entire group to his house in modern Nemea for lunch. —Professor of Classics Emeritus Joseph Day

Steve was director of the American School when I and my colleagues were applying for a permit to excavate at Kavousi. Steve was enormously helpful to the project and supportive of our work. That meant that he was instrumental in providing archaeological experience to numerous Wabash students who worked with me at Kavousi—paying it forward for the next generation of Wabash men! —Professor of Classics Emeritus Leslie Day

When I arrived at Wabash in 1964, I heard lots about Steve Miller from the redoubtable Jack Charles and Ted Bedrick. I did not meet him until a year or two later when Dean Steve Kurtz said that I must get to Greece and sent me there. I heard about Steve, but he was off working. In 1969–70, I went to Greece during the second semester and met Steve and his wife at the time and spent a happy semester with them and many other ASCSA people who were there that year. He was a popular and vital part of the School family. —Professor of Classics Emeritus John Fischer



Stephen Miller '64 helping his students visualize where the interior columns of the temple stood.



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**David Phillips was a brilliant chemist who fell in love with Wabash, a place that asked him—and allowed him—to try to do things he never would have done at any other college.**

by **Jim Amidon '87**

**D**AVID PHILLIPS H'83 was a freshly minted PhD teaching chemistry in Ankara, Turkey, and soaking up Turkish culture and cuisine when he got a call from legendary Wabash chemistry Professor Ed Haenisch, who inquired if he might be interested in teaching at Wabash College.

In spite of never having visited Indiana, much less Wabash, Phillips accepted the offer and moved with his wife, Pru, to Crawfordsville in 1968.

What transpired over the next half-century can only be described as a man falling in love with an institution and its people, contributing endlessly for the benefit of students and colleagues on the faculty. It would not be possible to document Phillips' impact on Wabash over his lifetime, nor would it be possible to articulate the gifts Wabash gave to Phillips, who eagerly became a quintessential liberal artist.

He came to understand that teaching at Wabash was his calling.

"It certainly became increasingly obvious to me that Wabash let me be something other than a chemist and that was very good for me," Phillips said in a conversation shortly before he died in March of 2021. "I was able to become involved with the athletics department, played violin in the chamber orchestra, and gave medieval talks [on the fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem]. Yes, Wabash was my calling. I loved teaching my freshman tutorial on World War I, and I learned so much that I never would have known if I hadn't taught Cultures and Traditions."

Phillips smiled broadly under his "Wabash Always Fights" face mask as he recalled conversations with religion Professor Eric Dean H'61 and psychology Professor Eldon Parks, who broadened his thinking and worldview.

But it all started with chemistry, and Phillips was the professor most Wabash men of his time had for either physical chemistry or general chemistry. He later created the senior capstone course for chemistry majors,

Advanced Inorganic Chemistry (Chem 13), which he taught for 36 years. But he was always experimenting with pedagogy, and the course evolved to prepare Wabash men to become world-class doctors, scientists, and researchers through a combination of lectures, seminar-style discussions, library research, peer-to-peer teaching, and lab work.

"I experimented with pedagogy in that class all my life," he recalled. "I can't say enough how my career was rejuvenated by student-centered teaching. I loved the challenge of figuring out how to help the guys learn, and we discovered that they are well served when they teach one another. I like to think on my feet, and in a lecture you don't have to do that."

As Phillips neared retirement—having served as faculty athletic representative, chairing Cultures and Traditions, and leading the budget committee, among other things—President Andy Ford H'03 asked him to lead the planning and construction of Hays Science Hall and, later, the renovation of Goodrich Hall.

Ford frequently said, "With David on that project, I can be sure that it will be done correctly." And it was. Hays Hall has plenty of natural light pouring into wide hallways and nooks with chalkboards for serendipitous encounters and study sessions. Teaching labs have common hallways that connect them so students can slip in and out to share equipment. And faculty have independent research labs to facilitate their scholarship as well as undergraduate research.

