

Wabash

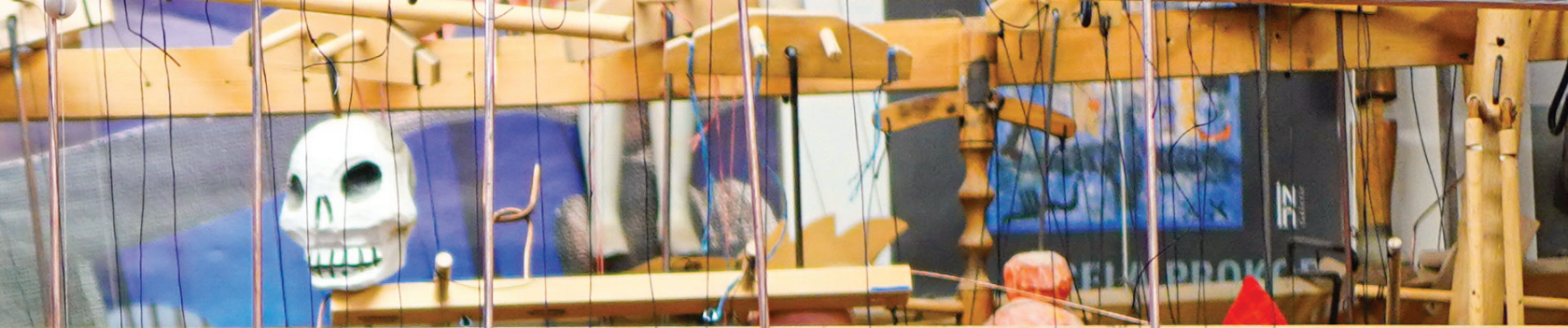
MAGAZINE



ALWAYS WABASH

THE JOURNAL OF WABASH COLLEGE | SPRING 2023





Nine Wabash students spent a week in November in Prague in the workshop of puppet master Myric Trejtnar. The semester-long course, *Puppets in Prague*, taught by Costume Designer Andrea Bear, focused on the history of Czech puppetry and its place in the larger culture of the Czech Republic. The final project was a culmination of research, design, and creation that included 40 hours in the studio learning to hand-carve linden wood using chisels to transform it into Czech-style marionettes. The finishing touches were the costumes created back on campus.

Working alongside Trejtnar and other master artists provided a deeper understanding of the native culture and identity of Czechia through the lens of an ever-present medium in central European countries.

Jacob Paige '23 traveled with the group as a documentarian on behalf of the Communications and Marketing Office. This was a final project—a capstone—of sorts for Paige who has worked as a photographer, videographer, and writer in the office since fall 2019. Read more about his experience on [page 72](#).

CONTENTS

FEATURES

16

Media Managed
by Richard Paige

18

**Five Miles to the
Middle East**
by Kim Johnson

20

Carving a Path
by Kim Johnson

22

On the Threshold
by Kim Johnson

24

Finding the Answer
by Richard Paige

25

Teaching and Learning

32

Always a Student
by Allie Northcutt

34

Consistent
by Kim Johnson

38

To Coach and Be Coached

42

**'Don't let the demons
pull you down'**
by Allie Northcutt

45

All in the Family

ABOUT THE COVER

William Rolfson '23 admires the interior of the St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, the capitol city of the Czech Republic. Rolfson was a member of Costume Designer Andrea Bear's Puppets in Prague course last fall.

photo by Jacob Paige '23



Dr. Eric Wetzel's BIO 322 Invertebrate Biology course traveled to Belize over Spring Break to study invertebrates along the world's second-longest coral reef. Based at the IZEBelize research facility at South Water Caye, Belize, Dr. Wetzel and seven students snorkeled every day and experienced multiple ecosystems during the seven-day trip. Pictured here along Angel Reef, the students were able to get a fish-eye view of the multitude of invertebrates that call the reef home.

photo by Eric Wetzel

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 From the Editor**
- 7 From Our Readers**
- 8 From Center Hall**
- 10 Moments**
- 48 Works in Progress** | Chase Breau '24 | Cooper Smith '23
- 52 Class Notes** | *The Hadleys* by Nolan Eller '11
| *Lessons From Wabash* by M. Kip Chase '03
| *Belonging* by Steve Hoffman '85
- Remembrances** | *Remington "Rem" A. Johnston III* '55
| *John Fletcher Strickland* '63
| *Jack E. Brown* '69
| *Robert D. Shearer Jr.* '69
| *John Hughes Morrow* '77
| *Dudley Keith Miller* '78
| *Merlin William Nice* '84
| *Margaret "Margie" Zimmerman*
- 71 Faculty and Staff Notes**
- 72 Voices** | *Don't Forget to Look Up*
- 76 Last Glance**

Where Do You Belong?

AT WABASH we talk a lot about belonging.

There are many ways you can belong at Wabash. You can belong to a team, fraternity, course, club or organization, or to a group of rooms in the dorm. You can belong as a member of the alumni, a family, a class year, or as a fan. You can belong as a member of the faculty, staff, or simply a group that has a common affinity.

Once you are part of Wabash, you are always Wabash.

Always.

There are a few things that are always Wabash and even a few that aren't. After all, Wabash is always the sum of its people—the students, the alumni, the faculty, the staff, the families—on our best days and on our worst days.

WABASH HAS ALWAYS been a place that offers a top-notch liberal arts education—one that challenges the minds of its students to critically examine the world around them and the way they interact with and within it. It is a place that dares students to imagine a better life for themselves, their families, communities, and society. It is a place that encourages lifelong learning.

According to our Gentleman's Rule, *students* are expected to conduct themselves as *gentlemen* and responsible citizens at all times, both on and off campus.

Who are our students? And to whom does Wabash's one rule of conduct apply?

Like any good editor who is wrapping up weeks of work on an issue would do, I turned to the best source of information—Google—specifically dictionary.com.

Student: a person formally engaged in learning, any person who studies, investigates, or examines thoughtfully

OK. So, even though I am a member of the Wabash staff, I am also a student. My co-workers, alumni friends, the faculty and children we have who are part of the Wabash family are all considered students as long as we are engaged in learning and studying the world thoughtfully.

Interesting.

Now, how about gentleman?

Gentleman: civilized, educated, sensitive, well-mannered

Gentle: kind; not severe, rough, or violent; to mollify; calm; having or showing pleasant, good-natured personal qualities; affable; to soften in feeling or temper, as a person

I may be female, but when I look at it that way, I similarly strive to those same ideals: educated, civilized, one who is able to soften or bend. Let's face it, the Gentleman's Rule is a pretty good rule of thumb by which to live regardless of what your DNA says.

THERE IS ONE MORE WORD in the Gentleman's Rule that sticks out to me: *expects*.

As I said Wabash is always the sum of its people? On our best days *and* on our worst days.

The reality is that Wabash always *tries* to be welcoming. Wabash always tries to understand, to grow and improve, to help people feel connected. Wabash always tries to be loving and supportive, tries to listen.

But Wabash, as a body of people, doesn't always succeed.

Wabash does always fight though. We fight *for* each other. We fight to get better. Individually and collectively.

What does *always Wabash* mean to you?

Quiet

As usual, I read the Winter 2022 *Wabash Magazine* from cover to cover. I devour each issue as I love reading the rich diversity of topics that bring back a lot of memories and reinforces the fact that Wabash is a special place.

This issue hit a few nerve-memories.

One was **Kim Johnson's** "Silence in the Croi" story (page 10) of how the morning period of solitude had "nothing quiet about the silence" due to human inputs in the space around her.

The story by **Greg Hoch '94** (page 76) brought back memories, especially once I saw the name of my Wabash mentor **Bob Petty**. Bob, like **David Krohne**, gave students a lot more than facts. Bob had a way with words that put nature into a context that elicited deep feelings of beauty and awe. I have taken Bob's messages with me since graduation in 1966. Fortunately, I stumbled into a profession at the Smithsonian that has given me many opportunities to be in landscapes around the world, as well as many, many quiet hours spent in forest and wetland field sites at our facility on the Chesapeake Bay.

The message Bob gave clarifies the issue of what quiet really is. We evolved as a species in environments with little absolute quiet, but the type of quiet that comes with nature. Nature's quiet is the type that is in our genes and the type that we need. Unfortunately, in this modern world, my guess is few of us, including Wabash graduates, experience nature's quiet, and those of us who knew Bob and David are the lucky ones.

One of my most recent amazing quiet times occurred when I was in the middle of a large bog complex on the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska looking for native orchids. As the gentle wind played music in my ears, along with the soft sounds my feet made as I walked across the wetland surface, I heard the distant calls of sandhill cranes. I stopped and stood silently for almost 30 minutes watching and listening to wave after wave of soaring cranes talking to each other on their journey to their wintering grounds in the Lower 48.

The inside front cover of the winter issue of *Wabash Magazine* brought back memories of quietly walking through the Burren in Ireland—also looking for orchids—and the soothing sounds and smells of nature in a spectacular environment. Times like those reaffirm our genetic link to nature and provide the best kind of quiet time possible. Try it.

Dennis Whigham '66

Update

In the Winter 2022 issue, we welcomed **Justin Kopp '21** back home to Wabash as the interim head golf coach (page 28). After the issue went to print, "interim" was removed from his title. Kopp is now the head coach for the Little Giant golf team. Congratulations, Coach Kopp!

Correction

The caption of the photo on page 76 in the Winter 2022 issue accompanying Greg Hoch's essay, "The Tallgrass' Last Few Shadows," is incorrect. The flower is a shooting star, not a royal catchfly. Thanks to David Krohne, photographer and emeritus biology professor, for pointing out our error!

I hope your answer is positive, but I know that's not been the case for everyone all the time—even me.

This issue is full of stories of our students young and old. There's joy, struggle, learning, bending, and lots of growth. Not all of them have always felt like they belong. Some of them still wonder if they do.

The through line—they were given a chance. Someone believed in them and their potential. Someone lifted them up, gave them support and encouragement.

I believe in Wabash as a place and as a people.

I continue to do everything I can to support our mission. I give my time to listen and share the stories of love, pain, joys, and hopes of Wabash. I give of my treasure to help build greater opportunities. And I always try to share a smile, a thank you, a "how are you today?" and have a genuine interest in what I can learn from others.

Because all of those things make me a better student and a better citizen.

Because I want you to know that at Wabash you always belong.

Now, what will you do to help others belong?



Kim Johnson | Editor
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Always Wabash

A **S PRESIDENT**, I have been struck by how often members of the Wabash family ask me how I am doing. My standard answer recently is to remind them that I started in 2020—so there has been nowhere to go but up.

At first, I found it a bit strange that people frequently asked about my well-being. Sometimes it made me worry. How bad do I look? Am I forgetting to smile?

But I have come to realize that checking in on each other—a faculty member touching base with a new student or an alum calling his pledge brother from 40 years ago—is an enduring feature of our College. It is one of many things that are always Wabash.

This past year, Wendy and I have been fortunate to spend more time traveling to meet with alumni and alumni groups, giving many of you a chance to check in and ask how our College is doing. A few months ago, I stopped preparing remarks for these events after realizing simply answering people's questions is a much more efficient way to provide an update.

I usually start by answering the top three questions preemptively: How does the freshman class look? How is the Giant Steps campaign going? What are the faculty like? Then we usually move on to a range of questions about people, places, and programs.

Often the questions carry concern that things they hoped would always be part of Wabash might be going away. This is most evident as we travel farther from campus and visit with friends who are unable to return to Crawfordsville as frequently as they might like.

I used to be puzzled by some of these questions. For example, I was recently asked if we still have oral comprehensive examinations. That one caught me off guard. But I then realized I have the privilege to hear the conversations among students about their comps committee members; I get to see the young man walking to a faculty office in his best suit; and I have a glimpse into the sense of pride and accomplishment that follows the exam.

Of course, most of you aren't fortunate enough to have my window into campus life. And many of you hear about experiences at other campuses from family and friends, or from the countless unflattering portrayals of higher education in the media. So, it's natural to assume important rites of passage that have disappeared from other colleges reflect the evolution of our campus. Rest assured, these important traditions continue at Wabash.

This is not to say that we avoid innovation. A few recent developments include new majors in philosophy, politics, and economics (PPE) and computer science, volleyball as a varsity sport, and remote admissions recruiters in three different states (Illinois, Texas, and Arizona). But importantly, these are changes driven as we seek ways to better serve our students and to expand the number of young men who know about and can benefit from what we have to offer.

The support of countless alumni and friends of the College allows us both to innovate and to maintain those things that will always define Wabash: a deep commitment to the liberal arts, high expectation for responsible behavior embodied in the Gentleman's Rule, and a willingness to engage each other in conversations on big ideas and difficult issues.

These, our most important values, will be always Wabash.



Scott Feller | President
fellers@wabash.edu



1. Champions of Diversity

The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies was named a 2023 Champion of Diversity by *Indiana Minority Business Magazine*. The MXIBS was among 15 Indiana honorees chosen by a committee that reviewed more than 100 nominations for the awards, which included individuals and organizations that have shown a commitment to diversity in Indiana and have made an impact on the state's minority communities. The award was presented to **President Scott Feller** and **MXIBS Director Steven Jones '87**.

2. Celebration of Student Research

Fifty students participated in the 23rd Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work. The oral and poster presentations focused on a wide variety of student work from all three academic divisions, including collaborative work with faculty and staff, independent study, or other projects that showcased efforts beyond normal coursework.

3. MLK Day

Karrah Herring (center, behind flowers), Indiana's chief equity, inclusion, and opportunity officer, visited campus and spoke about the "mountains we have yet to climb" in regard to civil and human rights. The address highlighted a day commemorating the life and leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



4. “Stage Kiss”

The Wabash Theater Department opened its spring season with “Stage Kiss,” a captivating and witty play that explores love, romance, and the complicated boundaries between reality and fiction. The cast included guest actor **Krystal Hernandez**, **Drew Johannes ’23**, **Tommy Oppman ’25**, **Dario Banuelos ’23**, **Luke Fincher ’24**, **Betsy Swift**, and **Delada Mudd**. **Carson Wirtz ’26** was the production stage manager. The production included scenic design by **Adam Whittredge**, costume design by **Andrea Bear**, and lighting design by **Bailey Rosa**.

5. Rock & Roll

Students in **Religion Professor Bob Royalty’s** Rock and Roll Music class took a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, to explore the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

6. Entomologist Douglas Tallamy

One of the nation’s foremost ecologists and conservationists, **Dr. Douglas Tallamy**, gave a talk in February titled “Nature’s Best Hope” as part of the President’s Distinguished Speaker Series. Tallamy discussed his research, commitment to caring for native plants and the wildlife they support, and gave advice on how anyone can play a role in this important ecological work.

7. Orr Fellows

Four Wabash seniors earned Orr Fellowships, guaranteeing them two-year, salaried positions with a host company in Indianapolis. Orr Fellows (left to right) **Cade Cox**, **Cole Vassilo**, **Adam El-Khalili**, and **Caden Beckwith** will receive executive mentorship and participate in a curriculum designed to develop understanding and skills vital to entrepreneurship and business leadership.



1. Football Buddies

The **Wabash football team** had a blast visiting and playing with their Nicholson Elementary School buddies.

2. Bravo Company

Ben Kesling '02, a Harvard Divinity School graduate, Marine Corps veteran, and journalist, read from his new book, “Bravo Company: An Afghanistan Deployment and Its Aftermath” in December as part of the President’s Distinguished Speaker Series. *The Wall Street Journal* reporter also gave a Chapel Talk, recorded a “Wabash on My Mind” podcast, and visited with students in various classes during his day on campus.

3. Popsicle party

The **Wabash swimming and diving team** and Wally enjoyed a special visit with a kindergarten class at Hose Elementary School.

4. Wamidan Concert

Wamidan, Wabash’s world music and dance ensemble, performed its fall concert on the Salter Hall stage. The ensemble was made up of **Patrick Beam '23**, **Nhan Huynh '24**, **Tri An Do Le '26**, **Io Maeda '24**, **Adrian Nguyen '26**, and **Ivann Azael Ochoa '26** and was led by Music Professor James Makubuya.



5. Scarlet Honors Weekend #2

After a successful Scarlet Honors Weekend last fall, the College hosted a second event in February for more than 70 prospective students and their families. Students toured campus and met future classmates and world-renowned faculty while experiencing the best of Wabash and competing for honors scholarships.

6. Saturday Night Live!

Scarlet Masque presented a one-night-only performance of “Saturday Night Live” in Ball Theater. The production was entirely written, directed, and acted by students, and featured a live band, skits about campus happenings, and re-creations of old “SNL” classics.

7. Black History Month

Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies members (left to right) **K’tren Wilson ’24**, **Christian Gray ’25**, **Jeremiah Clayton ’26**, and **Malik Barnes ’23** kicked off Black History Month by giving a Chapel Talk titled “Angles Oppressionis.” The MXIBS hosted several other events throughout the month, one of which included opening an exhibit in Lilly Library titled “Contemporary Forms of Oppression.” The exhibit brought to light some of the hidden forms of oppression that still exist today.

8. Asian Hate Crime Vigil

Dozens of students, faculty, and staff members joined together in Pioneer Chapel during an Asian Hate Crime Vigil in February. The event, hosted by the **Asian Culture Club**, featured several speakers who shared their experiences with racial abuse. The event aimed to raise awareness about anti-Asian hate crimes and xenophobia.



1. Dr. Carl L. Hart

The Stephenson Institute for Classical Liberalism welcomed Dr. Carl L. Hart, Columbia University professor of psychology, for a discussion, reading, and signing of his book "Drug Use for Grown-Ups."

2. Swimming and Diving

The Wabash swimming and diving team topped the 1,000-point mark for the eighth time in school history in February at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships. The Little Giants finished in fourth place. **Barret Smith '26** swam in the "A" final of the 200-yard backstroke, finishing in seventh place. **Caleb McCarty '23** wrapped up his conference career with a sixth-place finish in the "A" final of the 100-yard freestyle.

3. Year of the Rabbit

The Asian Culture Club hosted Temple Fair 2.0 in celebration of the Year of the Rabbit inside Detchon International Hall. The event featured homemade Asian food and drinks, games like crazy chopsticks, and musical and dance performances.

4. Indoor Track and Field

Wabash won its ninth North Coast Athletic Conference indoor track and field title in February at the 2023 NCAC Championships at DePauw University, marking the squad's 18th championship trophy overall. **Quinn Sholar '26** (pictured) received the NCAC Men's Field Athlete of the Year Award. **Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26** received the NCAC Men's Newcomer of the Year Award.



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5. Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program

At the annual **Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program** cohort reunion, the pastors dressed in black in support of the World Council of Churches' Thursdays in Black campaign. The campaign encourages people to wear black on Thursdays with a pin to declare they are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence.

6. Hoesy Corona Art Reception

Hoesy Corona, artist-in-residence for the spring semester, opened an installation of his works, "All Roads Lead to Roam," in the Eric Dean Gallery. The work highlights the complex relationship between humans and the environment by focusing on the changing climate and its impact on habitation and migration patterns. While in residence, Corona engaged with the community through school visits and hosted gallery tours, in addition to co-teaching a course at Wabash on socially engaged art.

7. Basketball

The 2022–23 basketball season ended for the Little Giants with a 90–83 loss to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in the first round of the 2023 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Tournament. Wabash (21-8) played in the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season after winning the 2023 North Coast Athletic Conference Tournament to receive the league's automatic bid. **Ahmoni Jones '24** (pictured) finished with 18 points and nine rebounds to become the 14th player to score 1,000 or more career points and grab 500 or more career rebounds. Despite the loss, the Little Giants finished with their 12th 20-win season in program history and first back-to-back 20-win seasons since the 1996–97 and 1997–98 teams that also earned NCAA Tournament appearances.

8. Volleyball

Wabash College swept the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League Player of the Week awards in February. **Jackson Leeper '25** earned Offensive Player of the Week honors, and teammate **Patrick Volk '23** received the Defensive Player of the Week award for the second time during the team's third varsity season.



photo provided

MEDIA MANAGED

by **Richard Paige**

From Wabash College to New York City, **Simran Sandhu '20** has made a giant name for himself in the digital media and marketing space.

THREE YEARS AGO, Simran Sandhu '20 and his fraternity brother, Darian Phillips '20, had an idea that took root on the second floor of the Arnold House.

"Five Minute Drill" was a daily short-form podcast recorded in one of those second-floor rooms.

By the end of that summer, Five Minute Drill had risen to the top 75 of the Apple podcast rankings.

Sandhu graduated and moved to New York City, where he connected with Michael Sikand, a creative partner with similar goals and ideas.

Sandhu shifted his creative medium from podcast to short-form video and began using TikTok as a distribution channel. He and Sikand built the "Our Future" platform, which has earned more than one billion views and captured more than one million subscribers since its launch.

In January, Our Future was purchased by Morning Brew, a multidimensional media operation anchored by the popular newsletter of the same name. The acquisition was a huge opportunity for Our Future.

"We are one of the first short-form video companies to ever be acquired," says Sandhu. "This is really cool. There is value in knowing that few have done this."

Growth of the company depends on Sandhu's and Sikand's ability to capture attention rapidly with a hook and a well-told story.

"You have to hook people in the first three to four seconds and then find a means to convey your point in an engaging way," Sandhu explains. "In 60 seconds, it's over. You only have that long to tell your story."

Beyond their original creative content, Our Future also works with companies like Warby Parker and HubSpot to help well-established brands find success in the ever-changing social media space.