When no longer teaching, Phillips became a dedicated researcher who spent hundreds of hours in the Ramsay Archives reading and writing about the College's history. He wrote scores of articles and handbooks, including a history of campus buildings and detailed biographies of the College's presidents, founders, and early scientists. He also edited and completed a sprawling history of Wabash athletics, *Some Little Giants*, by Max Servies '58.

"When I retired from teaching, I knew I was done being a chemist, so I looked around for things to do," he said. "The more I researched, the more I realized that Wabash had a rich history that many people knew nothing about. You develop a passion for something and you can't always explain why. But I found these to be stories worth sharing."

One particular research project focused on endowed professorships that had lapsed over time, which included the names and biographies of the original donors and all of the faculty who held the professorships until they faded into memory.

"Each department in Division I lost one professorship after World War II," Phillips said. "I thought it was unfair that some of the major donors to the College had been forgotten. Edwin Peck, Chauncy Rose, Simon Yandes—these men donated money to pay Edmund Hovey and Caleb Mills and John Lyle Campbell, some of the great men of the 19th century. And these professorships are now gone."

Phillips applauded the way the College's endowment was managed and thought Wabash had an opportunity through the Giant Steps Campaign to find donors willing to reinstate the lapsed professorships. And he led by example. His estate gift to Wabash restored the Edwin J. Peck Professorship in Chemistry. The gift honors Peck's role as a major benefactor during the College's first 50 years.

Peck's connection to Wabash began when he married Mary Thomson, whose brothers' and nephews' names are inscribed on the Thomson Memorial Seat, aka, the Senior Bench. Peck served on the Board of Trustees for 23 years, during which time he contributed funds to establish the Peck Professor of Chemistry and for the construction of Peck Scientific Hall.

"My intention [with my bequest gift] was to restore Peck's name as a major donor to the College in the 19th century," Phillips said. "I have a pretty strong sense of justice and injustice. It seems so unfair to those original donors—and to the early recipients of the professorships, who were all major figures in our College."

**"I was able to become involved with the athletics department, played violin in the chamber orchestra, and gave medieval talks [on the fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem]. Yes, Wabash was my calling."**



Henry R. Thomson (1877–84) was the first of 10 members of the faculty to hold the Peck Professorship, which was last held by Lloyd "Doc" Howell from 1940 to 1959.

Now known as the Edwin J. Peck/David A. Phillips Professorship, it is awarded by the president of the College to a faculty member who "demonstrates a profound commitment to teaching and mentoring undergraduate students, leadership, excellence in the discipline of chemistry, and an understanding of chemistry's role in the broader context of the liberal arts and its value and application in life and the course and progress of history."

In addition to reestablishing the Peck/Phillips Professorship, the College has named a chemistry lab to honor David and Pru Phillips for their lives devoted to education.

David and Pru were married for 49 years. She taught chemistry and math at Crawfordsville High School for 29 years and inspired many of her students to pursue careers in science and medicine. "She never planned to be a high school teacher," David recalled, "but on a whim, she started substitute teaching and she found that she loved it. She had such a natural way in the classroom. When that teenage exuberance would bubble up, she could always tamp it down in a nice way."





**Top:** David Phillips H’83 with the chemistry department faculty in 2010. **Left:** Phillips at Big Bash 2019. **Right:** Phillips delivering a Chapel Talk in 2010.

“Pru had such an impact on her students. As much as any Wabash professor I have known, she was a person who genuinely changed lives.”

After Pru’s death in 2009, Phillips dove headlong into researching Wabash history. While fascinated by Byron Trippet and his book, *Wabash on My Mind*, Phillips was drawn to founder Edmund Hovey, who, like Phillips, taught chemistry, but also rhetoric, mathematics, and moral science.

“My hero was Hovey, who really was *the man* when it comes to Wabash history, and so I thought I would start with him. I gave a Chapel Talk titled ‘In the beginning, there was Hovey,’” Phillips said.

And in that Chapel Talk, Phillips quoted a tribute to his Wabash hero given in 1882—50 years after the College’s founding:

“Hovey was an enthusiastic teacher, taking the greatest pleasure not only in the studious youth, but in a chemical experiment and in a geological specimen... He was an elegant writer, a graceful speaker, and an entertaining conversationalist... There was a quiet dignity in his manner that restrained boys in the classroom, who elsewhere were rude, and developed in them a politeness that had not been manifested away from his presence.”



Reflecting on Phillips’ more than half-century of service to Wabash, it’s easy to see many parallels between the careers of the two brilliant men who did so much to shape and preserve the College’s rich history. ■

2021–22 Wabash College  
Endowed Academic Professorships and Chairs

**John W. Bachmann-Edward Jones Chair in Economics and Leadership:**  
Professor of Economics Frank Howland

**Eugene N. and Marian C. Beesley Chair:**  
Professor of History Stephen Morillo H’91

**The Stephen S. Bowen Professorship in the Liberal Arts:**  
Professor of Religion Derek Nelson ’99

**John P. Collett Chair in Rhetoric:**  
Professor of English Agata Szczeszak-Brewer

**Lawrence E. DeVore Professor of Economics:**  
Associate Professor of Economics Peter Mikek

**Daniel F. Evans Associate Professor in the Social Sciences:**  
Professor of Political Science Shamira Gelbman

**Andrew T. and Anne Ford Chair in the Liberal Arts:**  
Professor of Classics Jeremy Hartnett ’96

**Jane and Frederic M. Hadley Chair in History:**  
Associate Professor of History Richard Warner H’13

**William J. and Wilma M. Haines Professorship and Chair in Biochemistry:**  
Associate Professor of Chemistry Walter Novak

**Lloyd B. Howell Professor of Chemistry:**  
Professor of Chemistry Lon Porter

**Charles D. and Elizabeth S. LaFollette Distinguished Professor of Humanities Chair:**  
Professor of Philosophy Cheryl Hughes

**David A. Moore Chair in American History:**  
Associate Professor of History Sabrina Thomas

**Edwin J. Peck/David A. Phillips Professorship in Chemistry:**  
Associate Professor of Chemistry Laura Wysocki

**John H. Schroeder Interdisciplinary Chair in Economics:**  
Professor of Economics Joyce Burnette

**Anne Korb Shane and David N. Shane Professorship in the Liberal Arts:**  
Assistant Professor of Computer Science Mark McCartin-Lim

**Norman E. Treves Professor of Biology:**  
Professor of Biology Amanda Ingram

**Tom and Anne Walsh Professor of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics:**  
Assistant Professor of Economics Nicholas Snow

About Endowed Funds at Wabash

From generation to generation, alumni and friends of the College have provided resources that enable Wabash to fulfill its enduring mission and offer an unparalleled, residential liberal arts living and learning experience. Gifts that establish endowed funds are invested in the College’s pooled endowment and rely on investment growth of principal to generate an amount available annually for the purpose of the endowed fund. Endowed funds further strengthen the financial foundation of Wabash by freeing up other unrestricted funds so that those dollars may be used for unmet needs. The Wabash endowment gives the College the power to do giant things—like compete for the world’s best, brightest, and most deserving students; fund innovative research; and create opportunities for students and faculty to explore giant ideas on the Wabash campus and across the globe.

Needs for endowed funds include the following areas:

Endowed Scholarships

Currently, dedicated scholarships cover only 10 percent of student financial aid. Most aid is funded through the annual operating budget (half of which comes from annual endowment distributions). Wabash seeks, as its first priority, philanthropic investments to sustain our ability to attract and enroll men suited for the challenge we offer. Needed are additional permanently endowed scholarship funds for need-based and merit-based scholarships. The endowed scholarship minimum of \$100,000 yields approximately \$5,000 in annual scholarship support. Every \$1 million in scholarship endowment yields about \$50,000, or a full-tuition annual scholarship.