Sandhu says he finds the client side of the business fascinating because it's all a new space. There are plenty of chief marketing officers he works with who have decades of experience, but they look to him as a thought leader, trying to penetrate these platforms and audiences.

"Getting on calls, being that thought leader or subject matter expert is very exciting," he says.

The Morning Brew connection has opened new doors, Sandhu explains.

"It's really a game changer," he says. "I find joy in actually building and scaling a company. Because if you can truly understand scaling at a fundamental level, you can take that and do it across every industry."

Some of Sandhu's knowledge was picked up through trial and error as a member of Wabash's Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship (CIBE). He appreciated the trust, support, and strategic guidance the initiative provided as he went through the initial efforts of building a business.

"Wabash gave me discipline in a way that other schools wouldn't have," he says. "The strategic guidance and direction from Wabash provided me the opportunity and the platform to experiment." ■



photo provided

Five Miles to the Middle East

by Kim Johnson

**Jacob Surface '11 went to college a few miles from home.
That short distance introduced him to a world of possibilities.**

EVEN THOUGH he grew up 10 minutes from the Wabash campus, the only real connection Jacob Surface '11 had to the College was the people around him.

"All the positive male role models I had were coaches, teachers, and lawyers in town who were graduates of Wabash," Surface says. "Jake Gilbert '98, who was the head football coach at North Montgomery at the time, encouraged me to develop my own character and educational plans. He pushed me to look at Wabash."

Once on campus, Surface caught the bug for international travel and work.

During his first semester, Surface was invited by Professor Philip Mikesell '63 to join a class that went to Israel to study geopolitical and economic development. The following year he joined a history class of juniors and seniors taught by Professor Michelle Rhodes which included an immersion trip to France.

"A lot of people invested their time in me, recognizing I had potential. That mentorship taught me there's more to life than doctors, lawyers, and businessmen."

By his senior year, Surface had decided on a career as a political science professor.

"I got 12 rejections from Ph.D. programs," Surface says. "I was frustrated and upset. I googled fellowships in foreign affairs, something where I could merge my political science background, my language interests, and international travel. It just so happened that was the official name of the Pickering Fellowship."

Surface was awarded the fellowship, which covered his two-year master's studies at Indiana University and guaranteed him a spot in the United States Foreign Service, our diplomatic corps carrying out U.S. foreign policy at embassies overseas and the Department of State headquarters in Washington, D.C.

"The first summer I interned at the Egypt desk in Washington, D.C., and

then the following summer I was at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt," Surface says. "I finished my public affairs degree by September 2013 and was in Washington and full-time training to join the Foreign Service as a commissioned officer."

His first assignment was in Papua New Guinea.

"It is one of the more remote, dangerous, and isolated places on Earth, though it is just north of Australia, but I chose that because it was going to be really hard," Surface says. "I was the sole political officer, and backup for economic affairs, consular work—pretty much everything. I joke that one day I wrote a cable and fixed a toilet on the same day."

From that location he covered Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

"I got a lot of experience at very high-level diplomacy and negotiations—high speed, high stakes, high stress, very intense," Surface says. "You are at the center of the action working in small embassies or on special envoy missions. You immediately get engaged and involved and develop a lot of skills because of it. I sat with the ambassador and the other officers at the embassy every week and did my best to inform impactful policy decisions about Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. Most people in my career do not have that opportunity until they've been in 10, 15, or 20 years."

Surface took that experience to other tours in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Kabul, Afghanistan; and Baghdad, Iraq. Now, Surface is back in Cairo, Egypt, alongside his wife, Lana, where she is completing her first tour as a foreign service officer. He led the embassy preparations for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), hosted in Egypt last November—the largest multilateral event in Egypt's history.

"There was only one available job for me, addressing climate change as the environment, science, technology, and

health officer. I love science and technology, but it's not my strong suit. I went from working on conflict and peace processes, then to democracy and elections, and now to climate change in the course of about five years," he says.

Surface recognizes it was the love of lifelong learning instilled in him at Wabash that has been critical to what he is able to do now.

"I left Baghdad on August 28, 2022, transited through Amman, Jordan, and four hours later was in Cairo planning this climate change conference. I could not skip a beat," he continues. "From logistical preparations to policy efforts, I had to get completely spun up on an entirely different skill set, stuff I'd never imagined I would be doing professionally."

After a visit to campus during a quick return to the U.S., Surface reflects on how campus has changed and how it has stayed the same.

"The student-focused mission of this place is still there—the beating heart of what drives it forward," he says. "The College is still producing fantastic students. I like to engage with them each year because it reminds me of how much energy, drive, and intellect is right here at Wabash."

"We didn't have the PPE (philosophy, politics, and economics) major, or Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD)," Surface continues. "(Fellowship Advisor) Susan Albrecht is now a great resource for helping students find and apply for fellowships. I met a student speaking Japanese at a level that most of my fellow diplomats aspire to. Getting more languages and introducing international opportunities on campus has really been a positive for the College."

"There are more offerings than ever before. And the students are just as ferociously hungry for it. That's really encouraging and that's what keeps bringing me back to campus." ■

CARVING A PATH

by Kim Johnson

Artie Equihua '20 wasn't sure he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps to Wabash, but he knew if he did, life at and after Wabash would provide the experiences and connections to set him up for success.

"I WASN'T GOING TO ATTEND WABASH, because people expected me to," says Equihua. "I wanted to carve my own path, do my own thing. When I matured a little bit, I realized I could still carve my own path through Wabash, because it gives you so many different ways and opportunities to make that experience your own.

"I knew I would be leaving a better version of myself than when I came," the third-year medical student at Marian University says. "I knew whatever I wanted to do, I could pursue it. As long as I chose Wabash, it would give me resources to use and a network to achieve those goals."

The courses Equihua took as a biology major set him on a solid academic foundation.

"I minored in Dr. (Heidi) Walsh," Equihua says with a laugh. "I took enough Dr. Walsh (biology) classes where she could be considered a minor. Dr. (Sara) Drury's class on democracy and deliberation opened my eyes to how to be a good communicator. Dr. (Eric) Wetzel's global health class studied public health and the health

infrastructure of Peru with two weeks immersed in and around Lima."

But it was his extra- and co-curricular activities and internships that convinced him to apply to medical school.

"The Global Health Initiative (GHI) and my internship with the Montgomery County Health Department were huge at helping me figure this out," Equihua says.

Through the GHI, Equihua also spent a summer as an intern with Dr. Todd Roland '85 in North Carolina learning about using technology to create opportunities to improve health outcomes in a community.

"Understanding the importance of public health was super important, and helped me understand the whole team aspect of any medical environment," Equihua says. "As a provider, you need to ask where is this person going? What's the environment they're living in? What resources do they have access to? Social determinants of health are incredibly important."

The four-year member of the Little Giant football team also became a fellow in the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) initiative.

"The first time I heard of WDPD, I saw Jack Kellerman '18. He was super articulate, a very impressive speaker," Equihua says. "I wanted to be like him and felt WDPD was going to help me be a better leader. I was constantly looking for ways to jump out of my student role and into a different role. How can I make a difference right now?"

Equihua recalls seeing the power of deliberation the first time he served as a note taker at an event in Gary, Indiana, for a conversation about police brutality.

"It was a pretty heated discussion," he says. "Somebody who grew up in Gary and had some pretty bad experiences with police brutality and a highly-ranked official were going back and forth.

"The facilitator did such a good job, taking his time, pausing when things started to get out of control. He would bring it back on track, summarize a point from one of the participants, and then throw it back at the table and say, 'Is this the theme I'm hearing?' Then he would create another question, build the theme a little bit more, and keep bringing the group back, making sure we were progressing in the right direction."

As a medical student, Equihua uses similar deliberative techniques every day.

"As a facilitator we always harp on being a really good active listener," he says. "Now, I'm listening for little tidbits rather than just thinking of my next question. Patients give me a little piece of information and I'm going a bit deeper into the subject rather than skimming over the top."

With the variety of skills and experiences in his front lab coat pocket, the future Dr. Equihua is ready to take on the next challenge.

"Wabash puts us in positions all the time where you really don't know what to do. You have no other option but to just figure it out." ■





BY KIM JOHNSON

ON THE THRESHOLD

THE FINANCIAL AID ADDED UP. He'd attend for a couple of years and then transfer someplace else.

It wasn't a glamorous reason to choose Wabash, but for an 18-year-old from Mexico who saw college as a means to financial freedom, it made perfect sense in the young mind of Josue Guerra '11.

"I majored in math so I could make money," he says. "It sounds ridiculous. Mexico's education system expects us to know what we want to do when we're 17 or 18 years old. We have to decide before university. These are high-end decisions. I was lucky enough to land at a small liberal arts college that really worries about the student and counsels them."

Now, Guerra spends his time on the stage, in movies, commercials, and television. He recently had a role in the Netflix limited series "Somos." In February, he and the rest of the cast of the FX pilot, "The Border," finished filming.

Opportunities he would not have gotten had he passed up Wabash.

The College introduced a new world of art and culture through his classes and his extracurricular time on the stage. He took a course with an immersion trip to Italy and later studied abroad in France. Looking for something to do when he wasn't playing soccer or studying equations, he auditioned for a play and ended up in a production in each of his four years on campus.

"I got to visit Europe for the very first time, thanks to Wabash," Guerra says. "I was able to explore so much I know I would have never been able to if I was in Mexico, or even at a big school. There would be even more barriers. 'No, it's only for theater majors. Sorry, you can't audition.' But Wabash gave me that opportunity.

"I'd be more excited to learn my lines than to learn theorems," he says with a laugh. "That should have been a red flag."

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO TRY THINGS OUT AND FOLLOW YOUR HEART."

A fellow math major shared with Guerra the book "Letters to a Young Poet" by Rainer Maria Rilke, which changed his perspective. The collection of letters in the book was sent by Rilke to Franz Xaver Kappus, who in the book's introduction says he was "Not yet 20, and close on the threshold of a profession which I felt to be entirely contrary to my inclinations, I hoped to find understanding, if in any one, in the poet..."

"He said, 'Read it. I think it's going to help you.' That book opened up a world of possibilities," Guerra says. "It's never too late to try things out and follow your heart. That's what I've been trying to do."

After Wabash, Guerra was accepted to a master's program in fine arts at Columbia University.

"I wanted to stay in the U.S. a little bit longer and keep studying things that interested me," he says. "I loved math. But it wasn't my passion. I just did it because I thought it would help me make a living.

"Theater is my first true love. It opened up a universe of interaction and connection. I never thought about actually making it a career until my second year of graduate school," Guerra continues. "That's when things started falling into place. I just

decided to not worry about the money anymore."

Upon completion of graduate school, he was denied a visa so he returned home to Mexico.

"That was a blessing in disguise. In the U.S., I wasn't Caucasian enough to be a John and I wasn't Mexican enough to be a Juan," says Guerra. "When I got to Mexico, they said, 'Perfect. He's got the English and the Spanish; book him for this role.' Then things just started happening."

He hopes when "The Border" releases early next year, the cast and crew get the green light to continue filming an entire season. Until then, Guerra is trying not to think too much about what might be but keep moving ahead to new roles and opportunities that present themselves.

"Whatever that next thing is, I don't know," Guerra says, "but I'm grateful for all this." ■

FINDING THE ANSWER

by Richard Paige

WHEN ROB DYER '13 ARRIVED AT WABASH on Freshman Saturday, he saw the seniors and doubted he would ever be “as good as them.”

“I’ve always had very bad imposter syndrome,” says the native of Fairfax, Virginia. “Looking around at the people in that crowd (freshman peers) and knowing how inexperienced and new everyone was, it felt like an impossibility that one of us could go on to be the president of the student body, run the Sphinx Club, or quarterback the football team.”

The economics major began his studies working toward a law degree. As a senior, he decided law school wasn’t for him and changed course.

“Knowing when to change your mind, and in some cases, knowing when to admit you are wrong, is a huge strength,” says Dyer, who is now the quarterback of his team as a director at Guggenheim Investments, a global asset management and investment advisory firm with more than \$217 billion in total assets.

“One of the nice things about Wabash is that it gives you an opportunity to experience such a breadth of fields and ways to approach things,” he says. “So many people I work with decided who they were going to become before they graduated from high school. Wabash gave me the ability to make that decision a lot later on and I’m much better for that.”

Dyer says it was his ability to ask questions and search for answers that originally got him in the door with Guggenheim in 2013.

Anne Walsh, chief investment officer for Guggenheim Partners Investment Management and managing partner of Guggenheim Partners, told a

story about Dyer’s interview with the firm. A question came up: “What do you know about insurance asset management?”

“Nothing,” was Rob’s reply.

“What would you do if Anne gave you an assignment dealing with insurance asset management?”

“He said, ‘The one thing I wouldn’t do is ask Anne. She’s too busy,’” Anne remembers. “He said, ‘I’m going to find out.’ That was the clincher. He was going to find out and think.”

Dyer has grown tremendously in the industry in the past decade, especially for someone who entered the field with comparably little experience. He’s learned to trust in the answers he and his team find, and to not be afraid of change.

“Especially in the investing world, people can get so married to some investment thesis, and you can run model after model after model justifying that your belief is the right one. But that doesn’t mean the market will ever agree with you,” he explains. “You don’t want to get stuck in one worldview.”

Dyer says he understands that it can feel overwhelming at the start of a career as the “gulf between somebody who’s new to the industry versus someone who’s been there for five years is enormous.” But, as he emphasizes to Guggenheim’s junior employees, the experience is additive.

“As you get better at your job, the work also gets harder. And the reward for doing a good job is more and harder work,” says Dyer. “It’s something that is built up little by little, day by day. There’s no eureka moment that got you there, but you might have a eureka moment when you realize how far you’ve come.” ■



Teaching and Learning

WM asked seven faculty members:

What attracted you to Wabash?

What impresses you most about the people at Wabash?

Hear from alumni on the faculty, Scott Himsel '85, Michael Abbott '85, and Joe Scanlon '03, as well as the four newest tenured faculty members, Lorraine McCrary, Karen Quandt, Sujata Saha, and Erika Sorenson-Kamakian.

Scott Himsel '85

Associate Professor of Political Science and Pre-Law Advisor

Favorite course to teach: Religious Freedom

Research interest: The intersection of the law and religion

Other interests: Swimming and classical music

I came to Wabash for what used to be called Junior Day before my senior year of high school. Vic Powell H'55, who was dean of the College at the time, spoke. I was doing a lot of speech contests and debates. I thought, *This guy is the best speaker I've ever heard in my life.*

As a student at Wabash, I got so enamored with academics. I had great teachers who were very interesting and different from one another. By the time I left, I was torn between whether I should become a college professor or a lawyer. If I loved it that much as a student, I'd really love it as a faculty member.

I was very fortunate to learn from people, both as a student and as a teacher. David Hadley H'76 taught me a lot about how to be open and welcoming to students and to meet them where they are. Phil Mikesell '63 taught me a lot about how to ask better questions. Melissa Butler H'85 taught me how to connect with the current generation

of students. Ed McLean H'03 was the first person who taught me my profession as a lawyer. I never had a better law professor than McLean.

As I was preparing for my first year of teaching in 2003, I watched McLean instruct his last class. I was so intrigued I stopped by the bookstore to buy the book for the course. Mike Bachner '70, who used to run the bookstore, said, "So, you're going to be trying to fill Ed McLean's shoes?" I responded, "That is the one thing I won't be trying to do."

When I was here as a student, the faculty let me express myself. Now, my job as a professor was to figure out the best way to let other students do that. I hope that what I do is to set a table for them to come and figure out who they are, who they want to be, and how to learn that.

Wabash is the only place I would have considered teaching. I knew the College would let me get away with being very

demanding of students—not in an impolite, harsh, or unrealistic way. One of the best things you can do for college students is to expect and demand a lot from them.

No one needs to worry about the faculty. The faculty is as good as, if not better than, it was when I was here. But it's largely because they're doing many of the same things—helping students learn how to teach themselves.

They're doing research out in the world, always expanding their knowledge and sharing that with students. We have very different styles, different subject matters, and different approaches. Much like students learn by being together, I think faculty learn by being together.

Each of us on the faculty and staff have something to give. We all have a role that we play.

A good student who wants to have a good future should be on the lookout for what those different things are.

Michael Abbott '85**Professor of Theater****Favorite course to teach:** World Cinema**Research interest:** The convergence of theater, film, and interactive media like video games**Other interests:** Music, composing, traveling

When I was graduating from high school, I wanted to be an attorney. Wabash is where most people I knew who were attorneys had gone. I was a Lilly Scholar finalist. When I didn't get the scholarship, I thought I would have to find somewhere else to go, but the College offered another scholarship and it all worked out.

I hated political science. I didn't click with the students and I felt out of place. But in the theater, I felt connected to the students and faculty. I took English classes, literature, theater, music, and things just opened up for me. I auditioned for my first play at Wabash because it seemed interesting. After that, I continued to get cast in all the plays. I also got the chance to direct a play here as a sophomore or junior, which seemed crazy and unheard of.

I wanted to go to a conference in New York City, but I had to get money and approval. Dean Norman Moore H'63 said yes. I had never been on an airplane. I had never gone anywhere, really. While I was there, I saw multiple Broadway shows. I thought, *My god, the world is so much bigger than I ever imagined.*

People were making a living in the theater and they were amazing. It was life changing. I'm reminded of that when we send students on immersion trips. I'm always trying to get students to travel away from campus. It just changes you.

When I first came back to Wabash as a member of the faculty, I had the idea I would be one of the change agents who would make us co-ed. There had been a big fight right before I got here. It was still very fresh. I didn't think I'd stay here if we didn't go co-ed.

As things moved on, I became more convinced this place could be intentionally single-sex—that there'd be reasons for us to be—instead of just tradition or fear of change. There was business to do here as a single-sex school, especially in the arts. My whole attitude changed. I started to feel like I could belong here and wanted to believe in this.

There is a crisis in education for men in this country. I saw my son go through it—where it's not cool to be smart or studious, but it's very cool to be disengaged and neutral about a lot of things. From the minute students get here, men are

encouraged to be passionate about lots of things—sports, music, art, and theater.

The show we did earlier in the semester had a guy who's also in the ROTC. To me, he's the idea of what Wabash could never have been when I was a student—this tough ROTC guy who has this big heart, this soft side. He checks all the boxes about what a Wabash man can look like.

When I was a student here, I had a very good friend, my roommate, who was a closeted gay man. It was impossible to be gay here. Not just impossible, but dangerous to be gay. And that really put me off.

Our mission is to find men who genuinely care about whatever it is they care about, then feed that passion through whatever discipline, and make them feel like brotherhood isn't just a bonding thing. It's about empathy and supporting each other. It's about caring about the success and failure of your friends, not just your own.





Joe Scanlon '03

Associate Professor of Chemistry

Favorite course to teach: Computational Chemistry

Research interest: Using computational chemistry to model chemical reactions and metal compounds to gain some fundamental understanding in catalytic design

Other interests: Playing board games, reading science fiction or fantasy, cooking and baking (especially with persimmons)

I developed late physically, and put in hard work to play football my senior year of high school. Because of that, I still wanted to play in college. I visited Wabash and I was blown away. Dr. Bob Olsen sat down with me and mapped out the chemistry curriculum. I thought I could really excel in a place with personal attention and where I could get to know the faculty.

I had some pretty bad failures in the beginning because I wasn't used to asking for help. I had to learn to balance playing football and how to study appropriately. That was a big change coming from high school. I joined a fraternity and there were upperclassmen

who knew what professors expected and shared ideas about how to study.

I had David Phillips H'83, Scott Feller, Ann Taylor, Bob Olsen, and they were amazing. There are good chemists here today, too, and they care about teaching. They've really made me feel welcome. We're doing some incredible research.

The students here are willing to grind, work hard, and to be engaged in class. Teaching is a lot more fun when the students are engaged. I also appreciate the different interests the students have. A lot of them are athletes and I enjoy seeing them compete. I remember how much it meant to me to have my professors come to watch.

My boys really worship the Wabash student-athletes. After a basketball game, they ran on the court and Ahmoni Jones '24 talked to them. He gave them high-fives once and they were over the moon.

Wabash can be competitive. People come here with different talents and degrees of knowledge. That can be really intimidating. And sometimes you struggle early on and you have to claw your way back up. I always tell my kids, don't put limitations on yourself. Make a bet on yourself—bet on yourself to be able to do this if you really want it.



Erika Sorensen-Kamakian

Newly tenured Assistant Professor of Biology

Favorite course to teach: Genetics

Research interest: *C. elegans*—to control proteins with tissue specificity and multiple genes independently

Other interests: Cooking with my husband, grilling with my son, macramé

Sabbatical plans for 2023–24: Running my lab at Wabash with students all year to make progress on the NSF project on which Chemistry Professor Wally Novak and I are collaborating.

I knew I wanted to get a job at either a liberal arts college or a small university that had only undergraduates because I wanted to have a lab of young students. When I came to Wabash to interview, I was impressed by the infrastructure in place to support scientific research. I liked the colleagues I met. I could imagine myself starting a lab with students here.

One thing that was helpful to me, especially in the beginning, is we do a fair bit of team teaching in science. There are some areas where I am asked to teach outside of my area of expertise. It's been helpful to see

how other people do it—the kind of energy they bring to the classroom, the way they organize an idea or do an activity.

I was a bit nervous when I was first asked to teach Enduring Questions (EQ). That's quite different than anything else I teach. It's been great when they have EQ meetings and my colleagues across the campus are willing to meet and give advice about what they talk about, how they might lead that discussion, or how I can keep it interesting and exciting.

My favorite class to teach is genetics. I always think it's the class that ushers them from boyhood to adulthood. It requires

sophomores to become very responsible and take a lot of ownership in their education. I see growth in a lot of ways when students take that class.

My favorite lab day is in molecular genetics. They use *C. elegans*, which is the animal that I work with. They're only a millimeter in size, so handling them is challenging for the students, despite the fact that most of them are juniors or seniors. About the ninth or tenth week into the semester, when they can finally move them confidently, they feel so much pride.

Sujata Saha

Newly tenured Assistant Professor of Economics

Favorite course to teach: 300-level investments

Research interest: International finance and trade, financial inclusion, and open economy macroeconomics

Other interests: Traveling, gardening, painting, cooking

Sabbatical plans for 2023–24: I have a research project based on a slum in India. I will have a summer intern help me get started with the project. And since it's about the residents of the slum, I will go to India next spring to interview some of the residents and some NGOs that closely work with them.

I always wanted to be in academia. When I came to the campus, I really was moved by how welcoming it was. I still remember the wonderful lunch I had with students. Everyone I met, people from my department and outside faculty members, influenced my choice to teach at Wabash.

There is a lot of flexibility and opportunities to grow as an educator. Any courses I want to teach, it is just a proposal away. There's a lot of scope for research as well.

The mentorship is really wonderful. We can literally walk into anyone's office with any question without thinking whether the

person is from economics or not. If there is a problem or situation, there are people who listen. And if a solution doesn't exist, people are more like, "OK, let's work together and see if we can find the solution."

The students are very respectful here. In the classroom, they have high spirits. And if you make fun with certain things in class, they take it very positively. They are very invested in what they do. And they really appreciate what we do for them.

I'm glad that I could make friends at work, which is very special. My family is back home in India. Especially during the

pandemic, when I could not see my parents for three years, so many colleagues and friends would check in with me. They really care, not just that I grow professionally, but that I am happy personally.

During Thanksgiving or Christmas, or any celebration, they will check in and see that I'm not left alone here. One of my colleagues even mentioned, "OK, you have a festival going on back home. We can do something together to celebrate it here!" It's a wonderful feeling to have really good colleagues and friends always around who are there to support you in and out.



Lorraine McCrary

Newly tenured Assistant Professor of
Political Science

Favorite course to teach:

Disability and Politics

Research interest: Communities of care
by and with people with disabilities,
as well as politics and literature

Other interests: Reading to my children

Sabbatical plans for 2023–24: Going to the
U.K. for the year to work on a book project
titled “Disability, Community, Care.”

When I visited Wabash, I was very impressed by the community I encountered and the collegiality. There is a lot of warmth and jovial spirit. That was attractive to me. I’ve been really grateful for the support for my research and teaching. And I’m encouraged to pursue it.

I love to see our students’ development and growth over time—and the way they learn to engage with ideas—and how they are totally open to it. They don’t say, “That’s political theory; I can’t do that.” But they just learn to do it, which is wonderful.

I love the spiritedness. I had a class last semester in which I had a discussion leader each day, just for 10 minutes. Before each student came up, the whole class would clap. And when he was done, the whole class would clap again. I just loved that they can make class fun and sort of silly. I like teaching students like that.

When I first arrived at Wabash, Warren Rosenberg H’98 took my class “just because.” Then Frank Howland took it, and then Nick Snow took it. I love that my faculty colleagues want to be learning and dialogue partners on some of these ideas.

Warren helped me be a teacher at Wabash. I didn’t know you emailed students when they missed class. He said, “Where is that guy? How are we going to get him here?” He was really great. I’ve received a lot of mentorship.

My faculty colleagues have supported me personally—when I meet with Warren to talk about teaching and research, he asks me what I’m doing to take care of myself. I appreciate that so much. When my family was facing difficult health circumstances, one of my colleagues brought his kids over twice a week to babysit for the whole semester. I’m very grateful for their support.





Karen Quandt

Newly tenured Assistant Professor of French

Favorite course to teach: French 302: Introduction to Literature

Research interest: Environmental themes in 19th-century French poetry

Other interests: Birdwatching, classical, alternative, and electronic music, and violin

Sabbatical plans for 2023–24: Work on my book manuscript on environmental themes in the works of Victor Hugo and spending lots of quality time with family.

I'll be honest, I hadn't heard of Wabash when the job announcement came up. As I started investigating online, I noticed the faculty seemed really, really strong. Then I happened to meet someone from Indiana shortly before I had my first interview. I lived in Delaware at the time. She said, "Oh, yeah, it's a great school." She didn't have any personal ties to Wabash. She just knew about it and was excited for me.

I have a great network of not just colleagues, but also friends. Working across disciplines is a real thing here. I think that at a lot of other, bigger places that's just talk. It sounds good to say, "Oh, I'm interdisciplinary." Here you really can be.

The dedication to mentorship has been really crucial for me. Also, I would say the sense of humor. I appreciate that people have a great sense of humor—especially in my department, which is helpful for my sanity some days.

French 302: Introduction to Literature is when students really have to grow. It's a bridge course to the upper level, more heavy-duty literature courses. We learn the mechanics of how to talk about poetry, theater, and novels. I've had the best conversations in that class, and the students learn so much. They feel proud that they're at a level where they can be saying a lot of different things in French. They're expanding their vocabulary, and they can start talking about more sophisticated things.

I like that students feel comfortable coming to see us in our offices. They came and congratulated me after they got the email about my tenure. I would never think that students would actually do that. One of my former students is in France right now; he sent a postcard to congratulate me. They go above and beyond to show their character.

I'm excited about possibilities moving forward. We already have a lot of options for students studying off campus. I'm excited about conversations that are happening now about goals to have more students enjoying and benefiting from those experiences, thinking of ways to encourage those who normally wouldn't think they're good candidates, to rethink that.

Always a Student

by Allie Northcutt

LIKE MANY FRESHMEN during their first year on campus, Julian Whitney felt lost when he initially joined the Wabash faculty in 2020.

"There was no sense of community, not because it didn't exist, but because it had been put on hold," says Whitney, an assistant professor of English from New York City, who came to Crawfordsville to teach in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"For about the first year and a half," he says, "I wasn't really able to establish connections with anybody on campus."

Whitney used that time to reflect and refocus on who he wanted to become as a young professor and scholar.

"The summer of 2021 was a turning point, an opportunity for me to try and remake myself," he says.

Whitney's academic interests range from 18th-century British literature and British Romanticism to law and literature and critical race studies. He also has a long and diverse list of "other interests" that he's eagerly pursued over the past two years.

"I focused on the things I may have wanted to do many years ago, but always felt like academia or the job market was getting in the way," he says. "Now, having a tenure-track position has given me the opportunity to engage those other interests I had to put on hold."

Whitney has found support among the members of the Wabash English department and the surrounding Crawfordsville community. They've encouraged him to explore new ways of learning and pushed him outside of his comfort zone.

He created and is teaching a new course focused on Japanese manga and anime. He's also learning how to speak and write in Japanese, taking guitar lessons, and participating in one-on-one tennis lessons.

"The flexibility to experiment is something I have never had the chance to do before, and it's one of the really good things about this job," says Whitney. "One of the most important parts of being a professor is recognizing the limits of what you know and don't know. That provides the incentive to want to go and learn new things."



"Be courageous enough to explore. A liberal arts education is designed to encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone and give you a better, more rounded sense of who you actually are."

photos by Kim Johnson



“That’s one of the reasons I try to commit myself to always being a student,” he continues. “There’s a sense of gratification that comes from learning a new skill, and being able to experience what it’s like when you feel like you’ve accomplished something in cultivating that skill.”

His office reflects his varied interests. He’s surrounded by shelves full of novels—some favorites include 18th-century writer Quobna Ottobah Cugoana’s “Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery” and a collection of “Dragon Ball Z” comic books. A “Final Fantasy” plush toy stands next to a framed print. Miniature Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ+ pride flags are displayed. And a white board is covered in carefully constructed Japanese symbols and words.

“I’m having a lot of fun,” Whitney says with a smile as he sits in his Center Hall office.

“I tell my students, ‘Be courageous enough to explore,’” he says. “A liberal arts education is designed precisely for that, to encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone and give you a better, more rounded sense of who you actually are.” ■

Professor Julian Whitney put his lessons to the test and performed acoustic guitar solos of *Dearly Beloved* from “Kingdom Hearts” and the *Main Theme* of *Final Fantasy* for a crowd of Wabash community members during the Asian Culture Club’s Year of the Rabbit celebration in February.



photo by Anna Tiplick





CONSISTENT

Since Brian Anderson took the reins as coach of the Little Giant wrestling team in 2004–05, the program has risen to the top of Division III as an academic and athletic powerhouse.

by Kim Johnson

WHEN BRIAN ANDERSON was offered his first head collegiate coaching position at Wabash College, then-Athletic Director Vernon Mummert asked him one question: “Can you win the regional?”

With confidence, he responded, “I haven’t lost one yet.”

That confidence and leadership have propelled the wrestling program to where it is today—consistently smart and consistently dominant.

“When I was competing as a student, Wabash wasn’t winning,” Anderson recalls. “The year before I took over, when I was an assistant at Manchester, Wabash was kind of rising. Because I got to coach against



them, I knew there was talent. They just hadn't broken through yet."

That first year, the team won the regional and sent three wrestlers to the national finals.

"We had a heck of a first year," Anderson says. "And we just kept building."

Since then, the team has had seven top-10 finishes at the NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championship meet, including a program-high second place at the tournament in 2022; 60 national qualifiers (including six this year); 27 All-Americans (two this year); and eight individual national champions (one this year). Jack Heldt '23, this year's

heavyweight champion, was named DIII Most Dominant, while All-American Chase Baczek '25 was named to the D3wrestle.com All-Freshman Team in 2022.

"We don't only want to be the best wrestling team in the country, we also want to be the smartest wrestling team in the country," says Anderson, who was named an Academic All-American at Manchester University in 1999. In Anderson's tenure, the team has been named a Scholar All-America team 11 times and 62 individuals have been named Scholar All-Americans.

"If you look at our wrestling and academic performance the past decade,

there is no other program in the top 10 that is doing what we're doing," he says. "It's a big deal."

Athletic Director Matt Tanney '05 agrees.

"Consistent success at the national level is a tall order, and the wrestling team has a tradition that matches those lofty expectations each season," he says. "Jack Heldt is the latest example of the caliber of scholar-athlete produced by the program. We talk often about Wabash as an 'and' place. Students can perform at the highest levels athletically *and* embrace the rigors of their Wabash education."



photo by Jimmy Naprstek

Head Coach Brian Anderson (right), assistant coaches, and student-athletes watch mat side at the 2023 U.S. Marine Corps/National Wrestling Coaches Association National Duals held in January at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

CONSISTENT continued

WHILE THE CULTURE of success Wabash wrestling has created attracts talent, keeping a program on top year after year is not easy.

“We’re getting very high-end recruits but it’s hard for those transitioning from a good high school wrestler to a great college wrestler,” Anderson says. “I tell them as they are going through that process, ‘Just keep coming back. Don’t give up. When you leave this place, you’re going to be such a better wrestler than you ever thought you could be.’ They may not ever be a national champ. But their growth is clearly seen in those four years.”

It helps having great athletes on the mat with them every day.

“You don’t have to look very far to find what it takes to be an All-American, a national finalist, or a national champ. We’ve got all these young, hungry guys looking to them. They can see what a Jack Heldt is doing or what a Riley Lefever ’17 was doing.

They’re doing simple things on a daily basis—whether in the wrestling room, out running, in a weight workout, or in the classroom. We preach living a good, clean life and keeping their priorities straight about why they came here. Don’t fall off the tracks.”

Anderson knows it takes more than just good athletes and mats to keep a program successful.

“The alumni have helped advance this program in so many ways. This program would not be where it is without their help to keep us advancing,” he says. “Whether it be

supporting the wrestling staff, helping with the facility, or recruiting, they have a hand in it. Even though they say they don’t, they do. One of the most enjoyable things I do on a weekly basis is talk to these super successful people who have a strong passion for the College and Wabash wrestling.

“I’m pretty doggone proud of what we have built here,” Anderson says. “What it’s turned into, and all the people who have surrounded and supported it, is very rewarding.” ■

“If you look at our wrestling and academic performance the past decade, there is no other program in the top 10 that is doing what we’re doing.”

WRESTLING HEAD COACH BRIAN ANDERSON

Head Coach Brian Anderson

Brian Anderson wrestled for four seasons at Manchester University, graduating in 1999 before heading to Michigan City High School as the head wrestling coach for three years. While wrestling at Manchester, Anderson helped the squad to two sixth-place finishes at nationals while picking up more than 100 victories in his career. He was two-time Indiana Collegiate Athletic Conference champion and earned a Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference title at 184 pounds. In 1999 he was an Academic All-American and earned the Manchester College Senior Leadership Academic Award. He also received the 1999 Jim Gratz Leadership Award. Since taking over as head coach at Wabash College, Anderson has been named Regional Coach of the Year twice, D3wrestle.com Coach of the Year, and NCAA DIII Coach of the Year.

As a child, Anderson loved participating in any sport, particularly wrestling, swimming, and baseball. He first started wrestling in elementary school.

"My buddies were wrestlers so I tried it," Anderson says. "The guys who were our coaches early on were the guys who were winning state titles at our high school. We were little guys. We wanted to do what those guys were doing when we got to high school."

He and his wife, Lauren, reside in Crawfordsville. They have three daughters, who have all been student-athletes: Brynn, a senior at Hope College; Kelsey, a sophomore at Manchester University; and Annabel, a junior at North Montgomery High School.

"I don't want to give advice to them at home," Anderson says. "I wasn't a soccer player. I didn't run track. I just have a coach's mindset. Unless they ask me a question, I try and keep my mouth shut and not push them unless they want to be pushed."



Coach Brian Anderson congratulates Jack Heldt '23 at the conclusion of his championship match at the DIII National Championship.



Members of the 2022–23 wrestling team are recognized at halftime of the Homecoming football game last fall where they also received their national runner-up rings.

TO COACH AND BE COACHED

Five Wabash alumni answer the question, “What’s it like to coach at your alma mater?”



**CJ
RAMSEY**
CLASS OF 2020

**ASSISTANT
FOOTBALL COACH**

▼

“I AM ABLE
TO COACH
YOUNG MEN
WHO ARE
EQUALLY
AS SMART
IN THE
CLASSROOM
AS THEY ARE
TALENTED
ON THE
FIELD.”

► **MY FATHER**, Jeff Ramsey, was hired to coach at Wabash in February 2016. I knew I wanted to be a football coach, so my goal was to be a student coach wherever my father was. Both my parents coached at Oberlin College, and my dad’s dad was a football coach. I’m just following the bloodline.

Wabash is a football school. That makes it very fun to coach here. I am able to coach young men who are equally as smart in the classroom as they are talented on the field. These are great people who teach me as much as I teach them. They’re easy to brag about.

Another reason I keep coaching at Wabash is the coaching staff I work with every day. I learn so much from their vast experience and talent. Nobody outside my father has mentored me more than Olmy Olmstead ’04. Any time I have a question, thought, or idea, he is there to offer his thoughts and make me a better coach.

I try to be as consistent as possible. I try to think of the players first, bring new ideas to the table, and have fun with my guys. I like to emphasize concepts players can come back to over and over again. A lot of coaching football is getting guys to perfect thought processes and physical movements they are going to use thousands of times a year. If we can master those concepts, the score will take care of itself.

Coach Don Morell has helped me think about progressing up the coaching ladder as I get older. I’d like to coach with my father again before he steps away from the game. He has forgotten more than I have learned about football, and I constantly find new things to discuss with him. Having a father who is so happy just to be around football has inspired me to give coaching everything I have.

I became more empathetic throughout my years as a student-coach, especially since the coaching staff promotes post-graduate success over wins on the field. It became clear the importance of learning to respect the stories of the guys we coach.

The death of Evan Hansen ’19 in 2018 forced me to grow in ways I was not prepared for. It flipped a switch in my head relating to mental health that I had not even considered before. As coaches we see these guys every day during the season, but I never had a hint he was struggling. He was a captain, best player on our defense, and was loved by his teammates.

Evan’s death taught me everybody grieves differently. I’ve had players talk through problems with me, cry in my arms, and others just look tired in meetings. Regardless, being alert to changes in behavior and performance is something I need to consider to ensure these guys get the most out of their experience.

Coach Morel often reminds us after a tough loss if that’s the worst thing that happens to us, we will have lived a pretty good life.

Evan’s death was the worst thing I’ve had to deal with and it taught me a lot. I don’t wish anybody the pain we experienced as a campus after that.



**Olmy
OLMSTEAD**
CLASS OF 2004

**ASSISTANT
FOOTBALL COACH**

“I’VE GOT AN OBLIGATION TO THE PEOPLE WHO CAME BEFORE ME, WHO HELPED ME, TO HONOR THEM BY DOING THE BEST I CAN ALL THE TIME.”

► **I REALLY WASN’T INTERESTED** in attending an all-male school. But I knew one of the coaches who worked here at the time, Nick Cronk ’91. I thought, *if he’s coaching there now, and he went there, I’d better go take a look at this place.* My father and I had lunch with Coach Greg Carlson and David Blix ’70. After, I received a nice handwritten note from Dr. Blix explaining why I needed to come to Wabash. That put me over the edge.

The classroom was a big part of what I learned at Wabash, but it was also fraternity life, clubs and organizations, Sphinx Club, and football. I learned how to have adult conversations, how to conduct myself as a responsible member of society, and how to contribute in ways I hadn’t thought of before. I learned a sense of confidence and empathy.

I spent a lot of time with History Professor Rick Warner H’13 and Classics Professor John Fischer H’70. Even though our viewpoints on many things were polar opposites, we had civil conversations. Doesn’t necessarily mean I changed my viewpoint. But certainly, understanding where people you care about come from was a big part of my growth.

One of the biggest differences in the Wabash that I knew as a student—versus the Wabash now—are internship opportunities with Career Services and the immersion programs. I wish I’d had an opportunity to participate in those. I strongly encourage students to participate in immersion courses and to visit Career Services frequently.

Initially I didn’t know if I wanted to come back to Wabash to coach. On the five-hour drive to interview, I decided if it wasn’t the Wabash I remembered, I wasn’t going to take

the job. I had such a grand vision in my head of what my experience was as a student. I didn’t want to tarnish it.

After visiting some of the folks who were important to me as a student—Jim Amidon ’87, Sherry Ross H’04, Tom Runge ’71, and others—and meeting some of the student-athletes, I realized some of the buildings and faces had changed, but the spirit of Wabash had not, nor had the type of kid attracted to Wabash. We certainly have room for growth, but at the same time, we are continuing to honor and uphold the traditions that make Wabash what it is.

I’m fortunate my wife, Laura (Wysocki), works here too. She cares about Wabash the same way I do. She could teach anywhere in the country, but she chooses to use chemistry as her tool to educate men within our mission—in the same manner, with the same effort and enthusiasm, that I use offensive line play as my tool to educate men within our mission.

We like raising our daughter, Abigail, on this campus and in this community. Laura brings her to practice, and she gets to interact with my players. My offensive linemen get to see me in a different role, and Abigail gets to be around tremendous young men. The humbleness I see in the players is going to make them better dads, husbands, partners, and citizens.

Abigail can’t go to school here, so the next best thing, in my opinion, is for her to grow up here and still be a part of this community. She gets to grow in her own way surrounded by the people I care about, because they cared about me 20 years ago.

Giant men and women at Wabash had tremendous impact on my career. I’m not in that same category.

I think about it every day when I get ready for work. I’ve got an obligation to the people who came before me, to honor them by doing the best I can all the time. Sometimes it goes well, and sometimes you fail. But “Wabash Always Fights” doesn’t just apply to touchdowns and tackles.

After being here for a decade, there’s a long list of guys I have coached for the duration of their career. I can tell you every one of their names and what they’re doing with their lives. It really is a lifelong friendship. You can never repay a kid for doing everything you’ve asked him to do to the very best of his ability, every time you ask him to do it. The only thing you can do is pay it forward and provide the next group of students the same experience.

But man, what am I doing sitting at this desk? This is the offensive line coach’s desk. This is where Paul Van Wie or Mark Jozwiak is supposed to be sitting. What am I doing here? It drives me to get better and improve, because I’ve got an obligation to those people. I’ve got an obligation to the current students and I’ve got an obligation to Coach Morel, who provides me with an opportunity to do this job.

The thing that impresses me most about our students is their willingness to do something hard and different than their friends are doing. There are still young men asking for a challenge. That is encouraging.

At some point, every guy who went to Wabash asks himself, *What the hell am I doing here?* But it’s all those arms, all those avenues of support around them, that continue to push them in the right direction. They can say for the rest of their lives, “Yep, I did that. I chose to do something harder than everybody else was doing.”



**Ryan
BOWERMAN**

CLASS OF 2011

**HEAD
VOLLEYBALL COACH**

“IT’S BEEN REALLY FULFILLING TO SEE THE PERSONAL GROWTH IN OUR PLAYERS AS THEY ADVANCE THROUGH THE PROGRAM AND THEIR FOUR YEARS AT WABASH.”

► **I GREW UP AROUND WABASH.** My dad, uncle, and grandfather all graduated from Wabash, so I always knew what a special place it was. It was the only place I considered applying for college.