Endowed Faculty Professorships and Chairs

Recruiting, developing, and retaining faculty who carry forward the College’s legacy of teaching excellence is essential to Wabash’s future. Equally important are resources that enhance the full range of faculty activity and support good teaching and student engagement. Accordingly, Wabash seeks investments in endowed faculty chairs and professorships. Endowed professorships can be funded with gifts totaling \$1 million or more and endowed faculty chairs with gifts of \$3 million or more.

Endowed Funds to Enhance the Wabash Student Experience

Student-faculty research, courses with an immersive travel component, student internships, and experiential learning opportunities through co-curricular initiatives like Global Health and Democracy and Public Discourse all enhance the Wabash liberal arts experience. Wabash invites gifts to create additional endowed funds that support student experiences, academic departments, and co-curricular initiatives, and will establish dedicated endowed funds for these areas with gifts of \$100,000 or more.

How Are Endowed Funds Managed and Invested?

The Investment Policy Committee of the Wabash Board of Trustees, including the chief financial officer of the College, determines the endowment investment and management policies. Wabash partners with Strategic Investment Group (SIG), an institutional Outsourced Chief Investment Officer (OCIO). SIG serves as a co-fiduciary and provides a comprehensive investment platform for managing customized endowment portfolios, which allows Wabash to focus on its mission.

Wabash distributes income from endowed funds in a manner consistent with Indiana’s Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (“UPMIFA”), the College’s 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, and its policies and procedures regarding spending and distributions from endowment funds of the College. The annual amount available for distributions to award from endowed funds is typically held to approximately 4.5% to 5.5% of the fund’s average market value over the past 12 quarters.

Endowed funds can be established through a combination of outright and deferred gifts. Minimums listed are for an endowed fund to be used in full by the College. Endowed funds are one way to create a permanent legacy at Wabash for you, your family, or a loved one. Funds can also be named to honor or memorialize someone who has had a positive impact on your life.

If you would like to start a discussion about establishing an endowed fund or adding to an existing fund, contact the Wabash Advancement Office at [advancement@wabash.edu](mailto:advancement@wabash.edu) or 877-743-4545.



# “There Couldn’t Be a Greater Honor”

by Matthew VanTryon

## JANE HARDY LIVED IN SPAIN FOR A YEAR.

She lived in Slovenia for five. She taught in China for three summers. She taught in France for one. She has traveled with students and faculty to Ecuador as part of the Wabash Summer Study Program since 2008.

But Wabash College will always be home. Hardy, an associate professor of Spanish and department chair, is the 2021 McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Excellence in Teaching Award winner.

“There couldn’t be a greater honor,” Hardy says. “It’s especially humbling because I teach at a school with so many really talented and dedicated teachers. It makes me grateful to my colleagues because I learned a lot from them. It makes me feel motivated to keep working at it.”

Whether she’s teaching in her Detchon Center classroom or halfway across the globe, the trait she tries to instill in her students remains the same.

“It comes down to empathy,” she says. “If someone has never interacted with people who come from somewhere else and who live in different circumstances, it’s really hard to see refugees at the border and understand what they’ve gone through—to understand the hardships, the suffering, and the dire living conditions that would prompt someone to walk hundreds and hundreds of miles to try to cross a border.

“Living abroad helps people to develop that empathy and to understand other people’s living conditions. It’s hard to develop that empathy if we don’t have close personal interactions.

Dean of the College Todd McDorman praises Hardy’s teaching.

“Professor Hardy’s dedication as a teacher serves as a model for us all. She is a teacher’s teacher who constantly strives to improve her classroom practice, someone whose personal research is invested in questions of effective pedagogy,” McDorman says. “She expands students’ horizons and pushes them to encounter the wider world and become global citizens. To that end, Professor Hardy is a staunch supporter of international education. She is also caring, empathetic, always there for students, an important part



“We live in a global society. In order to be effective in your career and in your future, you have to be accustomed to interacting with people who are different from you in all variety of ways.”

of their support network. She is a steadfast ally to students from diverse backgrounds and LGBTQ+ students.”