Prior to my return to Wabash, I had a great coaching job in New Orleans. I didn’t see myself leaving that position, but the thought of returning to a place I enjoyed so much and building a new program was too hard to turn down. I played on the club volleyball team at Wabash as a student, so coming back to coach the first season of the varsity program felt like a really unique opportunity.

Our students at Wabash balance so many responsibilities at once. Just about every player on our team is involved in at least one other campus organization, club, or activity. Many of our players are in leadership positions and they still manage to commit a great deal of time to improving on the volleyball court as well.

It’s been really fulfilling to see the personal growth in our players as they advance through the program and their four years at Wabash.

The most impressive thing about the coaching staff is the amount of time and energy everyone devotes to making sure our current student-athletes have a great experience, while continuing to recruit top level student-athletes from around the country. It’s not always easy to convince a high school student to come to a small, all-male, academically challenging school, but that’s what we all do every day.

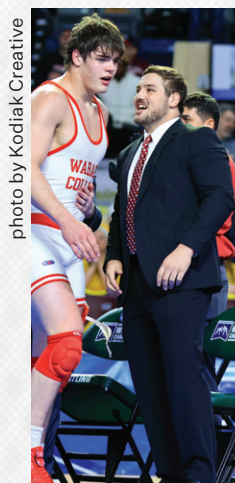


photo by Kodiak Creative

**Max
BISHOP**

CLASS OF 2022

**ASSISTANT
WRESTLING COACH**

“BEING HERE FOR FOUR YEARS, SURROUNDED BY HIGH-LEVEL ATHLETES, IT’S HARD NOT TO GROW AS A WRESTLER. I’M HAPPY I STUCK IT OUT.”

► **WHEN I WAS A SENIOR** in high school, Coach Anderson came to one of my tournaments to recruit another kid on my team. Before that, I had no connection to the College. I came for my first visit in late February that year. I was focused on going to Olivet, an in-state school, but after visiting Wabash that changed. I was impressed with the facilities, the emphasis on academics first, and strong internship and job opportunities.

High school wrestling didn’t end the way I wanted, so I kept working hard and doing individual training sessions to get better. The good thing about our program is we attract the best. Our wrestling room is filled with great wrestlers. Being here for four years, surrounded by high-level athletes, it’s hard not to grow as a wrestler. I’m happy I stuck it out.

I had aspirations to continue coaching and figured I’d be back in Michigan at my high school. Coach Anderson reached out to me last summer and offered me the job. I jumped at the opportunity right away. I still wanted to compete and train. I knew the best thing for me was to coach. That would help me continue to grow personally while helping student-athletes and this program.



**Jake
MARTIN**
CLASS OF 2003

**HEAD
BASEBALL COACH**

“I FEEL VERY
BLESSED TO
HAVE TAKEN
CLASSES
FROM SOME
LEGENDARY
PROFESSORS.
A LOT ARE
STILL HERE.”

► **I WAS BEING RECRUITED** to play baseball by several small colleges in Indiana. I knew a couple of people from my hometown here at the time, Doug Marlow '98 and Jason Pavey '99.

The small class sizes and the intimate setting forced me to come to class prepared, and articulate my thoughts. I was a shy kid from a small town. I had great professors who challenged me academically but they were not going to let me fail.

Professor Bobby Horton was in his first few years as I was starting at Wabash. I loved his classes. Professor Todd McDorman was my speech professor. Rick Warner H'13 was another favorite of mine. Tobey Herzog H'11 was one of my earliest introductions to the College. Dan Rogers H'12 taught Cultures and Traditions. Melissa Butler H'85 was my advisor. She taught my freshman tutorial, Baseball in American Culture, which was my favorite class here. It was a cool class to introduce me to the College and study baseball in a way I hadn't thought about it. I never changed my advisor because we had such a connection.

I feel very blessed to have taken classes from some legendary professors. A lot are still here. When I came back, I got to reconnect with them in a different way. When I first got back in town, I ran into Dr. Herzog. He said he kept my grades and looked them up. He said I did alright. It has been a really cool way to go full circle and reconnect with them.

My first job was as a graduate assistant at DePauw. This was a good way to introduce me to college coaching, while furthering my education. I was just part-time, but after my third year, they created a full-time assistant position. In 2010, I was interim head coach and then named head coach. I was there for a total of 13 years.

We were having a lot of success at DePauw so it was not an easy decision to leave there to come back to Wabash. We were at a different place as a program than Wabash was at that time. It was hard to leave a program where we were in a conference championship or national tournament every other year to go to a team that was hovering around or below .500.

As I was making my decision, I could see Wabash was a great environment to create a winning and championship program. I looked at the success Wabash was having in football and basketball. I watched what Coach Chris Keller was doing with the soccer program and Coach Brian Anderson with wrestling. I felt we could do the same with the baseball program. Dean of Students Mike Raters '85 encouraged me to consider how great it would be to have an impact and build a legacy for the program.

I love the camaraderie of the coaching staff here. I'm always impressed how invested they are in the students' successes on and off the field. They're committed to running programs with integrity. The coaches fall in love with the College, just like I did as a student.

Academically, the baseball team got a 3.4 GPA last semester. The work they put into balancing academics and athletics keeps me motivated to come to work every day prepared. When you get a new group of high-character people in your program each year, it reinvigorates you to keep doing it.

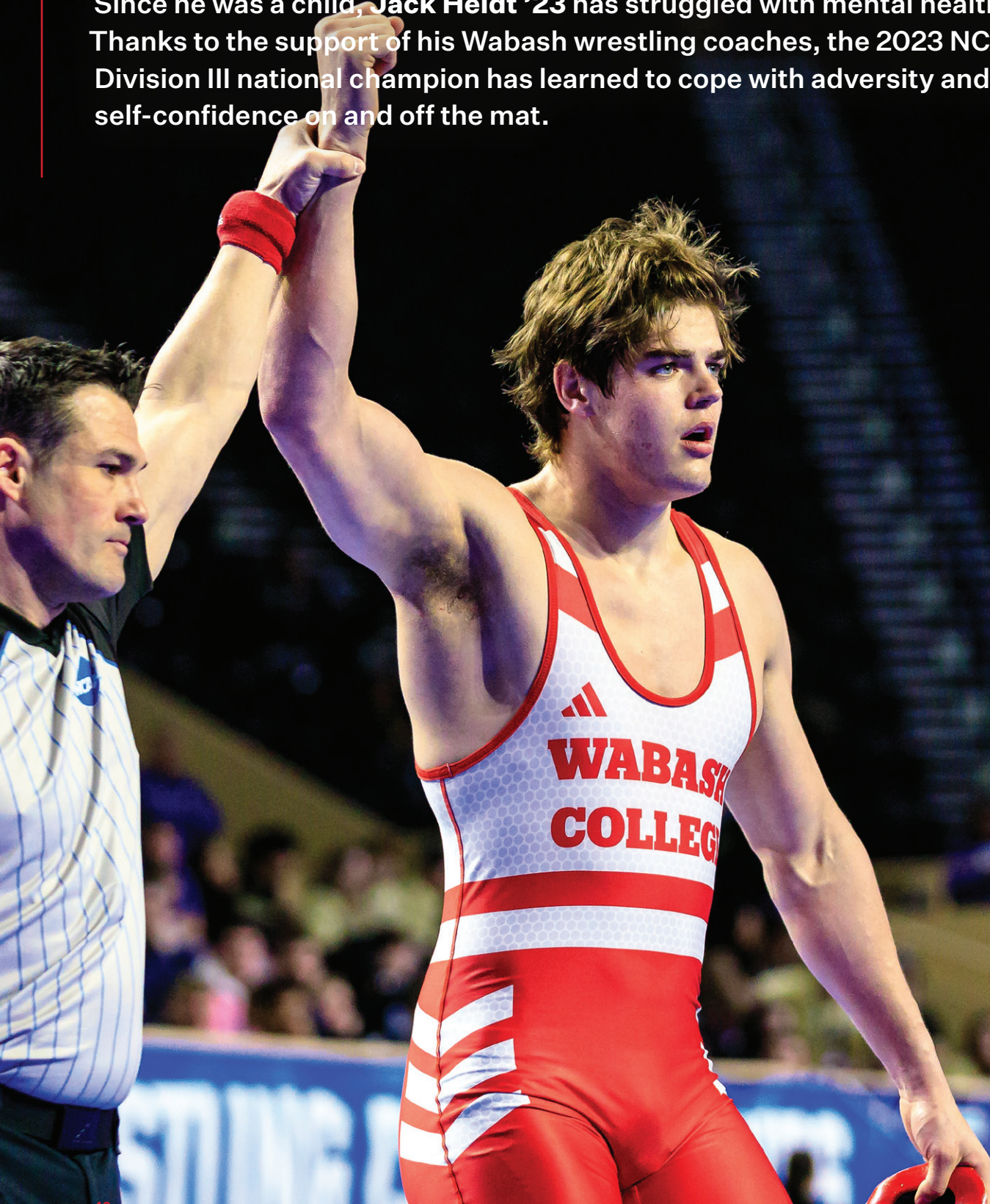
We want to win our conference and make a run for the national championship. That's standard. The bigger picture is creating an environment where we're focused on individual and group development, providing an atmosphere where players are increasing their love for the game, and making it fun for them while working really hard and competing together. We also try to challenge them to understand the deeper layers of the game they may not have been considering in high school. It refreshes the game for them. My goal is when they leave here, they have a greater appreciation for the game and continue to want to be involved in the sport.

Tom Flynn was the head coach beginning my sophomore year. I developed a great relationship with him and have stayed in touch. We still connect and talk. I hope my guys can see me in that same way. You talk to guys in a lot of different phases of their lives, first job, first child. It's exciting to hear from them. I just hope I can be a mentor for them the same way the professors and my college coach were for me—that they know they can call me at any point and I will have a conversation or help out in any way.

‘Don’t let the demons pull you down’

by Allie Northcutt

Since he was a child, Jack Heldt '23 has struggled with mental health issues. Thanks to the support of his Wabash wrestling coaches, the 2023 NCAA Division III national champion has learned to cope with adversity and gained self-confidence on and off the mat.



HOLY CRAP, Max Bishop '21 remembers thinking the first time he saw Jack Heldt '23 walk into the Shelbourne Wrestling Center. This guy's tall!

He definitely has potential!

After his first practice on the mat, Bishop quickly learned the heavyweight wrestler from Carmel, Indiana, had more than potential.

"He brought raw talent," Bishop says of Heldt, who would go on to be his practice partner. "He was quiet but had this very loud presence on the team."

Heldt's presence on the mat and across campus would grow louder and stronger leading up to his senior year, when he capped his Wabash wrestling career by winning the 285-pound national championship at the 2023 NCAA Division III Wrestling Tournament.

After finishing second in the 197-pound weight class at the 2022 championships, Heldt joined four-time national champion Riley Lefever '17 as the only Wabash wrestlers to compete for a national title in consecutive seasons.

"There is not a way in the world to describe this feeling," Heldt, who also earned the NCAA Division III Most Dominant Wrestler for the season, says after the win. "Riley Lefever is the best Division III wrestler who has ever competed in this sport. To be in the same company as him and do it representing Wabash and the 'Wabash Always Fights' mentality means a lot to me."

Heldt was named the program's first-ever recipient of the Elite 90 Award in 2022. The award, founded by the NCAA, is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average competing at the national championships. The biology and rhetoric double major maintained a 4.0 GPA.

Also named a Scholar All-American, Heldt has distinguished himself at Wabash through a variety of campus leadership roles and academic achievement.

He is a member of Sphinx Club, Crawfordsville to Campus Committee, Wabash's Global Health Initiative (GHI), and the Student Senate's Mental Health Concerns Committee. He has also served as an enrollment ambassador for Admissions, a resident assistant (RA), and a leader of the Wabash COVID Action Response and Education Team.

"He lives that championship lifestyle," says Head Wrestling Coach Brian Anderson. "He's the guy at the top of everything he does. Jack doesn't cut corners. He has incredible work ethic and is always doing things the right way."

"He sets the example," adds Bishop, who now serves on the wrestling team as an assistant coach.

AS HE'S STRUGGLED WITH self-confidence and anxiety, Heldt admits juggling it all has taken a lot of mental strength.

"That's been a big challenge for me since I was a kid," says Heldt, who

didn't start wrestling until middle school, which is later than most of his teammates. "I always felt like I was behind. All through high school, and even some my freshman year here, I would puke during matches just from all the nerves."

Heldt says he's leaned on many mentors at Wabash, especially his wrestling coaches, to help him push forward.

"I was never a state-placer or champion in high school, but Coach Anderson still saw my potential," says Heldt. "He has invested in me a bunch since freshman year. He's been tough, but uplifting. It's been cool to look back and see all of the progress we have made together."

"(Former) Coach Josh Hardman taught me about the importance of positive self-talk. Because of him, I'm a big believer in having those internal reflections and practicing meditation," he continues. "I'm more conscious of my thoughts, and have worked hard to start believing in myself."

Anderson has had many conversations during practice and one-on-one sessions with wrestlers, like Heldt, where he challenges them to "not let the demons in your head pull you down."

"We all have to deal with adversity. I approach it the same way we do on the mat. We can't dwell on the bad things," says Anderson. "We have to fight and keep focused on the big picture."

Anderson says Heldt does a good job of sharing those lessons with his teammates too, especially the younger wrestlers.

◀ **Jack Heldt '23** won the 285-pound national championship in March at the 2023 NCAA Division III Wrestling Tournament in Roanoke, Virginia.

“I had to battle my way up the ranks. It just shows you can achieve any of your goals through hard work.”

Jack Heldt '23

As he's gotten older, we've seen him step into this leadership role,” Anderson explained. “He does a good job of guiding guys when they're struggling and cheering them on when they do well.”

THOSE LESSONS from his wrestling coaches proved to be crucial multiple times during Heldt's tenure on the team, from the season being canceled sophomore year due to COVID-19 to finishing as the national runner-up at the Division III Wrestling Championships junior year.

“Finishing as the runner-up at that level is a huge accomplishment,” says Bishop, “but I know he still felt disappointed with the end result because he was so close.

“He didn't let that result turn into turmoil,” he says. “He handled it with maturity and excitement for the fact that he still had one more year left to compete.”

Heldt says he's learned to “embrace the suck” and use it as a driving force to improve and perfect his technique on the mat.

With his team chanting “Wabash Always Fights” in the crowd, that perseverance paid off for Heldt as he returned to campus after Spring Break with a national title.

“To set your mind toward something for four years and finally see it come to fruition is an amazing feeling. Achieving this goal has been one of the best experiences of my life,” says Heldt. “I wasn't always the biggest. I wasn't always the best. I weighed 115 pounds as a freshman in

high school. I had to battle my way up the ranks. It just shows you can achieve any of your goals through hard work.”

Celebrating the accomplishment with his coaches was very special for Heldt.

“They have helped mold me into the man and wrestler I am today,” he says. “I have to give a special shout-out to my coach and former teammate Max Bishop especially. He has sacrificed and poured into me more than anyone, and I would not have been on top of the podium if it weren't for him.”

Heldt is still figuring out his plans for life after Wabash. He will be getting married, and hopes to find a job in medical sales.

“I feel confident that I'm well prepared for the future,” he says. “I have really loved my time at Wabash, and can't imagine being at any other place for my education. I am forever grateful for the family I have made here.”

While Heldt will always be etched in Wabash history as a national champion, he says he hopes to leave behind a legacy as a friend and leader.

“I hope people remember me for who I am as a person rather than what I have achieved,” he says. “I hope they look to me and see the Wabash Always Fights mantra, knowing that if I could come from never making it to the state championships in high school to being a national champion, then they can achieve anything they set their mind to as well.” ■



photo by Kodiak Creative



photo by Jacob Paige '23



photo by Kodiak Creative

Top: **Jack Heldt '23** scored a 6-1 victory over third-seeded Kaleb Reeves from Coe College at the 2023 NCAA Division III Wrestling Tournament. Middle: Heldt (fourth from left) celebrates senior night with wrestlers **Evan Burge '23**, **Austin Johnson '23**, **Grant Johnson '23**, and coaches. Bottom: In addition to being named the 285-pound national champion, Heldt also earned the NCAA Division III Most Dominant Wrestler for the season.

All in the Family

Wabash is family. For a few lucky families it means mom or dad and their Little Giant sons spend four years on campus at the same time. Meet a handful of parents who work on campus and their “boys.”



Richard Paige
Director of Marketing
and Media Relations

Wabash is the kind of education that I really wanted for myself 20 years into my career. You've learned the fundamentals. You can crank out your job on a daily basis. But what Wabash gives you is the ability to make those connections and do the things that make the next 20 years good.

One of the things I've tried really hard to do is to not be in Jake's way. I wanted this place to be his. I've really forced myself at times to pull back and not just go knock on his door and find out what he's doing.

It is fun to see him randomly on campus. I know I have a luxury most parents don't.

I was excited about Jake coming to Wabash, selfishly and truthfully, because when Jake's mom and I divorced, Jake spent most of the school year with his mom in Tennessee. I was happy we were going to be close. But beyond that, I was excited because I knew this place would be good for him. I knew that he could thrive here.

I'm really lucky, because I'm one of the few people whose son didn't go away to college. He came home to college. And that means the world to me, to have

been able to spend this kind of time with him. What a blessing it is to witness what he's been able to go through.

It's nice to have those moments where I can just see him existing. I get to see those little moments where he's doing his thing—whether he's studying, hanging out with his friends, shooting pictures at a game—I get to see those things as they happen, and man, that's fun.

Jake Paige '23

Freshman year was so dark for me. I spent days walking, calling my mom and walking away from the school. Walking and crying and asking questions and trying to figure out what I was doing here. How I'm going to figure it out. How am I going to make friends.

I took Hollywood Cinema in the 1970s, taught by Michael Abbott, for my freshman tutorial. We watched some of the greatest movies ever made, and talked about them. Movies depicting life, death, and love, and coming of age and heartbreak. That class spoke to me.

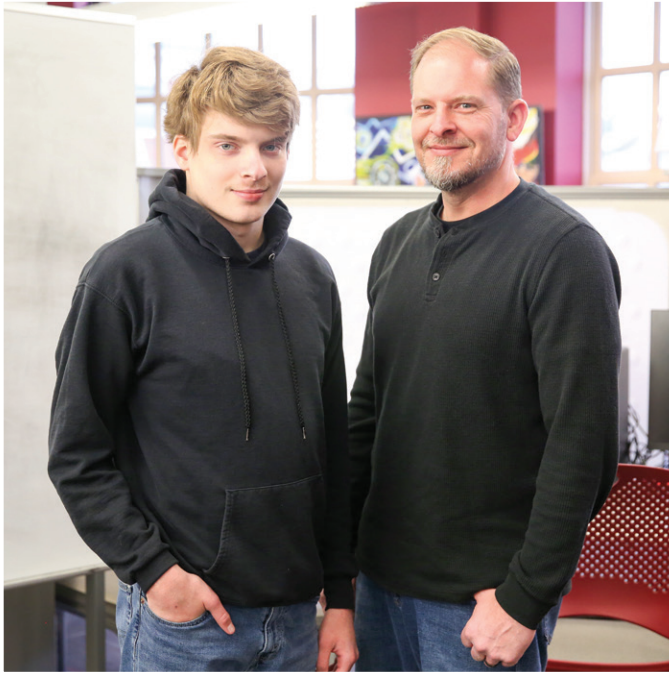
I spent time talking with Professor Abbott more outside of class that semester. There is nobody I felt quite as reassured or safe with than him. He was a student at Wabash and he struggled. He found the theater department. He left Wabash,

lived his life, and came back and worked so hard to make sure that students are seen and heard and cared for. And man, I needed that.

Before Wabash, my dad and I were never able to just go out for lunch or to run into each other. Or to be in a situation that actually called for small talk—like running into each other in Sparks or passing each other on the mall. There are those small moments that I've really come to appreciate. I didn't realize I lacked until I was living them.

I've started coming in and seeing him more, because I'm interested in him more as a person and getting to know him as a father than I was my freshman year, where I only saw him as somebody I have to report to. Now I get a kick out of visiting him.

But I had to figure out how to be comfortable with myself before I could come in and do that.



Nate Baldwin
Web Developer

I love my job here. I like the variety of tasks, the people, and my mostly quiet office. I like going to the fitness center with my son, Evan, and running on the track with my daughter, Lily. I've also very much enjoyed rediscovering paid time off. Switching from self-employment to a full-time job has resulted in significantly more free time, thanks in part to the culture of balance at Wabash. I've been able to invest energy into other projects like the local community theater.

I see Evan every day, and we spend most lunch hours together. We usually go to the fitness center, play board games or chess in my office, or just go out to eat. Since we're both here during the day, I see more of Evan now than I did when he was in high school.

Evan Baldwin '26

I knew it was a good college. In high school, I was looking for a more advanced physics course. My dad told me I could apply for a dual credit course at Wabash, so I was already familiar with the students and faculty here. Being close to family is a huge priority too. Campus is beautiful. Coming to Wabash was pretty much a no-brainer.



Ann Taylor
Senior Associate Dean of the College, Professor of Chemistry

Henry has been on campus since he was two weeks old. Growing up around Wabash, he knows what our expectations are for our students, and that we expect him to work hard. And he has totally lived up to that. When I first started, we had just crossed parity of having the same number of women on the faculty as there were men named David. The Davids have retired and we've hired more women. Now we're at the point we have five Anns and one David. It's been fun to watch that growth and change. We're also much more aware of men's mental health issues and trying to make sure we have proper support for students. When I first came, David Phillips H'83 referred to Wabash's humane rigor. We have high expectations for students, but we also provide support so they can achieve the things we ask them to do.

Henry Taylor '25

I really didn't want to come to Wabash at all. I wanted to get as far away from Crawfordsville as I could. One big thing that pulled me to Wabash is that it means something on your degree. I was in Europe and somebody walked up in the airport and said, "Wabash, I went there." Of course. They're just everywhere. It's got its tentacles in every high-level business possible.

When Mom talks about chemistry, I have no idea what any of it means. But I can tell she actually knows what she's talking about. She is also incredibly devoted to her students.



Chip Timmons '96
Dean for Enrollment
Management

When Landon was living with us, I always thought he was living from moment to moment or by his sports schedule. I have been impressed to see how organized he is. The classes that he was proud of in the fall were the ones where he had the most fear going in. A lot more work to do, more to learn and absorb. That's what I hope for all of our students, that they get the most reward when they are pushed out of their comfort zone.

I've grown more confident in my time working at Wabash. A much better listener and thinker. I have a lot more patience than I used to. I've become much less of a micromanager. I'm not saying, "Well, this is how I would do it. This is how I want you to do it." It's, "Let me know what your decision is and I'll support you." It's rewarding people for good work and giving them opportunities to grow and develop.

Landon will have great instruction but there are going to be so many opportunities available to him, a whole new world opened up, whether it's because of leadership positions, clubs, his fraternity, athletics, or immersion learning courses. That's what I'm most excited about—all that's waiting for him as these four years pass.

Landon Timmons '26

I'd always come to the football games. I wore my dad's pot that he got when he was here and then I'd wear stripes. I'd run around the grassy area behind the stadium and eat snacks.

A big difference I have seen in myself since I began as a student at Wabash is I've been working harder and I'm standing up and doing whatever is best for me.

Dad graduated in '96. He's been working here since '97. It makes me proud how he loves this place and stuck by it so long. It makes me proud that he came here and he stayed here. He puts in a lot of effort and shows his love for Wabash in many ways.



Mike Warren '93
Senior Associate Director of
Alumni and Parent Relations

Self-confidence is one of the biggest areas of growth for me personally as Wabash staff. I have become more confident in public speaking, in leading events or projects, and simply approaching new people.

Kai has grown as a leader, accepting roles in his fraternity and other clubs. I have also seen him mature as a student. I see more focus. He understands what it takes to succeed in the classroom and he is putting more attention in that area.

Kai Warren '24

My favorite memory of Wabash as a kid was after the 2009 Monon Bell Game. I was in the chapel with the other coaches' families and watched the Monon Bell stroll in on top of the shoulders of Sphinx Club members. I instantly fell in love with everything Wabash.

My dad always brought me to alumni events, where I saw firsthand how Wabash builds character and sets up men for success after graduation. Whenever I get the chance to talk about Wabash's alumni network, I can't help but mention that my dad works in the alumni office and plays a role in that.

Be the Change

by Allie Northcutt



“WHAT DO YOU THINK?”
Standing on the first base line at Goodrich Ballpark with students socially-distanced in the stands, Associate Professor of Political Science Scott Himself presented the question to students in his freshman tutorial Civil War and Reconstruction.

Their first assignment was to read and analyze Abraham Lincoln’s first presidential inaugural address, which Himself says was light on race relations and heavily focused on unity and keeping the upper South in the Union.

“I picked it because it would set off a debate among the students,” says Himself. “Did Lincoln compromise his ethics? Or did he do the right thing as a political leader?”

The group deliberated for some time.

Himself then turned to Chase Breau ’24.

“What do you think?”

“Why is it,” Breau responded, “that white people always think Black people need a white savior?”

Breau’s answer came in 2020, when the country was grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic and murder of George Floyd by police officers, sparking the largest racial

justice protests in the United States since the civil rights movement.

The then-freshman’s response and perception shocked Himself.

“Chase’s insight was one I would have never thought of,” he says.

Himself says that moment—and many others since—served as an example of how Wabash students can add to a conversation and educate others.

“It takes bravery and maturity to speak up,” Himself says. “Chase has never been afraid to do that.”

“You cannot fail to take him seriously, because he takes things seriously,” he continues. “Chase never has struck me as a person who thinks he has all the answers. But, if something needs to be said that isn’t being said, or his sense of justice moves him, he’s going to speak. Having both of those characteristics is very impactful.”

BREAUX ORIGINALLY CAME TO WABASH with plans to study biology and pursue pre-med. But Himsel’s freshman tutorial shifted that focus.

“Going through that course showed me that politics can be used as a means of creating change,” says Breaux, a political science major and Black studies minor. “I have always wanted to help make the world better, more inclusive, and safer for everybody. Getting involved in politics and policymaking stood out as a way for me to be able to do that.”

Breaux’s passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) came out of his own experiences growing up as a bisexual Black man in Houston, Texas.

“I’ve seen a lot of suffering,” Breaux says, “a lot of systemic and social issues that don’t need to exist. They’re all man-made issues perpetuated by members of society.”

Those issues include homophobia and racism. Breaux has experienced both.

“My home life definitely prepared me to be able to deal with different versions of bigotry, the overt and covert,” says Breaux. “I’ve focused on finding solutions so the same things don’t keep happening to different people.”

WHEN BREAUX GOT TO WABASH, he recognized where improvements could be made on campus to create a safer and more inclusive atmosphere for all students.

“When I’m in a room with people who have used homophobic slurs or made racist comments, I feel the weight of that, and have to carry that weight as long as I’m there,” says Breaux.

As a freshman he joined a number of organizations, including the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS), ’shOUT (Wabash’s LGBTQ+ alliance), and Student Senate, where he currently serves as co-chair for the Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee.

“I got involved early because I wanted to be the change,” says Breaux, who is also a participant in the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP), a democracy fellow for the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) initiative, and a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

As part of his work in advocating for minority students, Breaux has worked to maintain and revitalize safe spaces around campus, like the ’shOUT office.

“Carrying that burden of being the minority in the room, it’s important to have this space where we can recuperate, relax, and be ourselves,” he says. “They also serve as great resources where we talk, interact, and build relationships.”

BREAUX’S PASSION and work to create a more inclusive environment at Wabash gained national attention when he was one of 100 students awarded a Voyager Scholarship—the Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service.

The Voyager Scholarship, created by the Obama Foundation and Airbnb CEO Brian Chesky, is a multiyear scholarship created to give college students planning to pursue a career in public service financial aid to alleviate the burden of college debt, meaningful travel experiences to expand their horizons, and a network of mentors and leaders to support them.

“Michelle and I know that change only happens when ordinary people get involved, get engaged, and come together to create it,” former President Barack Obama says in a news release. “These young Voyagers believe in a fairer and more inclusive world, and they’re ready to help us address important challenges in new ways.”

Using the Voyager Scholarship stipend, Breaux plans to pursue his interest in criminal justice reform.

“The U.S. criminal justice system prioritizes punishment instead of rehabilitation—with mass incarceration and disproportionate sentencing,” says Breaux, who spent last semester abroad in Amsterdam studying alternatives to incarceration in an effort to inform his own positions on reform.

“It is an inhumane system where people aren’t able to feel any sense of dignity or agency,” he says. “It removes their ability to learn from their mistakes, move forward, have productive lives, and meet their own dreams and goals.”

Breaux believes the criminal justice system can be reformed if equity is prioritized.

“The worst of Black people should be treated the same as the worst of white people,” says Breaux, “as opposed to having different standards for different groups of people.”

BREAUX’S ULTIMATE GOAL is to work in public policy.

He hopes to build a grassroots campaign advocating for racial equity and criminal justice reform while building a bipartisan coalition.

Before that, Breaux says there’s still work to be done at Wabash.

During his remaining time on campus, Breaux plans to continue leading the D&I committee and collaborating with fraternities and residence halls to establish D&I chairs, to develop partnerships with organizations to cosponsor events to raise awareness on DEI-related topics, and to increase student participation.

“I also want to provide mentorship to younger students as they move into leadership positions,” he says. “I want to make sure we are prioritizing sustainable change.”

“I’ve been extremely thankful for the resources here and all the people who have helped guide me,” says Breaux. “I love this place, and because I love it, I want it to be as good as it can be.” ■

Service and Justice

by Richard Paige

As Cooper Smith '23 walked past Lilly Library during a visit to Wabash, he had a thought: *This is where I belong.*

COOPER SMITH'S list of accomplishments during his tenure at Wabash is long and impressive.

He won Moot Court twice—as a freshman and sophomore. He earned double distinction on his senior comprehensive exams. He earned two competitive international fellowships, the Truman Scholarship as a junior, which allowed him to study abroad in Chile, and the Marshall Scholarship as a senior. The two-year Marshall Scholarship will support him through his studies in St. Andrews, Scotland, and London.

The political science and history major has also been accepted to Yale Law School.

"The past four years have been beyond what I could have even hoped for," he says. "I'm in the exact spot I wanted to be. I have a strong team of mentors and friends. I'm excited for the challenge ahead."

In addition to being a section leader in the Glee Club, Smith has also reenergized *The Bachelor* as its editor in chief.

Jim Amidon '87, chief of staff and director of strategic communications, says it was impressive to watch Smith recruit, motivate, and develop a vast cadre of writers, designers, and photographers whose abilities ranged from novice to brilliantly talented in his early weeks as the editor.

"Not only did he build the largest staff in a decade, his team included fraternity and independent men, international and students of color, athletes and artists," says Amidon, who also serves as the student newspaper's advisor. "This year's *Bachelor* reflects a rich diversity of interests, but also Cooper's thoughtful vision and his genuine commitment to collaboration."

"Cooper's intellect, energy level, and constant thirst for knowledge combine to form a remarkably thoughtful and mature young man," says Amidon. "And while he is usually the smartest person in the room, he is kind and patient, a thoughtful listener, and a genuinely nonjudgmental leader."

Calling himself an "obsessive planner,"

Smith says he weighed options endlessly to extremes and just took one step at a time.

"It may look like it's a really calculated plan from start to finish, but I'm not playing 4-D chess here," he says. "I make one decision at a time."

"I was fascinated to meet someone who had such a spark for learning, infinitely so," says Benjamin Bullock '23,

Smith's roommate of four years. "I've never met someone who from the get-go was quite so driven, and knew what he wanted to do from the beginning. He didn't have everything exactly spelled out, but at least knew the direction he was going. He's always had direction."

The series of choices Smith has made have served him well, but internship experiences cemented his path. In the summer of 2021, he had two internships—one with the Innocence Project of Florida and the second with Legal Aid Society of Louisville, Kentucky—focusing on wrongful convictions and poverty law.

His desire to work with the Innocence Project stemmed from research done in preparation for a high school debate tournament. Reading stories of wrongful convictions lit "a fiery conviction" to get involved. He saw firsthand how the approach to criminal justice often intersects with economic justice.

"I've worked on wrongful convictions in northern Florida. I've worked on poverty law in Kentucky," he says. "Those opportunities, coupled with where I grew up, prepared me to be a different type of advocate."

After the pandemic hit, he struggled with the idea that the hurdles for poverty law clients are already high, but for many poor Americans, conditions only got worse. The native of Sellersburg, Indiana, jumped at an opportunity to work at the Legal Aid Society in Louisville for former senior attorney Nick Maraman '10.

"My experiences working in and around Louisville have really shaped how I think about law as a force for good and how I envision solutions to common crises," he says.

"I could read hundreds of pages of trial transcripts of evidence, but they were the only people who had lived their cases, and meeting with them, hearing their stories, really confirmed for me that this is the line of work I want to go into."

COOPER SMITH '23

“My work with the Legal Aid Society helped confirm law was both the right career path for me, but also that law could be a tool for social good.”

Working with clients in both places, talking regularly with people in prison, sharpened his focus that this is the work he should be doing.

“There are confirming moments where you just know you’re on the right track,” he says. “I could read hundreds of pages of trial transcripts of evidence, but they were the only people who had lived their cases, and meeting with them, hearing their stories, really confirmed for me that this is the line of work I want to go into.”

Smith is committed to a career in law marked with public service, although he is not sure exactly what that will look like—nonprofits, government, perhaps teaching.

He is a genuinely curious person eager to continue learning as he connects with new people and places. That curiosity was fostered originally by his parents, both teachers and now in academic administration, who placed tremendous value on education.

“Curiosity is a big part of understanding who I am,” he says. “I have tons of interests. I love exploring new ideas and new experiences.”

Smith is also quick to credit the shared Wabash experience for so much of what he has accomplished.

“Wabash helped me discover who I am and who I see myself to be in the future,” he says. “It has taught me how to think, how to love, and how to be a good citizen of a community. These past four years have been a big journey of self-discovery.” ■



photo by Kim Johnson

1952

William Reinke

is included in Marquis "Who's Who in America" for 2023. Accumulating more than six decades of experience as a distinguished trial attorney, Reinke has since retired from his role of counsel from Barnes & Thornburg and Predecessors in South Bend, IN. He co-authored his first book, "A Hoosier Trial Lawyer's Notebook: 40 Years at the Bar," with Austin Reinke in 2019, and published "Random Thoughts of a Hoosier Trial Lawyer" in 2020.



1954

Richard Rose

announced that the film STATIC, based on his teleplay, won major awards at three international film festivals.



1961

John Dunn

published a book, "Learning to Be a Lawyer in Leadville, Colorado," about receiving a Root Tilden Scholarship to New York University Law while at Wabash and ending up practicing law in Leadville. It is available on Amazon.



1967

Jim Rushton

was named a winner of the East Tennessee Economic Council's Muddy Boot Award. The Muddy Boot Award was established nearly 50 years ago to honor people "who have gone above the call of duty to make the community, the state of Tennessee, and the nation a better place to live and work." Rushton, who is retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, received the award for his distinguished career at ORNL and for his service to the Oak Ridge community.



1977

Robert Knowling Jr. was elected to the Citrix Systems Inc. board of directors. Knowling will serve on the compensation committee of the board, and qualifies as an independent director. He has more than 30 years of experience in the telecommunications and technology sectors, leading companies through periods of high growth. Knowling is currently chairman of Eagles Landing Partners, a firm specializing in helping senior management teams formulate strategy, lead organizational transformations, and reengineer businesses.



1979

Ehud Neor is writing on Substack. Read more at <https://ehudneor.substack.com>. ■ **Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy**, Vermilion County presiding circuit judge, has been reelected as the 5th Judicial Circuit's chief circuit judge.



1982

Tom Dakich, a practicing attorney for more than 30 years, was featured in a podcast episode of "Business and Beyond" with Inside Indiana Business's Gerry Dick. Dakich resides in Indianapolis and has worked from offices in London, Sydney, Tampa, Chicago, San Francisco, and New York. ■ **Robert Jaquiss** was nominated as president-elect of the Congenital Heart Surgeons' Society (CHSS). He will serve a two-year term starting in 2024. Jaquiss is the division director of pediatric and congenital cardiothoracic surgery and co-director of the Heart Center at Children's Health in Texas. He is also a professor of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery in the department of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery and professor of pediatrics at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Jaquiss specializes in neonatal and pediatric heart surgery, surgery for mechanical circulatory support, and heart transplantation. Jaquiss has extensive clinical research experience.

1983

Chris Denari, the television voice of the Indiana Pacers, was voted 2022 Indiana Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sports Media Association. Denari started with the Pacers in 2006. He previously served as the play-by-play announcer for the Butler men's basketball team (1989–2006) and the Indiana Fever (2000–2017). In 2016, he was inducted into the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association Hall of Fame. ■ **John Roberts** joined emeritus biology professors **Les Hearson H'70**, **Bill Doemel H'74**, **Aus Brooks '61**, and **David Polley** for lunch at the Juicy Seafood in Indianapolis.



1985

John Ohmer '84, **C. Davies Reed '85**, and **Ben Anthony '00** met up at the Bi-Annual National Association of Episcopal Schools meeting in San Antonio, TX. Ohmer and Anthony are school chaplains, Ohmer at St. Christopher's School in Richmond, VA, and Anthony at St. Andrew's School in Boca Raton, FL. Reed is vice president of the board of trustees at St. Richard's Episcopal School in Indianapolis.



1988

Our condolences to **Will Norris**, whose wife, Vicki Silverthorne Norris, passed away on August 7, 2022.

1989

Jay Baltisberger started a new job in Michigan, leaving the world of academics for chemistry research and development. He also married Nirvia Llovera in September 2022.

1990

Brian Grossenbacher

recently published a new book of photography titled "Trout." Grossenbacher is an outdoor photographer who has chronicled hunting and angling adventures from Argentina to Alaska and New Zealand to New York, and has shot major ad campaigns for some of the leading brands in the outdoor industry, including Orvis, Simms, and Yeti. Prior to his photography career, Grossenbacher was a fly-fishing outfitter in Southwest Montana.



1991

David Pippen

has been named general counsel for Kentucky American Water. He will provide legal counsel and guidance for both Kentucky and Tennessee American Water.



1992

Chris Worden serves as chief of staff to the Federal Aviation Administration's Chief Counsel.

1996

Royce Smith

is stepping down as Montana State University's dean of College of Arts and Architecture at the end of the semester to return to the classroom. Smith, who joined MSU as dean in 2016, plans to return to teaching within the School of Art.



1997

James Scurlock was named the managing attorney for Texas operations at Wallace, Martin, Duke & Russell PLLC. He oversees offices in Dallas and Austin and is responsible for opening the new office in Houston. ■ **John Worth** joined Phillips Lytle LLP as its newest partner. Worth leads its Chicago office.



1999

Brad Timmons, varsity and junior varsity running backs coach for Center Grove High School, was part of the coaching staff that led the football team to its third-straight state championship. This was Timmons' 24th year coaching football. He was a four-year member of the Little Giants football team. Timmons is a member of the social studies department at Center Grove, where he teaches advanced placement psychology, psychology, and U.S. History. He also serves as an assistant on the boys track and field team specializing in short sprints and relays.



2000

Todd Barton announced that he will seek a fourth term as Crawfordsville mayor. Barton was first elected in 2011. Barton is a Crawfordsville native and previously served the community for 26 years as a firefighter and paramedic with the Crawfordsville Fire Department. ■ **Terrance Thorpe** has been appointed as a magistrate judge for the Marion Superior Court in Indianapolis.



2001

David Woessner writes, "On January 8, Jonas and I had the honor to pin (his wife) Lt. Colonel Tundo Pham's new rank on her."



2002

Shawn Morris and his wife, Lara, relocated to Arlington, TX, from Beaufort, SC. Their three daughters are attending Fort Worth Country Day school. Morris assumed the role of officer in charge at the Naval Branch Health Clinic Fort Worth and was promoted to commander. Additionally, he is assistant varsity coach and junior varsity head coach for the Fort Worth Country Day baseball program.

2008

Keenan D. Wilson has joined the firm Taylor, Chadd, Minnette, Schneider & Clutter P.C. in the practice of law.

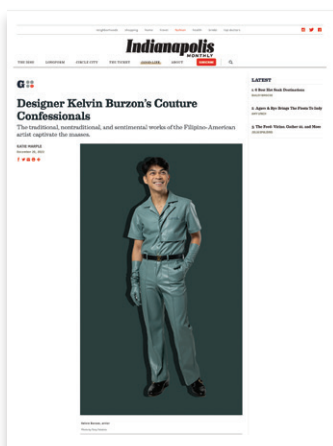
2011

Justin Allen, and his wife, Kaitlyn, are credited for saving a passenger's life by performing CPR on a flight to North Carolina. Allen, a Duke hospitalist, and Kaitlyn were in Utah so he could compete in the 2022 Half Ironman World Championship race. While flying home, a medical emergency was declared. Thanks to the couple's efforts, the passenger arrived in stable condition and upon landing was handed off to paramedics for further evaluation.



2012

Kelvin Burzon was featured in *Indianapolis Monthly*. The story, titled "Designer Kelvin Burzon's Couture Confessionals: The traditional, nontraditional, and sentimental works of the Filipino-American artist captivate the masses," can be found at www.indianapolismonthly.com.



2013

Adie Fein received a master's in fine arts in graphic design from the Rhode Island School of Design in June 2022. They then began a new graphic design role at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

2015

Andrew Dettmer started a new position as a commercial litigation associate at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP in Indianapolis.



2017

Alejandro Reyna joined Ascend Services as a consulting analyst. Reyna recently completed an Indianapolis Symphonic Choir fellowship while pursuing a master's degree in music at Butler University with a dual focus on choral conducting and voice performance.



2018

Jake Budler, along with his wife, Julia, is opening a bookstore in downtown Indianapolis on Mass Ave. "Tomorrow Bookstore will be downtown Indianapolis's only independent, general-interest new bookstore. This is a huge cultural gap in Indy, and we are excited to be helping to solve it," Budler said. ■ **Dominick Rivers**, an experimental filmmaker who employs alternative photographic processes in his work, was showcased in the Mono No Aware Cinema Arts Festival in New York. By integrating technically outdated forms, Rivers uses video work, framed by larger installations, to examine the popular media used to capture and sentimentalize memory. His research is focused on developing substitutions to alternative photographic processes to demonstrate that commonly accepted techniques can be made more accessible and environmentally sustainable, and can remain emotionally exigent. Rivers is also a multi-instrumentalist who writes, records, and produces the soundscapes and musical accompaniments to his work.



2021

Paul Haesemeyer was published in the knitting magazines *Radâm* and *Vogue Knitting*.