Hardy recognizes the value in pushing students outside of their comfort zone. When she takes students abroad each year, she frequently travels with students who are flying on an airplane or outside the country for the first time. While some students express hesitancy, the risk is always rewarded.

Some of the benefits are academic. Hardy specializes in linguistics. No amount of classroom experience can replicate being fully immersed in a culture.

“Their language skills improve tremendously when they’re immersed in the language 24/7 more so than if they’re here in the classroom three or four hours a week,” she says. “There’s just no comparison.”

But the biggest impact comes in other ways. When they visit Ecuador, students who have never used public transportation learn to navigate the capital city of a country 3,000 miles from home. They return to campus confident in their abilities to navigate their surroundings.

“We live in a global society. In order to be effective in your career and in your future, you have to be accustomed to interacting with people who are different from you in all variety of ways,” she says. “They come back being more world citizens than they were when they left. It does give them a different perspective on the United States, what we have here, and maybe cultural values that are different. Maybe they start to see things we do that they’re not satisfied with.”

Her father, Charles Hardy, graduated from the College in 1955. She joined the Wabash faculty in 2006 and is married to Associate Professor of Economics Peter Mikek, who won the McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Excellence in Teaching Award in 2020.

She calls it “a coincidence” that she and her husband ended up teaching at the institution she heard so much about when growing up. But maybe it’s where she was meant to end up all along.

“We’re a Wabash family,” says Hardy.

“Peter and I are both very much devoted to the institution. Now I understand why my father has always loved Wabash so much. It’s a unique place. It’s a special place.”



photo by Kim Johnson

# Derek Mong Awarded Tenure

by Ethan Brown ’24

**AT THE AGE OF 17**, Derek Mong attended the Reynolds Young Writers Workshop at Denison University, where he discovered his passion for poetry.

“I started realizing that this hard, hard thing, the hardest thing I’ve ever done on paper, making poems, was something that I wanted to keep trying,” Mong says.

He then attended Denison for his undergraduate degree, where he studied poetry and photography. In the end poetry won out because Mong says he had “phenomenal teachers in the English department.”

Mong went on to get his PhD at Stanford University and joined the Wabash faculty in 2016. The newly tenured professor explains why poetry is so moving:

“When we read a poem, even if we read it silently, we’re moving our mouth, our tongue, and our teeth to create sounds. If we read it out loud, it’s really obvious; I’m moving my lips, I might even be moving my hands. Your body becomes an act or part of the poem. When I pick up an Emily Dickinson poem and read it, my mouth, tongue, and lips are doing something that Emily Dickinson’s mouth, lips, and tongue did. So, you get to commune with those people, and to put their words in your mouth, becoming them. That’s the thing I find most exciting about poetry.”

Mong said Wabash is special to him because it is “a uniquely supportive place.” He has been trying to get this message to potential new professors. He believes that there is great cross-departmental collaboration. Mong tells people from other universities about how good his relationship is with the College and his colleagues.

Now that Mong has been awarded tenure, he is tackling longer projects, writing a handful of long poems, including one focused on the Pacific Ocean and the psychological effects of living by oceans. He has started research, but not writing. He also wants to write a poem about medieval poet Lawrence of Durham, and he wants to travel to Durham, England, to research. He is in the process of publishing a book of essays on poetry.

When Mong was on an immersion trip to Athens, Greece, with the College, he received what would become one of his most prized possessions. Before he left for the trip, his son wrote him a series of letters, one for each day he’d be gone. Mong said, “They were so adorable... They are a 7-year-old’s writing and mind. And to have that captured in a little stack of letters that I got to open one at a time, that’s irreplaceable.”



Paul Schmitt Awarded Tenure

WM: When did you first realize that you wanted to study chemistry?