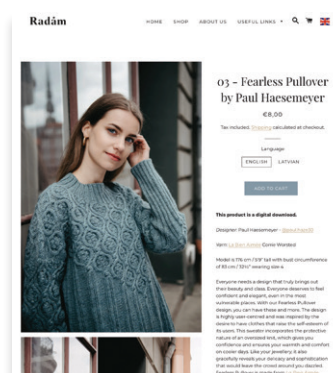


Image courtesy of Radâm Magazine, photo by Annija Ratniece

1941

Glenn T. Adams, 103, peacefully passed away January 9, in Stuart, FL.

He was born in Chicago, IL, and graduated from Wabash College.

He worked in the rubber and plastic molding industry. Glenn was a supporter of many charities and enjoyed the game of golf, achieving seven holes-in-one in his lifetime.

He loved life, always with a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eyes. Adams was the beloved husband of the late June (Olstad) Adams; loving father of children, Jeffrey, Mark, and Kimberly; and proud grandfather of three grandchildren.

1944

Jabez "Jay" Albert Baysinger, 96, of Sandoval, IL, passed away November 22, 2022. He was born on January 26, 1926, the son of Lawrence and Grayce (Webster) Baysinger in Centralia.

Baysinger was a graduate of Centralia High School and served in the Navy during World War II as a second class shipfitter. He attended Wabash College and Carthage College.

He taught high school in Michigan and Illinois. He taught math, biology, and driver's education. Baysinger also coached football, basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball, and was an athletic director.

He married the love of his life, Alma Ford, on August 13, 1961. He always said they started smiling at each other and never stopped. At retirement, they enjoyed camping. Baysinger also went duck and goose hunting but enjoyed more the breakfast he and his fellow hunters would cook in the johnboat while waiting for the birds to arrive. He also enjoyed reading, listening to blue grass and gospel music, and watching the St. Louis Cardinal games.

Along with his beloved wife, Alma, he leaves behind his children, Jennifer, Edith, and Grace; and grandchildren, Michelle, Michael, Amy, and Donald Jr.

He married the love of his life, Alma Ford, on August 13, 1961. He always said they started smiling at each other and never stopped.



1948

Robert Thomas "Bob" Christian, 100, passed away January 20, 2022, in Indianapolis. He was born June 13, 1921, in Lebanon, IN, son of Thomas L. and Winnie Mae (Ashley) Christian.

On September 28, 1946, he was united in marriage to Marjorie Fae (Hollingsworth) Christian. They had celebrated 66 years together before she passed away on November 23, 2012.

On July 20, 1942, Christian was inducted into the United States Army and was assigned to the 109th Engineers (Combat), 34th Infantry Division, as a clerk typist. He was sent to Casablanca, Morocco, and then traveled to Oran and Algiers, Algeria. He then left for Tunisia and took a ship to Italy. While serving in Italy, he visited Rome and Florence. After being away for more than three years, Christian returned to Camp Atterbury.

Upon his return, Christian finished his bachelor's degree at Wabash. In 1951, he began work for Western Electric in Indianapolis as an electrical engineer. He retired after 34 years of service. After retirement, he told his family, "I cannot remember going to work and not enjoying myself."

Christian was a member of the Elks Club, American Legion, and VFW. He and his wife loved to travel, so he took her to Italy to show her the sites he had visited and served during WWII. He loved to play bridge and golf during his retirement years. He also enjoyed playing the piano and other instruments.

In June 2021, his family celebrated his centennial birthday with a dinner.

Survivors include his children, Terrence and Melissa; grandson, Matthew; great-grandson, Aiden; brother-in-law, James; and nieces and nephews.

1951

Roy William Klinzing, 92, of Bloomington, IL, passed away June 2, 2022.

He was born October 24, 1929, in Brooklyn, NY, a son of William Charles and Rosita Jacobsen Klinzing. He married Janet D. Smith on April 30, 1955, in Long Island, NY. She preceded him in death on June 10, 2018.

Klinzing graduated with honors from Babson College in 1954. He was a Korean War veteran, having served with the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953. Klinzing taught preparatory classes for New York City insurance agents at the Pohs Institute. He was a former president of the Central Illinois CPCU Chapter, former president of the National Association of Bond Underwriters, and former president of the New York City Bond Underwriters. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and a committee member of the National CPCU Finance Committee.

Klinzing was employed by Travelers Insurance and retired from State Farm Insurance Companies as the director of the surety and fidelity bond department.

After retiring, he wintered in Florida and enjoyed golf, boating, travel, reading, and spending time with family. He was known to be a distinguished gentleman, a devoted family man, and a very kind, loving, and caring father.

Surviving are four sons, Steven, Mark, Gregg, and Scott; eight grandchildren, Kelsey, Brent, Kristine, Dan, Aly, Connor, Ashley and Caroline; and two great-grandchildren, Cameron and Chloe.

1953

Louis Bard Sunderland, 91, of Fort Collins, CO, passed away December 2, 2022.

He lived and worked in Iroquois County, IL, for most of his life. He was born to Lavera and Horace A. Sunderland on December 23, 1930, in Watseka, IL.



He graduated from Donovan High School in Donovan, IL, and earned a bachelor's degree from Wabash. After serving in the U.S. Army, he graduated from Northwestern Law School in Chicago in 1958.

Sunderland was married to Barbara Conroy on February 20, 1954. Barbara met Louis in Donovan when she was seven years old. She still remembers being impressed by his "gift of gab." They raised their two children, Elizabeth and Jennifer, in Watseka.

As a partner with the law firm currently named Johnson and Devine, Sunderland practiced law in Watseka for nearly 50 years, from 1958 until his retirement in 2005. He often said that he was lucky in that he looked forward to going to work every day. He was a member of many community organizations throughout his years in Watseka. He was lead counsel and a long-time member of the Board of Iroquois Federal, as well as serving on the Donovan Trust Board. He was an active and enthusiastic participant in Lions and Elks Clubs before his relocation to Fort Collins.

In his spare time, Sunderland enjoyed baseball (especially following the White Sox), baking, reading, walking, and spending time with his granddaughters and his beloved English bulldogs and cairn terriers. He was a familiar figure walking Cableline and Cemetery Roads near his home every day. He was a folk music aficionado. He and Barbara made many trips to hear their favorite singer-songwriters perform at the Earl of Oldtown in Chicago. They also traveled to visit national parks throughout the country and made two trips to Ireland. When Sunderland turned 60 years old, he started baking pies, eventually perfecting versions of his aunt's pie crust and grandmother's cookie recipes.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; children, Elizabeth and Jennifer Sunderland; and grandchildren, Caroline and Julia.

1954

Herbert Louis Bunch, 90, of New Castle, IN, passed away on February 14.

He was born July 16, 1932, in New Castle, the son of the late Lonzo and Stella (Murray) Bunch.

He graduated from New Castle High School in 1950. He attended Wabash College and was part of the football team. He was in the U.S. Army, serving in the Korean Conflict. Upon his return, he attended Ball State University, earning his bachelor's degree and later a master's degree and principal's license. He had a long career in education, starting at Lebanon High School, working at the New Castle State Hospital Education and Counseling Department, and ending as the seventh grade principal at New Castle Schools. After retirement, he was the executive director of the Henry County Community Foundation, remaining active there until his death.

Bunch was community-minded his entire life. His goal was to give back to the community that had given him so much as a young person. His activities included being a 78-year member of the First Presbyterian Church, serving as trustee, deacon, and elder; membership chairman and board member of the YMCA; member of the New Castle Noon Optimist Club; founder of the flag program; president, lieutenant governor, governor, and international convention committee member of Optimist International; member of the Henry County Mental Health Association (president 1990–91); member of the Comprehensive Mental Health Association; board member of First Nighters Inc. Civic Theater; ARIES Inc. treasurer; treasurer and board member of Henry County Tourism Bureau; seminar committee chairman of Leadership Academy; chairman of the Chamber of Commerce; charter member of IASP; merger committee member of ISSA and IAEMSP; president and committee member for various committees for the Indiana Secondary School Administrators organization; member of NASSP, ASCD, and Indiana Middle Level Education Association; committee member of Phi Delta Kappa and the St. Jude National Math-A-Thon Council; and ISTA, ISSA, and IAEMSP Round Table

committee member. He was also a board member of Westminster Community Center.

Bunch's awards included Burger King Excellence in Education Principal of the Year 1992, ISSA District No. 6 Principal of Year 1986, ISAP District No. 6 Middle Level Principal of the Year 1992, Distinguished Governor of Optimist International 1968, and Distinguished Lt. Governor of Optimist International 1964. Bunch was also Citizen of the Year in 2001. He was Grand Marshal of the Memorial Day Parade in 2001, and was a torch bearer for the Bicentennial in 2016.

He enjoyed traveling, fishing, spending time with family and friends, watching sports, and reading a good book.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Judy; daughters, Lisa, Allison, and Amy; grandchildren, Megan, Tim, Matthew, Alex, Sarah, and Sam; great-grandchildren, Easton and Liliann; and three nephews.

1955

Clifford "Cliff" Paddack Wagner, 89, passed away August 30, 2022. Born and raised in Cincinnati, he graduated from Hughes High School and Wabash College, where he was a proud member of Sigma Chi.

Upon graduation from Wabash, he proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps and then joined the family business, Wagner and Son's Bottling Company in Cincinnati. He and partner Paul Gosiger subsequently acquired and developed the local independent insurance agency Emory P. Zimmer Insurance Company, from which he ultimately retired.

When they started their family, he and his first wife, Patsy, embraced every aspect of parenting. He attended all the sporting and school events, but really found his niche coaching his daughters in soccer with Patsy. They traveled the country with their teams to participate in tournaments. He was an active 56-year member of the City Club (formerly Gyro Club) and member of the University Club, as well as a long-standing member of Knox Presbyterian Church in Hyde Park. The family enjoyed regular summer trips to northern Michigan with friends and family.

Retirement led the family to Maine and their house on the water,

where they spent time enjoying lobster, looking for moose, and watching an eagle land on the rock in front of the house, which would inspire the name of the property—Eagle Rock. In his final years, Cliff and his second wife, Anne, liked a good game of gin rummy, rides in the country, a nightly bourbon, and the love of their families.

He leaves a powerful legacy of kindness, strength, generosity, laughter, and wit. This world is a better place because of him.

He was preceded in death by his wife Patricia. He is survived by their three children, Chip, Chase, and Sarah; loving grandchildren, Kyle, Adam, Preston, Harrison, Paddack, Edie, Leah, and Logan; and one great-grandchild, Declan. He is also survived by his wife, Anne; her two children, Jennifer and Stephen; and her five grandchildren.

1956

James "Jim" Thornton Kuhn, 86, died at home on January 29, 2022.

Kuhn was born on February 9, 1935, in Hammond, IN. He graduated from Wabash College in 1956 and worked for IBM before founding Kuhn, Olsen, and West, a data processing firm in Indiana.

In 1970, the Kuhns relocated to Fort Myers, where Jim purchased the Beach Marina before becoming a real estate broker, first for Rutenberg Homes, then U.S. Homes and Sanibel Homes. In 1984, he purchased Academy Fly-In Kennels at Page Field, where, as a lifelong dog lover, he was truly in his element. He owned and operated the kennel until 1996. In 1997, Kuhn's next venture was to purchase a professional baseball team, the Kalamazoo Kodiaks, which he moved to Ontario after the 1998 season. As the London Werewolves, his team won the Frontier League championship in 1999, and was sold in 2001.

Kuhn was a die-hard Cubs fan and a dedicated coach for Fort Myers Little League and Senior League from 1979 to 1994, where he shared his love and knowledge of baseball with hundreds of young players. Kuhn was one of the winningest coaches in Fort Myers Little League history, with a tremendous track record for finding great young talent. He was inducted into the Fort Myers Little League Hall of Fame in 1990.

Kuhn's next venture was to purchase a professional baseball team, the Kalamazoo Kodiaks, which he moved to Ontario after the 1998 season.

He will be remembered for his sharp wit, his intelligence, and his devotion to family, both two-legged and four-legged.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Arlene; children, Jamie, Kathleen, Christopher, and John; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1958

Gerald K. Shortz, 86, of Manalapan, FL, passed away on October 11, 2022. He was born in Indianapolis, IN, on October 6, 1936.

Shortz received his bachelor's degree from Wabash in 1958 and his doctor of medicine from Northwestern University in 1962. He was a U.S. Air Force medical officer (captain) and flight surgeon from 1963 to 1965. Shortz was in private practice in Delray Beach as a board-certified orthopedic surgeon.

Shortz was heavily involved in the Manalapan community. He served as town commissioner from 1978 to 1982, vice mayor from 1982 to 1988, mayor from 1988 to 2002, chair of the zoning commission from 2003 to 2007, and vice chair from 2010 to 2014. During his free time and into retirement, he enjoyed playing tennis, going scuba diving and fishing, road racing cars in endurance events throughout the Southeast, and Skip Barber racing, while winning many races. He was also an avid downhill skier.

Shortz is survived by his children, Steven and Bretton; granddaughters, Lauren and Audrey; girlfriend, Kathleen Poole; and fur babies, Sweet Pea and Rusty.

1964

Todd Hanlin passed away December 22, 2022, in Fayetteville, AR. He was diagnosed with lung cancer in June 2022 and entered hospice care shortly before his death.



Hanlin will be remembered as a beloved teacher, a prolific translator, and a dedicated and hardworking colleague to all in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Arkansas.

Hanlin received his bachelor's degree from Wabash in 1962, his master's degree from the University of Kansas in 1967, and his PhD from Bryn Mawr in 1975. These studies included periods at the Goethe Institute in Ebersberg/Oberbayern and the University of Freiburg, as well as summer Fulbright awards in 1982 and 1995.

He taught at the University of Kansas, the College of Wooster, Bryn Mawr, and the University of Pennsylvania before teaching at the University of Arkansas, where he spent the rest of his career. While at Arkansas, he taught the spectrum of German literature from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, including interdisciplinary courses in Landeskunde, European studies, and romanticism and music. Active at all levels of service, Hanlin served on the Faculty Senate, the University of Arkansas Press Committee, the Comparative Literature Committee, and as program head of German. His most significant service to the department was as undergraduate and graduate advisor, teaching assistant coordinator, and advisor to the active chapter of Delta Phi Alpha.

An early advocate for Austrian literature, Hanlin edited two volumes on Sealsfield and "Beyond Vienna: Literature from the Austrian Provinces," and he published on Jugendstil, Hoffmannsthal, Schnitzler,

Werfel, Szyszkowitz, Hochwälder, Hochgatterer, and others. His principal contribution, however, was as translator of Austrian plays and novels—by Anton Fuchs and Gustav Ernst—and most recently of novelist Gerhard Roth with Ariadne Press. Translation was a passion he continued throughout his retirement, beginning in 2007. At his death, Hanlin was working on Roth's novel "Der Strom."

Hanlin inspired a generation of students. He was revered by graduates and undergraduates alike, for both his wit and his humanity.

As a member of the AATG, GSA, Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association, MLA, and the American Literary Translator Association, he served students and colleagues in a rich and multivalent career.

1965

William "Bill" Johnson

Millikan Jr., 79, passed away peacefully July 25, 2021. He was born December 6, 1941, in Indianapolis, IN, to the late Jessie Schuman and Dr. William J. Millikan.

After moving to Florida as a child, he graduated from Ft. Lauderdale High School. He returned to Indiana to attend Wabash College.

Upon graduating from Wabash, he began his medical career by attending Indiana University School of Medicine. Even though surgery was always his first love, he initially entered a residency in internal medicine at IU. He then entered a general surgery residency at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Throughout his career, Millikan felt strongly that this combined focus on medicine and surgery allowed him to better care for his patients after the complex operations he often performed.

In 1972, he entered academic surgical life while at Emory, working with world-renowned surgeons such as Dr. Dean Warren and Dr. Tom Shires. While working together in the clinic and the

laboratory, these mentors and Millikan rapidly became close friends. As a professor of General Surgery at Emory, Millikan developed a fascination with liver disease, resulting in numerous publications, and ultimately serving as the foundation for Emory's Liver Transplant Center. Eventually, he left Emory with Shires, traveling to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. There, he worked alongside Dr. Shires to establish a Level 1 trauma center, serving all of West Texas and the surrounding states.

During his time in Georgia, Millikan also served in the Air Force Reserves based at Dobbins Air Force Base. There, he was in charge of the medical unit, and took this unit into active duty during Desert Storm. He retired from the Air Force as a colonel after 20 years of service.

From Lubbock, he and his family moved to Evansville, IN, where he joined Evansville Surgical Associates as a general surgeon in private practice. During his 14 years with ESA, he continued to enjoy a busy clinical practice, with a focus on caring for patients injured in traumatic accidents. During this time, he also worked tirelessly to help St. Vincent Evansville achieve and maintain its status as a Level 2 adult and pediatric trauma center. This has in turn improved the care for countless patients throughout Evansville, as well as surrounding communities in the Tri-State area.

After retiring from clinic practice, Millikan served as CEO of the St. Vincent Evansville Medical Group, helping to support and grow the team of physicians under his leadership. From the beginning of his career to his retirement, he always worked to provide an excellent standard of care for his patients. This was perhaps most reflected in his habit of sitting at a patient's bedside throughout the night, in case their condition changed.

Millikan loved waterskiing, boating, his Labrador retrievers, country music, Tom Clancy books, and a rigorous schedule of running and working out.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; two children, Katie and Patrick; four grandchildren, Callie, Hudson, William, and Caroline; and several nieces and nephews.

Gilbert Allan "Al" Sartore, 79, of Evansville, IN, passed away October 11, 2022. He was born January 6, 1943, in Evansville to the late Gilbert F. and Mary Louise (Speer) Sartore.

Sartore attended St. Theresa Catholic School, and during his eighth-grade year, his father passed away unexpectedly. His father's sudden death had a major impact on the rest of his life.

He graduated from Memorial High School in 1961. He attended Wabash College for one year and graduated from Evansville College. He attended Indiana University School of Medicine and graduated in 1970. He completed his internship at St. Mary's Medical Center in 1971. He worked for Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) in Marianna, AR, for a year. He provided hands-on medical care for the underprivileged in Lee County, AR. This ministry was most fulfilling to him.

Sartore returned to his hometown, where he completed a residency in OB/GYN. Afterward, he went into family practice and served for 39 years. He worked long, hard hours delivering many babies and caring for patients from birth to old age. He cared for his patients with dedication—they were like his second family. His office staff kept him on his toes and he appreciated all of them. He cared for the patients and the sisters at Little Sisters of the Poor. After retiring from family practice, he continued to complete physicals for patients before surgery. He believed in physical fitness and stressed the importance of exercise to his patients. He was a good example to his patients, being a physically fit person himself.

Sartore met the love of his life, Jackie Brady, in November 1967 and his life changed forever. They married on August 31, 1968, at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church in Indianapolis. They were blessed with a large family, including a son and six daughters. He was a faithful member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church; he participated in many church activities such as eucharistic minister, altar server, and bingo, and he cooked fried chicken for the summer socials. He and Jackie volunteered for St. Vincent DePaul Society and they received the Monsignor Bilski Award in 2013 for their service.



He was an active, loving, and devoted father. His dream was for each of his children to become educated and independent. He stressed the importance of hard work, using all of their talents, and maintaining a strong faith. He was passionate about sports. His favorite baseball team was the St. Louis Cardinals. His favorite college team was IU, but he also cheered for Purdue because his daughter was a student there. He was ecstatic when he was able to watch his children play sports. He also enjoyed horse races. Throughout his life, Sartore had many jobs at the races. He worked at Ellis Park in the summer and Churchill Downs during the Kentucky Derby. He was an avid golfer. He enjoyed the camaraderie of his friends. He especially enjoyed the yearly Lead Penny Open played by members of his high school class who were born in 1943, which was the year the penny was made with lead.

He lived a life of generosity, tenacity, and hard work. His endeavors to help his patients and others in need have made a difference in our world. He will be truly missed by those who knew and loved him.

Sartore is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jacqueline; children, John, Mary, Aimee, Megan, Sarah, Kristin, and Emily; grandchildren, Keagan, Payton, Dalton, Gilbert, William, Jackie, Max, Andrew, Jack, Xavier, Lillian, Noa, Ella, and Brady; sisters, Judy, Linda, and Kelly; and nieces and nephew.

1966

Richard Otten, 78, passed away November 27, 2022, in Carmel, IN.

Otten was born August 22, 1944, in Indianapolis, IN to the late Claude and Lois Otten, one of four children.

He attended Shortridge High School, where he was in the marching band and was an Eagle Scout. He went on to graduate from Wabash, where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. Following college, he completed his medical degree at Indiana University Medical School and became a family practice physician.

Otten served in the Navy for more than 20 years, ultimately retiring from the Navy as a flight surgeon with the rank of captain, which included tours as senior medical officer on the USS *Guadalcanal* and USS *Kitty Hawk*.

He was a veteran of the Gulf War stationed in Bahrain.

Upon retirement from the Navy, Otten practiced medicine in Chula Vista, CA, before finally retiring from medicine and returning to Carmel. His hobbies included travel, piano, outdoor activities, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Maribeth; four children, David, Dennis, Richard Jr., and Kristen; three grandchildren, Emily, Matthew, and Madelline; brothers, Carl and Mark; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

1967

Stephen "Steve" Allen Claffey, 77, passed away January 30.

He was born June 3, 1945, to Edgar and Jane Claffey in North Carolina, where the family was stationed for World War II. The Claffey family comes from a long line of Hoosiers, and the family moved back after the war concluded.

Claffey attended North Central High School in Indianapolis, where he was a debate champion and had many other academic and extracurricular achievements. He attended Wabash College, where he was a Phi Gamma Delta, a national debate tournament champion, and a proud member of the Glee Club. Claffey was a part of the Great Bell Heist of 1965, driving the getaway car to capture the Monon Bell.

Claffey was a part of the Great Bell Heist of 1965, driving the getaway car to capture the Monon Bell.

He also captured the heart of a DePauw student, Linda Heppner, on a blind date. They were married on December 28, 1966, in Round Lake, IL, Linda's hometown. She was his loving and devoted wife for 56 years.

Claffey attended law school at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. After his second year, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and was a staff sergeant for one year before returning to finish law school. He was the editor in chief of the law review and graduated as the valedictorian of the class of 1971. After law school, Claffey went to

work at the Indianapolis law firm of Baker & Daniels, where he devoted 45 years as one of the nation's top corporate attorneys representing large financial institutions and corporations. He was recognized as a decade-long recipient of the Super Lawyer award and as one of the Best Lawyers in America numerous years running.

He was extremely passionate about singing in his beloved St. Luke's United Methodist Church choir, golfing as a member of Woodland Country Club, and acting in numerous plays and musicals, and he was an avid fan of Broadway. He was also on the board of directors of Damar Homes and The Cabaret. After retiring from the practice of law at the age of 70, Claffey turned to helping people in need. He and Linda founded the Crooked Creek Food Pantry (CCFP) in connection with St. Luke's to alleviate food insecurity. CCFP is now the third-largest food pantry in the state of Indiana and is responsible for feeding 50,000 families in need annually. His legacy will live on through the food pantry, which, beyond his family, was his proudest accomplishment.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Rebecca, Sarah, and Jonathan; and grandchildren, Lizzie, Caroline, Drew, Emma, and Charlie.

Rex Bennett Stratton III passed away February 9 at the University of Vermont Medical Center from complications following major heart surgery.

If names presage a person's identity, Stratton was aptly named. His grand stature signaled the greatness of his heart and his generosity of spirit. Everywhere he went, he exuded joy, warmth, and reassurance. People gravitated to his charismatic personality. He had a mischievous spirit. He was inventive and creative, with an astute business acumen combined with wisdom and human insight that benefited those who worked with him and the causes to which he dedicated himself.

Born January 2, 1945, in Fall City, NE, to Rex Bennett Stratton Jr. and Florence Ida Barlow Stratton, he spent his childhood in Billings, MT, where he explored the dry hills looking for arrowheads in summer and careened down those same hills on his sled in winter. He



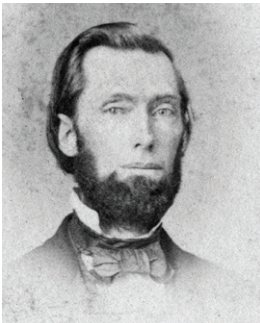
still bragged that it was the fastest sled in town 70 years later.

He studied political science at Wabash, where he pledged Sigma Chi and made lifelong friends. During summers, he worked for the forest service in Montana, building trails and doing forest-fire cleanup. While visiting his aunt in Chicago, IL, for Thanksgiving in 1966, he met his future wife, Barbara Faye Eastman, at the Church of Our Savior. They married the following year at that same church and moved to Missoula, MT, where Stratton attended law school at the University of Montana. Their only child, Kimberly, was born in 1968.

Together, the family of three moved to Seattle, WA, in 1971, where Stratton began practicing business law at the firm of Schweppe, Doolittle, Krug, and Tausend. Later he switched to intellectual property law and practiced on his own or with other partners. Stratton said his greatest achievement during those years was "saving" the Northwest School, a new and precarious private school his daughter attended that emphasized an integrated education in arts, humanities, and the environment. He worked tirelessly and creatively as president of the board of directors, guiding the school's founders, dedicated staff, and families through difficult circumstances.

THE HADLEYS

by Nolan Eller '11



IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE the recurrence of surnames throughout Wabash's long history. While this often results from direct relations such as fathers and sons, that is not always the case. Several members of the Wabash faculty and staff have shared the last name Hadley but have no known familial connection.

Atlas Minor Hadley [W1852] was the first Hadley in the Wabash history books. Born in Danville, Illinois, in 1830, Atlas came to Wabash in 1848. After graduating in 1852, Atlas returned to Danville to teach. Caleb Mills invited him back to Wabash the following year to serve as principal of the Wabash Preparatory School, a post he held for 10 years. In 1862, his students presented him with a gold cane, which is housed in the Ramsay Archival Center. While at Wabash, he and his wife built what is now known as the Kendall House, located next to the Allen Center. Atlas was elevated to professor of Greek in 1865. He passed away unexpectedly in 1866 following a bout of pneumonia.

It would be nearly one hundred years before another Hadley served as a member of the faculty and staff. In 1960, Frederic M. Hadley [H1928] joined the administrative team, serving as vice president under Byron K. Trippet. Born in Telluride, Colorado,

Frederic attended Amherst College and came to Wabash following a 32-year career at Eli Lilly & Company. He served at Wabash from 1960 to 1966 and led the College's first real development program. He helped establish various trusts and endowments, including the Jane and Frederic Hadley Chair in History, which Professor Rick Warner currently holds. Frederic was made an honorary alumnus of the class of 1928 and presented with the honorary Doctor of Laws in 1966. He then served as the first president of Indiana Vocational Technical College (Ivy Tech).

Two other Hadleys called Wabash College home. Charles Elmer Hadley served as visiting professor of biology from 1965 to 1968. Fred J. Hadley was visiting professor of chemistry from 1978 to 1984. Their impact was mostly focused on the sciences, but both also left their marks in theatrical and musical productions and other campus events. Fred starred alongside Professor Eric Dean in "Crimson Bird," judged the Baldwin Oratorical Contest, and competed on the faculty racquetball team.

To close out the 1960s, David J. Hadley H'76 joined the faculty.

David came to Wabash from Indiana University, earning his bachelor's degree in

journalism before switching to political science for his master's and Ph.D. Because he was fresh out of IU, *The Bachelor* introduced him as "Rookie Hadley." He brought issues like civil rights and the Vietnam War into the classroom and opened dialogues with his students, building bonds and trust.

David chaired the political science department from 1989 to 1991 and again from 2000 to 2012. From 1991 to 1997, he served as the dean of students. In 1990, he received the College's highest honor, the McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Excellence in Teaching Award. He also chaired several campus committees, including the Committee on the Underrepresentation of Minorities. The resulting "Hadley Report" led to many programs still in place at the College. Although he retired in 2012, David continues to impact members of the Wabash community.

Atlas, Frederic M., Fred J., Charles, and David Hadley are all threads in the fabric of history at Wabash College. Each influenced the lives of the Wabash community of their time and left legacies that continue to impact our College. Who will the next Hadley be? Only time will tell!

Pictured above left to right: Atlas Minor Hadley [W1852], Frederic M. Hadley [H1928], Charles Elmer Hadley, Fred J. Hadley, and David J. Hadley H'76

Stratton III (continued)

In 1998, he and Barbara moved to Vashon Island, where he again made significant contributions to the community through Rotary, where he was president and a Paul Harris fellow; the island's fire department, first as a volunteer, driving the water truck, and later as an elected fire commissioner; and Church of the Holy Spirit. One of his most significant and enduring contributions was bringing a credit union to the island to reinvest local money locally. He was also an integral part of the Vashon Island Greentech, which pursued a variety of initiatives to improve waste management and promote environmental causes on the island. Chief among his creative endeavors was his fundraising to purchase a digital projector for the island movie theater that is loaned to nonprofit organizations on the island for use one night a week. His legal and business acumen found an unconventional solution to a local problem that benefited multiple parties and enriched the cultural life of Vashon Island.

In 2016, Stratton and his wife decided to embark on another adventure and move across the country to Middlebury, VT, to start a new life closer to their daughter, Kimberly; son-in-law, Claudiu Carter; and grandson, Arthur. In Vermont, Stratton continued his commitment to community service at Rotary and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. He also continued to practice intellectual property law, attracting new clients in Vermont while maintaining long-standing relationships with clients from the Pacific Northwest.

Stratton was beloved by everyone he met, whether the cashier at the local grocery store, a client, a neighbor, or a friend. He devoted himself to improving his community and brought astute legal skills, wisdom, and nonconformist creativity to solve problems for his clients and organizations.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Kimberly; son-in-law Claudiu; and grandchildren, Arthur and Merlin Winifred.

1968

Neil B. Gillies died February 19, 2009. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy and is survived by a loving family.

Stanley M. Strickler, 74, of Peoria, IL, passed away July 4, 2021, in Peoria.

He was born November 7, 1946, in Peoria to Orvel and Marguerite Fuchs Strickler.

Strickler served in the U.S. Army and worked as an English teacher for Stark County High School, retiring in 2003. He directed the school plays and coached the speech team.

Strickler loved his family. He was very involved with his church, where he served as an elder. He also served on the Christian education, session, and worship and arts committees. He loved plays, musicals, and reading.

He is survived by his sons, Geoffrey and Nathaniel; grandchildren, Clara, Thea, Zoe, and Zev; sister, Velma Crowley; and former wife, Dorothy.

1970

Richard "Rich" O. Adlof, 74, passed away June 23, 2022, in Saint Louis, MO.

He was a beloved husband to Deborah "Debbie" (Ingram) Adlof for 46 years; was a proud father to Jonathan Adlof and Jessica Bachmann (Adlof); was proudly known as Pop-Pop to his grandson, Owen Bachmann; and was a devoted family man and a friend of many.

Adlof was born in Vienna, Austria, December 14, 1947, to the late Otto and Emma Adlof. In pursuit of the American dream, the family immigrated to the U.S. in 1954 and settled their roots in Peoria, IL.

He received his bachelor's degree at Wabash and later earned a master's degree in chemistry at Louisiana State University. During his academia, he was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1970 to serve his country. He graduated from the U.S. Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, OK. Sergeant Adlof was assigned to the 3rd battalion 82nd field artillery regiment in Vietnam.

Adlof was passionate and dedicated to his career as a research scientist at the United States Department of Agriculture (NCAUR) Lab in Peoria, IL. He was an active member of the American Oil Chemist Society. His years-long dedicated research in lipid methodology was proudly published. After devoting 40 years to his career, he retired at the age of 62.

He loved working in his garden and was often found at his workbench tinkering on various projects. He was an active member and president of the Peoria Computer Club for many years. He was known for his extremely dry sense of humor and his love for bad puns. Every year you could find him at his favorite place, Siesta Key, FL. He was his happiest sitting on the beach with his family watching the sun set over the ocean.

David "Dave" Allen Ault, 74, of St. Louis Park, MN, passed away January 5.

True to form, Ault's six-month effort to overcome his midsummer malignant melanoma diagnosis was even-keeled and dignified. He bravely faced the unknown without complaint, and his resiliency, as always, was something to behold for the friends and family who shared this experience with him.

Ault was born January 27, 1948, in Rochester, IN, to Joseph Franklin Ault and Mary Helen Ault as the youngest of two boys. Joe was patient, hardworking, and kind; Mary Helen was whip-smart and articulate—and Dave was born with all of their best traits and made them proud. His older brother, Dennis, who served bravely in Vietnam, forever had his respect.

Ault graduated from Wabash College in 1970 and went on to Indiana University law school to earn his JD in 1973. He was proud of his undergraduate alma mater and felt a strong connection to the College, happily returning to Crawfordsville, IN, to practice law in 1974. He did so until being elected Montgomery County Superior Court Judge in 1990. He was reelected three times, ultimately serving as a judge for more than 25 years and pioneering the adult drug court during his tenure.

He also served as president of the local Kiwanis Club, raised and loved five dogs, coached youth soccer, managed the St. John's Episcopal Church lobster fundraiser, rode countless miles across the county on his bicycle, enjoyed evening cruises with his family for ice cream on summer evenings, and genuinely loved his community and the people in it.

After retiring from the bench and leaving Crawfordsville, he enjoyed a productive retirement

Wherever he is now, we hope the big guy is with his dogs, wearing his favorite red Wabash sweatshirt, and enjoying one last slice of pumpkin pie.

in Minnesota, where he spent countless hours with his grandchildren, volunteered at the local YMCA, and was active in the Free Bikes for Kids program and the Minnesota Raptor Center. He continued to ride bikes and also found a love of gardening at a local community garden.

Ault was proud of his two sons, Joe and Ben, especially of the men and fathers they became. His only trip away from home during his cancer battle was to visit Joe and his wife, Krista, and their children, Jacob and Katherine. Ben and his wife, Heidi, and their children, Maxine and Archie, were fortunate to have him as a neighbor—always just a short walk or bike ride away—for the past six years.

His purpose in life and the source of his greatest happiness was his 48-year marriage to Diane T. Ault. He loved her unconditionally. Their marriage was built on togetherness, loyalty, and shared humor. They grew and evolved together, especially in the final year of his life as her immeasurable strength and spirit rose to the occasion and supported them both.

Dave Ault—husband, son, brother, friend, judge, father, father-in-law, and grandfather—lives on as a wonderful memory for those he loved. We are sorry to have lost him too soon, but are forever grateful for having known him—benefiting from his strength and wisdom and laughing at his quick wit. Wherever he is now, we hope the big guy is with his dogs, wearing his favorite red Wabash sweatshirt, and enjoying one last slice of pumpkin pie.

Gregory Alan Burk, 73, of Springtown, TX, passed away October 12, 2022.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa; and his son, Jeff.

1971

Gregory Lowell Allen, 73, of Jesup, GA, passed away September 24, 2022.

He was born in Crawfordsville, IN, to the late Lowell "Glen" Allen and Charlotte Wilson Allen.

He graduated from Apopka High School in Florida, and attended Wabash College and Rollins College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1971. He owned Great Southern Gold Jewelry Store in Brunswick, GA, for about 10 years and retired from the United States Postal Service after more than 25 years. He attended Little Memorial Baptist Church and loved spending time with his grandbabies and family.

Survivors include his wife, Tiffany; sons, Glenn and Joshua; two stepchildren, David and Chelsi; grandchildren, Caleb, Sarah, Emily, Skarlett, Quincy, Hazel, and Leon; a sister, Susan; and two nieces.

Timothy J. Shickley, 74, died September 21, 2022, as a result of complications from a seizure. He was born in Elwood, IN, on March 2, 1948. He was the son of the late Weldon Shickley and Betty Eller Shickley.

Shickley received his bachelor's degree with a major in psychology from Wabash College, a master's degree in anatomy from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and a PhD in neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He taught gross anatomy at Johns Hopkins Nursing School in the 1970s, pathophysiology and toxicology at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science from 1986 to 1991, and gross anatomy and oral and general histology at Temple University Dental School from 1992 to 1998. He served as president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Society of Neuroscience in the 1990s.

In addition to his career in science, Shickley was a talented artist and enjoyed drawing and painting in oil. He was an officer of the Sketch Club in Philadelphia and entered a number of his works in juried shows there. In addition, he was an accomplished fly tier and made many beautiful fresh and saltwater flies. He loved food and was a talented cook. He followed recipes, but had a flair

for creating many dishes of his own. He was an avid fisherman, an enthusiastic camper and outdoorsman, and a collector of mineral and biological specimens. Shickley was a voracious reader and read on a myriad of topics. Of particular interest were books on history, outdoor activities, mathematics, and science.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Kristina Adam, to whom he was married for 36 years. He is also survived by cousins, in-laws, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his beloved daughter and only child, Hannah, in 2006.

1974

James O. Hanner, 70, of Bloomington, IN, passed Thursday, November 17, 2022.

He was born in Terre Haute, IN, September 17, 1952, to the late Clelland J. Hanner and Mary Alice Bledsoe Hanner.

Hanner graduated from Turkey Run High School, Wabash College, and the Indiana University McKinney School of Law. He practiced law in Rockville, IN, for 45 years, with much of that time spent practicing with his father and his brother, Gary. He was an accomplished trial attorney and civil mediator. He served as the chief deputy prosecutor of Parke County from 1977 to 1978, as prosecutor of Parke County from 1979 to 1986, and as deputy prosecutor of Putnam County from 2005 until 2018. Most recently, he served as a public defender in Putnam, Sullivan, and Vermillion Counties.

Hanner was quick-witted and had an incredible sense of humor. He had the natural ability to find common ground with people from all walks of life. He fiercely loved his family and often put their needs well above his own. He was a lifelong student of history, loved a wide range of music and movies, enjoyed driving his hot rod, and had a deep connection with the land where he built his cabin and raised his family. He will be deeply missed by many.

He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 48, Indiana Freemasons Lodge No. 314, Elks Lodge No. 2471, and VFW Auxiliary No. 1752.

Survivors include his three children, Erin, Benjamin, and Chelsea; grandchildren, Max,

Gillian, and Cora; siblings, Barb, Brad, Gary, and Joe; several nieces and nephews; and his loyal friend and dog, Oprah.

Erik John "Rik" Schwendeman died April 2, 2021.

He was born June 19, 1952, in Sewickley, PA, to Anne (Jarowey) and Louis Schwendeman, and grew up in the suburbs of Pittsburgh. He attended Wabash College and graduated from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, PA. He earned his master's degree in physics and astronomy from the University of New Mexico, and was employed as an optical engineer in New Mexico and Massachusetts for 25 years. He and his wife of 41 years, Ruth, moved to Fincastle, VA, 11 years ago.

He was a kind and quiet man with many talents and interests. His avocations included being a citizen astronomer for a worldwide data gathering organization, piloting motorized and glider airplanes, long-distance cycling, bicycle repair, woodworking, gardening, conservation, and supporting many charitable causes.

Swendeman is survived by his wife, Ruth; and siblings, Judi, David, and Jim.

1975

Robert T. Kulka, 69, of Danville, IN, passed away January 26.

He was born on March 27, 1953, in East Chicago, IN, to the late John Allen and Janet (Hollowell) Kulka. He married Janice E. Meeks on August 27, 1976, in Tipton, IN, at West Street Christian Church.

He graduated from Munster High School in 1971, attended Wabash College for two years, and received his bachelor's degree in architecture from Ball State University in 1979.

He was a project architect for 34 years for CSO Architects in Indianapolis before he retired. Jim Schellinger, Indiana secretary of commerce and former CSO chairman/CEO, presented the Sagamore of the Wabash award to Kulka on behalf of Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb on May 8, 2019, for his outstanding contributions to the State of Indiana through his role in multiple landmark projects, including building the Indianapolis Airport, JW Marriott, and the Indianapolis Public Library. Kulka worked long

Kulka was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash for his outstanding contributions to the State of Indiana through his role in multiple landmark projects, including building the Indianapolis Airport, JW Marriott, and the Indianapolis Public Library.

hours but in his spare time he enjoyed old classic cars, especially Model A's and Mustangs; big band music; and his Great Pyrenees dogs.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Janice; daughter, Erinne; step-granddaughter, Alexandria; sister, Karolyn; sister-in-law, Marilyn; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

1976

Hon. Kevin P. Schehr, 66, of Versailles, MO, died February 26, 2021.

Schehr practiced for 17 years with Woolsey Yarger Law Firm and later served as prosecuting attorney for Stover. He served as the municipal judge for Stover and associate circuit judge for Morgan County. He graduated from the University of Missouri School of Law and joined the Missouri Bar in 1985.

1977

John Edward Thomas, 67, of Angola, IN, passed away peacefully October 26, 2022. Born in 1955, he was the son of David and Dorothy (Webb) Thomas and grew up with his three brothers in Hobart, IN.

He graduated from Hobart High School in 1973, and went on to attend Wabash. He received his bachelor's degree from Indiana University and master's degree from St. Mary's College of California.

Thomas married the love of his life, JoAnn Gavin, on October 13, 1979. The couple lived with their family in Indiana, California, and Delaware, before eventually happily settling in Portage, MI, for 25 years with their three boys. They met many lifelong friends there.

He was a member of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church.

He and his wife spent every summer traveling to their family cottage on Lake James. In recent years, they transitioned to wintering in Sun City West, AZ, where he enjoyed playing golf and pickleball with friends and family.

Thomas was a successful business executive, leading many organizations, most recently with Garland Industries.

Thomas was a loving husband, father, and friend. He was a great father to his three boys. He could often be seen giving JoAnn pedicures and taking family and friends for boat rides. He enjoyed playing with and teaching his nieces and nephews how to ski. John was an avid bike rider and completed several 100-plus-mile rides with his close friends Rick and Todd. In his downtime, he enjoyed reading and watching sports, always rooting for the Hoosiers.

Surviving are his wife, JoAnn; sons, David, Nicholas, and Robert; mother, Dorothy; and brothers, Donald, Ronald, and Robert.

1983

Aldo Sulli passed away December 8, 2019.

Sulli was born in Italy in Bivona, Sicily, June 10, 1961. When he was three, his family immigrated to Toronto, Canada, and they stayed for two years before settling in Northwest Indiana.

He was a proud letter carrier from 1984 to 2015, an accomplished accordion player for 45 years, and a Cub Scout Leader from 1997 to 2002, and he will always be known as the leader who showed the Scouts how to improvise by putting up the tent after discovering that the poles were left behind.

He started playing soccer at the age of eight and played through college and again from the age of 30 to 40. In 2001, he became a coach for St. Ann Soccer, which became the Lansing Soccer Club

in 2004. He became the club rep for the Lansing Soccer Club with the Northwest Indiana Soccer League in 2004 and held that position until 2017. He was a FIFA referee from 1990 to 2015. His assignments were premier and high school leagues in Illinois. He held various positions on the board of the St. Ann Sports Committee from 2001 to 2017.