PS: Probably when I was about 14. I had been interested in engineering in middle school, and then I took a physical science course at my high school. I had a phenomenal teacher and became enamored with so-called pure science, rather than more applied disciplines like engineering. The irony is that everything you learn at that age is pretty far removed from what I do now as an analytical chemist. Building instrumentation, aligning optics, writing programs for data analysis—like many analytical chemists, I sometimes feel more like an engineer after all.

Why is Wabash special to you?

After attending Hillsdale College, another small liberal arts college, I knew I wanted to teach at a similar type of institution. Visiting Wabash, I recognized immediately the student-first collaborative feel I was looking for. I was also very thankful for the personal relationships I developed with faculty during my own education, and Wabash seemed like a wonderful place to pay that forward. Finally, it was clear Wabash students took pride in hard work—what a joy as an instructor to have students like this.

What would you tell someone that is skeptical about studying chemistry in college?

I speak from my own experience when I say that, somehow, the average student today hasn't developed the intellectual fortitude and tenacity to struggle through solving problems. Students seem scared of problems, classes, and disciplines for which the answer to questions isn't immediately clear to them, or may require some trial and error. Chemistry doesn't have a monopoly on these characteristics, but I do think the hard sciences have a way of scaring off more students for this reason. If you can understand 2+2=4, there's no reason you can't succeed in the sciences. All that is required is the patience and hard work to break a more complicated problem down into multiple steps that are as simple as this basic arithmetic. Have confidence in your abilities and don't be afraid to try something and fail. I've learned to really relish such moments, intellectually. You're never actively learning as much as when you figure out a way to not do something.

What are your research interests?

Currently, my lab is working on problems in agrochemical development. In collaboration with Corteva Agriscience in Indianapolis, we're using analytical instrumentation to improve the fungicide formulation process. We're using a nonlinear laser microscopy method called second harmonic generation (SHG), together with high-performance liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (HPLC-MS) to characterize formulation behavior after application to crops.

I also have a growing interest in wine chemistry stemming from my immersion course, The Chemistry of Wine. The field of chemical wine analysis is, in many ways, still in its infancy. Interesting problems and projects abound.

What is something outside of chemistry that you are passionate about?

I probably have too many hobbies that I'm extremely passionate about! Fly-fishing, playing music, cooking, rock climbing, and collecting wine all come to mind. I'm really drawn to hobbies that facilitate lifelong learning and continual opportunities for improvement. I also enjoy working with my hands, and most recently have been building a "teardrop" camper from a kit my fiancé, Rachel, and I purchased last fall. After our wedding in June, we are taking the camper on a grand adventure, a two-month road trip all around the western U.S.

photo by Kim Johnson

Quick Notes

Professor of Rhetoric **Jennifer Abbott** and co-author Cory Geraths' paper, "Modern Masculinities: Resistance to Hegemonic Masculinity in *Modern Family*," was published in the *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric*.



Associate Professor of Biology **Brad Carlson** had the paper, "Effects of the herbicide metolachlor and fish presence on pond mesocosm communities," published with co-authors **Charles Mettler '18**, **Miguel Aguirre-Morales '19**, **Justin Harmeson '18**, and **William Robinson '19** in the journal *The American Midland Naturalist*.



Associate Professor of Philosophy **Matt Carlson's** paper, "Skepticism and the Digital Information Environment," was published in the *SATS - Northern European Journal of Philosophy*.



Department Chair and Associate Professor of Rhetoric **Sara Drury** and co-author Tim Shaffer wrote the commentary essay, "Democracy's Challenge Calls for Communication's Response," for the *Communication Education Forum on Civic Engagement and Student Learning* in 2021.



Wabash College President and Professor of Chemistry **Scott E. Feller**, along with co-authors Samuel W. Canner and Stephen R. Wassall were published in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*.



Associate Professor of English **Eric Freeze's** book, *French Dive*, was recognized as one of the "Best Indie Biographies and Memoirs of 2021" by *Kirkus Reviews*.



Associate Professor of Political Science **Ethan Hollander** is in the final stages of completing a 24-lecture course for Wondrium (formerly known as The Great Courses Plus). The course will be called Democracy and Its Alternatives. The course has a tentative release date of August 2022.

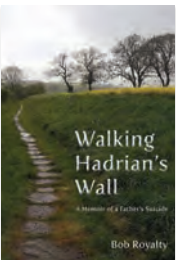
The essay, "How our greatest poets found America riding public transportation," by Professor of English **Derek Mong**, was published in the *Los Angeles Times*.



The paper, "Fathers' parenting and coparenting behavior in dual-earner families: Contributions of traditional masculinity, father nurturing role beliefs, and maternal gate closing," was published in *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*. Authors were Associate Professor of Psychology **Eric Olofson** and S. J. Schoppe-Sullivan, K. Shafer, and C. M. Kamp Dush.



Assistant Professor of English **Elan Pavlinich** was recently named winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Medieval Academy of America. **Bill Cook '66** was the inaugural winner of this award 2003. Pavlinich and his students also recently worked with the local archives at the Crawfordsville District Public Library to construct a narrative map of diverse stories featured in our community.



Based on his LaFollette Lecture, Professor of History and Religion **Bob Royalty's** book, *Walking Hadrian's Wall: A Memoir of a Father's Suicide*, was published last summer.

Department Chair and Associate Professor of Philosophy **Adriel Trott's** "Saving the Appearances of Plato's Cave" was published on *Brill*.



"A wind of change in the Windy City: Chicanos in Chicago," a paper by Associate Dean of Students **Marc Welch '99**, was selected for presentation at the 2022 American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) annual conference.



Assistant Professor of Theater **Heidi Winters Vogel**, along with Jordan Rosin, published "Storytelling on Screen: An Online Playback Theatre Archive and Guidebook" on the online Open Educational Resource by Virginia Tech. Also, Winters Vogel's chapter, "Building Participatory Theatre in a Time of COVID," was published in Routledge's *Undergraduate Research in Theatre* about the October 2020 production of *The Race* at Wabash. The chapter was co-authored with **Paul Haesemeyer '21**, **Mitchell "Ace" Dzurovcik '22**, and Goshen College student Abigail Greaser.



Several faculty were named Equity and Inclusion Pedagogy Fellows. Congratulations to professors **Christie Byun**, **Sara Drury**, **Jane Hardy**, **Cara Healy**, **Peter Mikek**, **Derek Nelson**, **Elan Pavlinich**, **Sujata Saha**, **Adriel Trott**, **Heidi Walsh**, **Bronwen Wickkiser**, **Sarin Williams**, **Shamira Gelbman**, **Ethan Hollander**, **Heidi Winters-Vogel**, **Eric Wetzels**, and **Laura Wysocki**.



## Too Old for Soccer

by **Scott Dreher '82**

“Aren’t you too old to be playing soccer?” asks the woman behind me in line at Starbucks a little past noon on Sunday.

No doubt she can smell the grass and dirt embedded in my sky-blue official replica Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper jersey. My hair is matted and sweaty. She sees my shorts with dried-in dirt and my socks stained and wet, scraped scabby knees and a bruised shin. My left pinky finger, perhaps broken, is wrapped in tape. My shoulder hurts so badly I can’t lift my arm; my nose and jaw are numb from blocking a shot late in the match. I think I have cracked bones. My right ankle aches, so I lean to my left. She can’t possibly know that I’ll need a metal hip soon. Perhaps she hears my neck crunch when I turn my head to answer?

“Well, I’m a goalkeeper,” I reply, avoiding the question, “and we don’t hit our prime until age 35.”

I’m well past my prime.

Today we played the Korean team, which is at least six places ahead of us in our 48+ “Senior” Division. Seems like every team we play is six places ahead of us. Small, fast, and fit, they didn’t stop running for 90 minutes. We lost 2–0. But we are getting better. Our lads hustled, passed well, and almost scored a few times, despite our lack of anything resembling a world-class striker. I crushed my punts, and a couple of my goal kicks reached midfield. And I made two or three good saves, a few more ugly ones, and no boneheaded mistakes.

“Yeah...? And...?” she says, pushing for an answer. She can’t possibly know that the handwritten “1969” in the DOB-year box on my League Application should be a “1960.”

The four Advils I swallowed before the match are wearing off. I’m exhausted and I can feel every ache, break, scrape, bump, and bruise. I can’t wait until next week’s match.

“No,” I finally answer. “Not too old at all.”

## Carnahan, Ellis, Hovey, Thomson & Thomson

Gregory D. Hess—January 29, 2022

*Read on the occasion of the unveiling of his presidential portrait*

It fits into a snow globe  
I thought at first sight  
A dream of a college  
dreamt by a college  
conceived as a college  
by five men  
as they knelt in the snow  
and prayed for just such a place  
that would rise into being  
as the wants of the country demanded

How could they have known  
that their devotion and simple gift would still echo and linger  
in many voices that still and fill the silence  
That lives and hearts would be changed and made anew,  
only to be ultimately launched  
back into the illuminated pitch-black night  
beyond the dome that had protected them as students

How could they have known  
that many would return home, together, years later  
to hear the creak and moan of the stairs  
the whisper of the stage  
the cries from the stands  
the clash of the Bell  
the fight of the song  
To share once more stories of the Sea of Red  
that had biblically parted many first essays  
though, truth be told,  
only momentarily their authors’ outsized confidence  
Or of being comprehensively revealed  
by faculty who had vitally shaped the clay  
that many had and would become

How could they have known  
that when many sit to dream  
quiet enough and long enough  
wherever each may find themselves to be  
Knowing all remain together,  
that none are truly ever alone  
The sound once more  
of gentle snow can be heard  
falling inside the quiet of the pitch-black dome  
wrung from the hands and hearts  
of those who cared to dream



photo by Anna Tiplick

**Gregory D. Hess**, the 16th president of Wabash College, at the ceremonial portrait unveiling, recited a poem he had written. Hess interviewed on campus in January 2013—it was brutally cold when he and his wife, Lora, arrived from California. When he greeted the campus community in the Chapel, he said he felt like Wabash would fit into a snow globe.





**CHERNOBYL AND PRIPYAT**

The first time **Jason Hand '94** attempted to tour Chernobyl was in 2007, but he couldn't get government permission. He was set to go in 2012. The night before, it was canceled.

"Finally, in 2017, I showed up at the train station, seven o'clock in the morning to get on a bus that took 10 of us out there for a day tour," says Hand. "They said, 'Touch nothing. Don't move anything.' My wife made me promise I wouldn't bring any clothes home, so, I wore clothes that I just threw in the trash."

The Chernobyl explosion happened when Hand was 13 years old. "As a teenager, it was just horrific," he says. "I wanted to go back later and conquer my fear, go see what it was really like."

Looking at images and reading stories since the beginning of the "special military operations" in Ukraine, Hand says, "In a way [the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant] was weaponized. This was a mausoleum to a disaster. I think we came really close to revisiting that disaster."

**Left:** A mural on the side of the post office building in Pripjat. The city was built to house the employees of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. **Top right:** An amusement park in the center of the city. **Bottom left to right:** A gymnasium in a school, the city sign entering Pripjat, a monument at the power plant dedicated to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.



photos by Jason Hand '94



# Wabash

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photo by Anna Tiplick

## LAST GLANCE

**Jack Davidson '22** and Head Basketball Coach **Kyle Brumett** at the conclusion of the quarterfinal game against Illinois Wesleyan University, on March 11, 2022. The win over the Titans secured the Little Giants' spot among the final four teams in the Division III National Tournament. The team finished the season 28-4.