His goal after retiring from the post office was to become a high school chemistry teacher.

He was the beloved husband of Cindy (Kubek) Sulli for 30 years; awesome father to Anthony and Dominic; devoted son of Simone and Rosina; much loved son-in-law of Caroline and John; cherished brother to Maria, Franco, and Silvana; brother-in-law to Carolyn, Frank, Wayne, Denise, Loralyn, Glenn, Sue, Lynette, Mike, Steve, Mark, Maggie, Linda, Marijo, Mike, Matt, Jennifer, Sue, Leanne, Janice, Mark, and Caroline; uncle; great-uncle; and beloved cousin of many.

1987

James "Jim" W. Miner, 57, of Carmel, IN, passed away October 2, 2022.

He was born November 28, 1964, in Indianapolis, IN, the son of the late William R. and E. Anne (Fleming) Miner. He married Karen Ehrlich on September 20, 1991.

Miner was a 1983 graduate of Carmel High School and a 1987 graduate of Wabash College, where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He recently retired from Merck Animal Health after a wonderful 34-year career in pharmaceutical sales. He was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. He loved to fish and play golf, all while enjoying a good cigar.

He is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Karen; and their two children, Eric and Jennifer.

Mary Angela Perry

Cooley, 92, died December 6, 2022.

She was born in Bessemer, AL, to Lt. Col. John and Dorothy Stowers Perry. She proudly attended Hollins College and was awarded a bachelor's degree in economics and sociology. Upon graduation, she married her high school sweetheart, **Robert Lee Cooley H'77**. The two were unshakably devoted and were the center of each other's lives. The couple lived in Alameda, CA, while Robert served in the U.S. Navy as a pilot, with postings in both the United States and abroad. It was in Alameda that they adopted their first child, Bob.

The family moved to Crawfordsville, IN, when Robert became a professor of mathematics at Wabash College. Throughout the next 10 years, the Cooleys were foster parents to more than a dozen children



League of America; National Association of Social Workers, Indiana Chapter; National Alliance for Mental Illness; and Institute of Family Therapy (UK). Later in her career, she focused on adult services and elderly care, and joined the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Indiana Chapter. She served as president of the advisory board of the Area IV Agency on Aging and Community Action Programs, and on the board of the Montgomery County Council on Aging. Always ahead of her time, she founded an adult day care center in Crawfordsville.

Angela and Robert attended St. John's Episcopal Church, where Angela served on the vestry as well as many additional committees. She was a life-member of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, MCCA, the Flower Lovers Club, and Wabash Women.

Family and friends admired Angela for her intellect, southern

The Cooleys were foster parents to more than a dozen children in the home they lovingly called the Grand Old House.

in the home they lovingly called the Grand Old House. Later they adopted David, Catherine, and Christopher. While raising her four children, Angela began graduate studies in social work at Indiana University. She earned a master's degree in social work in 1980 at the age of 50. She worked as a clinical social worker at Culver Union Hospital, Howard Community Hospital, and Wabash Valley Mental Health Center. She was a natural to train foster parents, later worked for Indiana Child Protective Services, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Youth Service Bureau.

Angela was a member of many professional organizations: American Public Welfare Association; Child Welfare

charm, and service to her community. She often dressed in bright, cheerful colors and enjoyed simple pleasures such as bird-watching and gardening around her home. In the evenings she enjoyed her "toes-up time," reading everything possible, but especially mysteries, philosophy, and religion.

Angela is survived by her sons, Robert and Christopher; three grandchildren, Stephen, Sarah, and Sylvia; younger sister, Lisa; and a nephew and nieces.

photo by Anna Tiplick



LESSONS FROM WABASH

“This historic college is built on the idea that its work is to educate men. Not simply to educate the intellect nor to train the hand or the eye or any fractional part, but to educate the man himself.”

—President William Kane, 1900 Inaugural Address

I LOVE THIS GOOD PLACE. At the heart of the Wabash experience is a concept of “Always Wabash.” *Wabash Always Fights* and *Always Means Always* are

phrases that capture the sense of brotherhood and lifelong commitment that is instilled in Wabash men from their first day on campus. They are reminders that the Wabash experience is not just about the four years of undergraduate education, but about the lifelong connections and values that are forged through the community.

In 1832, our society needed a tight-knit brotherhood committed to service, community, and excellence. It needed a place to develop leaders who tackled great challenges. It needed a college that would prepare men for the unknown journey ahead and provide them skills to navigate a changing world so they could leave it better off than they found it.

Wabash men support and challenge each other to be our best selves. We are encouraged to take risks, to pursue passions, and to become leaders in the careers we choose. In a world that is increasingly divided and polarized, Wabash offers a model for how men can be educated to be leaders who are committed to service, community, and excellence. From its first days as an educational institution to today, Wabash prepares men to be leaders that make a positive difference in the world.

When I was a high school senior and chose Wabash College, I did not realize how important this place would become to me. I did not realize how much I would mature and grow intellectually, nor did I realize how it would shape the principles by which I live. For the past 25 years, Wabash has been a central thread through the relationships and community that I hold dear. The past two years as the president of the National

Association of Wabash Men (NAWM), I have been fortunate to have countless alumni, friends, and family members who want to share personal updates, who are delighted to reminisce over a great Wabash story, and who seek to raise up a classmate.

The lasting lesson I take away from my service of the NAWM board is how much *you* love Wabash College. Your passion, commitment, and celebration of our community are what make this place so special. Thank you for letting me share in this with each of you. Thank you for letting me share the stories of Jim '61 and Susie Cumming, and President Andy Ford H'03, and for allowing me to bring my wife, Nicole, and our three sons on this journey. My hope is that you continue to feel that you belong at the College and that you will keep sharing your stories, showing up on campus, and supporting our timeless mission to “educate men who think critically, lead effectively, act responsibly, and live humanely.”

In Wabash,

M. Kip Chase '03 | President,
National Association of Wabash Men



I'm proud to share a few photos of the incredible Wabash community that I've interacted with over the past few years. In a way that is typical of Wabash, these photos are littered with multi-generational alumni, their friends, and families who exemplify the lifelong connections that are forged.



1955

Remington "Rem" A. Johnston III passed away February 18.

Born August 5, 1933, in Ossian, IN, he was the son of Remington and Elizabeth "Betty" Johnston. He graduated from P.A. Allen High School in Bluffton in 1951. Following in the footsteps of his father (Class of 1927) and grandfather (Class of 1901), he graduated from Wabash College in 1955. He majored in political science and was a proud member of Sigma Chi fraternity. A "life-loyal Sig"—loyal and dedicated to generations of his brothers—he was awarded the Order of Constantine in 2022, the fraternity's highest honor.

He earned a degree in printing from Carnegie Mellon University and began a half-century career in the printing business. He spent eight years with Harris-Seybold Printing Machinery Company in Dallas, before returning to Bluffton in 1964 to lead his family's business, the Rem Johnston Printing Company.

Upon returning to Indiana, Johnston became one of the most significant alumni volunteers in the history of Wabash College. He was a prolific recruiter, led the alumni association, assisted in organizing alumni events, and was particularly close to the Wabash athletic department. He traveled with the college's football, track, and golf teams, among others, which earned him the nickname "Big Cookie" because he always made sure student athletes had snacks while traveling to athletic competitions—including big cookies from a Bluffton bakery.

He attended every Wabash football game, home and away, from 1970 through 1995 except for a single game in 1970 when his father died. Johnston was exceptionally proud of his involvement with Wabash's 1977

football team, which played in the national championship game; the 1982 basketball team, which won the national title; and the undefeated 1983 football team.

Johnston received the highest honors bestowed by Wabash College. The National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM) honored him with the Alumni Award of Merit in 1971, making him the youngest person ever to receive the award. For his support of Wabash's athletic teams, he was inducted into the College's Athletics Hall of Fame in 1997. He served several terms on the board of directors of the NAWM and served a term on the Wabash College Board of Trustees. In 2018, Wabash President Gregory Hess awarded him an honorary doctorate, the same year the College named the campus gateway in his honor. He received a Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor Robert Orr in 1983.

In addition to his passion for all things Wabash, Johnston was active in First Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne, IN, where he served as a youth group leader. He volunteered as a docent at the Lincoln Museum, and as a teacher with the Literacy Alliance in Fort Wayne. He was an avid golfer and bridge player and a member of the Orchard Ridge Country Club in Fort Wayne, and he loved opera, classical music, and theater.

Johnston had a passion for travel and especially enjoyed his trips to Mexico and Spain. He was also an energetic gardener and liked browsing antique stores. Perhaps more than anything, Johnston will be remembered for introducing hundreds of Wabash students to new and interesting food, agreeing to pick up the tab if the students chose something from the menu they had never eaten. The relationships he formed with Wabash men evolved throughout their lives, with Johnston a constant source of wise counsel, celebratory hugs, and life guidance.

A remembrance

Where do I start. I was an 18-year-old kid from Oklahoma who came up to Wabash to play football in the summer of 1973. I got to know Rem my sophomore year through my fellow Wabash football friends David Sewell and Steve Wagner.

I always enjoyed chatting with Rem on the sidelines and after the

games. He followed my football and track career. I can't even count the many football and track pictures he took and gave me in my time at Wabash. My parents could only come to Wabash to drop me off as a freshman, and then to pick me up when I graduated. Sending them the pictures Rem had taken was one of the few ways I kept in touch with my family during my four years at Wabash.

He traveled with the college's football, track, and golf teams, among others, which earned him the nickname "Big Cookie" because he always made sure student athletes had snacks while traveling to athletic competitions—including big cookies from a Bluffton bakery.

During the football season, I remember him taking me and some of the other football players out to dinner on numerous occasions. The meals were always great and considerably better than our normal cuisine. I had my first fondue dinner with him and the guys. That was a new experience for a young Okie!

I was the first one to stay at his new condo in Ft. Wayne and sign the guest book. We put together leather furniture, and I admired his pictures of the young Mexican couple and Pancho Villa. I started collecting menus and matches from great restaurants because Rem did, and I thought that was a cool idea. After that visit I went back to Indianapolis and had knee surgery. He came to visit me in the hospital.

One night during my last year at Wabash, Rem and I went out to dinner. We talked about a lot of things. He knew I was a biology major and pre-med, but that I didn't want to be a doctor. He told me he thought I had a sales personality and that I should think about a career in sales. It was a conversation that would change my life. For several weeks I thought about what he said. I finally decided that if Rem thought I ought to be in sales, then I should be in sales. I set up appointments to interview with IBM and Dow Chemical. Before I had those interviews, I stopped into a Wabash business club event

on campus. The speaker was a Wabash grad who was running an investment brokerage firm in Indianapolis. They were looking for financial advisors. I thought to myself, "This is a sales job." A week later I interviewed with that brokerage firm but didn't get the job. I talked with Robin Pebworth, who ran the Career Services office, and he told me about another investment brokerage firm that had an office in Crawfordsville.

Two weeks after graduation, on June 1, 1977, I joined the investment firm Edward Jones. As a financial advisor, Rem was my first client. And on my last day as a financial advisor in 1989, he gave me the last investment order I ever took. In 2012, after 35 years, I retired as senior partner at Edward Jones.

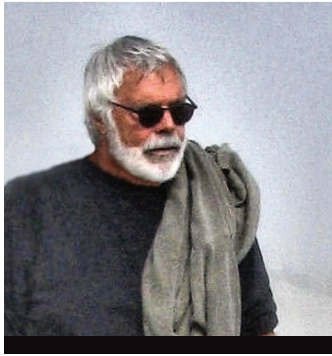
A few things happened along the way. I told Rem that I would buy his 1978 yellow Porsche Targa when he wanted to sell it. The week I brought my first newborn son, Cole, home from the hospital, he was there with the car. What could I say? "Honey, it's a family car. Look, it even has a back seat!"

And I remember our trip to Puerto Vallarta with Steve and Nancy Wagner—and my first straight razor shave at that Mexican barber shop. Was that a good idea?!

Nothing I can say would ever be able to express the respect and love I have for Rem. He was a good man with a good heart. A friend and a mentor. He positively impacted my life, my family's lives, and the lives of hundreds of Wabash men. When I grow up, I want to be like Rem!

Big hugs for the Big Cookie (El Gordito).

—Gary Reamey '77



1963

John Fletcher Strickland, 81, of Trafalgar, IN, passed away December 15, 2022.

Born February 4, 1941, he graduated from Broad Ripple High School in 1959 and Wabash College in 1963, and earned his master's from Goddard College.

He lived in Indiana all his life and he was well loved. In truth, he was both adored and revered by those who knew him; but that would not be enough, because John Strickland was that rare person who truly contained multitudes. He was kind, strong, good, and inspirational. He loved people and, in his turn, was loved. *Brilliant* is an overused term, but he was just that.

He lived his life for art, literature, and music—he excelled in all of these. He was a professional jazz musician who was still playing gigs into his 80s. He was a writer who published poetry and was still writing the week before he died. He was a painter whose art was varied and incomparable. As an educator, he touched many young people's lives and was as redoubtable a football player as he was a coach. He taught at Franklin Community High School for 27 years. There truly was no one like John Strickland. He was as untamed and untranslatable at 81 as he was at 18.

More important than all of this to him, though, was his family. He adored his children, Samantha and Jimmy, and was unfailingly proud of the lives they forged for themselves. He was equally grateful for the love and support offered by their respective partners, Jeff and Julie. He was immensely proud of his sister, Jill, who could beat him in one-on-one basketball and who became a preeminent women's rights activist. He also remained deeply fond of his former spouse, Cynthia, who was his high school sweetheart.

A Remembrance

John Strickland possessed a rare talent: that of maintaining the "beginner's mind" until he died at 81. I don't really think curiosity is a gift per se, but more of a muscle. When exercised, it blossoms. When ignored, it atrophies.

Though *Renaissance man* is often overused and even cliché, it's true in this case. John was an athlete, a jazz musician, a published poet, an accomplished artist, and perhaps most importantly, to me at least, a teacher. By the way, he continued all of those pursuits long after his retirement from education but never stopped his love of teaching or learning.

I think curiosity can be contagious, and sitting in Strickland's AP English class in high school made me want to think deeper, think critically, and—in the end—just think. It's no wonder I fell into lockstep with these Wabash axioms when I entered my freshman year and my desire to be a lifelong learner was nurtured early by a man whose curiosity was limitless.

Take all of this and wrap it up in a man whose physical presence is at odds with these gifts. Hands that could easily wreak bodily harm yet hold a paintbrush or the neck of an upright bass and create art. He was, like our mascot, an oxymoron of sorts.

—Steve Woods '93

1969

Jack E. Brown, 75, of Harwich, MA, died June 24, 2022.

Born in South Bend, IN, Jack graduated from Washington High School in 1965. As a Wabash student, he spent his junior year studying in Madrid. After graduating and marrying JoAnne (Saracino) Brown, he enrolled and completed his master's in business administration at the University of Michigan.

Brown began a 30-year career with Procter & Gamble at their manufacturing plant in Quincy, MA, and then was promoted and transferred, moving with his family to West Chester, OH. He spent many months traveling to Asia, Europe, and South America, ultimately attaining the role of head of worldwide quality assurance.

The family moved to Harwich in 2002. Newly retired, Brown

served as president of the Kiwanis Foundation of New England, held leadership positions with the Harwich High School Friends of the Arts and Friends of the Harwich Council on Aging, served on the town community preservation committee and Harwich zoning board of appeals, and served as Harwich finance committee chairman. He also volunteered with Goal, and produced two full-length feature films, "Artworks" and "Flying By," with Jim Amatulli. Brown's proudest accomplishment was the regionalization of the Harwich/Chatham School District and ultimately Monomoy High School.

He leaves behind his wife of 53 years, JoAnne; children, Jessica, David, and Matthew; grandchildren, Zoe, Nathaniel, Dylan, Colin, and Owen; and sisters, Pamela and Cindy.

Remembrances

I first met Jack in Robert Harvey's English class my first week at Wabash in September of 1965. Then in the spring semester we both took his short-story class. We shared a love of Hemingway's short stories—especially those set in Michigan, where Jack had spent time at his grandparents' cottage.

Jack led a truly wonderful life. He married JoAnne and graduated from Wabash in 1969. Both were joyful occasions that were overshadowed by the passing of his mother that spring. They were only made possible by the personal generosity of Dean of Students Norman C. Moore and Jack's lifelong determination to accomplish what he set out to do in life. That critical gesture inspired my idea for the Class of '69 Dean Norman Moore Scholarship Fund in 2009 that Jack and Dave Pancost then developed, and with many others it was brought to fruition. Jack, Dave, and I also shared with a number of our classmates the influence of our early education in the excellent public schools of Northern Indiana in the 1950s that helped prepare us for the rigors of Wabash.

During our time at Wabash, Jack and I were both interested in politics and world affairs. Jack studied in Madrid during the fall semester of 1967 and was caught up in the protest against the Franco regime in Spain while I protested against the war in

Vietnam at the Pentagon. He returned to Wabash to continue his studies in political science and Spanish in 1968, and I started working on the "Eugene McCarthy for president" campaign in Wisconsin to end the American war in Vietnam by defeating the incumbent Democrat president, Lyndon Baines Johnson. With many other Wabash faculty and students, Jack and I worked together to organize Montgomery County and the congressional district during the Indiana Democratic Party primary. Somehow at the same time we managed to represent Israel at the Midwest Model United Nations at IU. Even then Wabash provided real-world opportunities for immersive learning.

When Jack retired from Procter & Gamble in 2002, he and JoAnne moved to Harwich, MA, on Cape Cod next to my family's home on the northern shore of John Joseph Pond. They spent 20 years contributing their time and talents to the town to such an extent that they became known as J&J Enterprises.

Jack was the embodiment of what it means to be part of the Wabash brotherhood. For all of my life following my departure from Wabash after the first semester of our senior year, he was a constant friend. If one thing defined Jack's life other than love of family, it was his commitment to his friends. He and JoAnne were always there for my spouse, Pauline, and me. We will always remember him for his generosity and wisdom. Our mutual love of Cape Cod and Wabash bonded us through the 57 years of our friendship. I can still hear him reply to my greeting of "Hello, Old Friend" with "How are you, Buddy?"

—Richard Elson '69

I remember Jack as thoughtful and patient. We worked together in the Independent Men's Association and had a successful year. Jack was supportive and encouraging; he was particularly compassionate when I was having a difficult time. I can understand that he was respected in his community for his leadership.

—Terry Harter '69

Jack and I met during Bell Week one night patrolling the drive behind Martindale.

Jack Brown was smart, tough, ambitious, and a generous and loving father, husband, and friend. His life and mine have been so tightly intertwined that I cannot imagine what mine would be if we hadn't met. He came to Wabash to be pre-med, until the Bio 1 final changed his plans. While this answer is in retrospect correct—"Not much is known about the Golgi bodies"—it isn't what Willis Johnson and company had in mind.

Jack could have quit and gone home to marry his high school girlfriend but he didn't. He shifted his focus to Spanish, worked the graveyard shift on the loading dock at Donnelly's, went to Michigan for a master's in business administration while working full time at Radio Shack, was a "six sigma" at Procter & Gamble, and, in retirement, worked tirelessly with JoAnne to improve public education, the public library, and local government administration in Harwich.

Jack and I met during Bell Week one night patrolling the drive behind Martindale. To distract ourselves from the cold, we reconstructed the ride back to South Bend, every town, stoplight, railroad crossing, and most of the curves. We've been friends ever since. We played poker together, drank together, worked on the McCarthy campaign together. We double-dated when he courted JoAnne at Dayton. When I visited them in Ann Arbor, they introduced me to my first wife and later were best man and maid of honor at our wedding. I saw them last before I went overseas and first after I got home. Since then, our families have taken vacations together. Jack and I have taken a canoe trip together and toured battlefields in Virginia and Normandy, and shared many a fine dinner, a fine bottle, and even finer conversation.

He was my co-chair when our class raised a record gift for our 50th. When I moved into administration, he advised me on how to get the most done in a dysfunctional institution, and he did the same for my wife when she

made the same move. We visited him and JoAnne a couple of times a year until COVID-19, and then we had cocktails via Zoom every week with him, Richard, and Pauline. When he began to struggle with a three-way conversation, JoAnne joined us. I was able to visit a couple of months before he died and was happy beyond words to find that face-to-face, one-on-one, he was the old Jack.

I loved Jack dearly and I miss him terribly. I think about him almost every day. We'd planned to tour World War I battlefields together, and if I ever get to Europe again, Paige and I will do just that. I'm sure he'll be there, too.

—David Pancost '69

Jack and I lived in Martindale Hall for three years. We became roommates in Kingery our senior year when Dean Moore gave Jack the title of dorm advisor so he could funnel a little more money to him. We had different majors and minors so we didn't share any classes other than the required freshman classes. I do remember his classic response to the Golgi apparatus—but I would add, not much is known about the function of the Golgi apparatus (by me)! I fondly recall his smirk that was a private code for WTF!!

—Steven Steinkeler '69

1969

Robert D. Shearer Jr., 73, died April 21, 2021, in Chicago.

Born July 6, 1947, he was the son of Barbara and **Robert D. Shearer '40**.

He attended Wabash through his sophomore year, pledging the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He transferred to Lake Forest College, where he played basketball, was a dean's list student, and received a bachelor's degree in 1970.

He then enrolled in DePaul University College of Law. There he made law review, earning his JD degree in 1973. He was admitted to the Illinois Bar on November 6, 1973, and thereafter practiced law in the Chicago area.

His father, also Robert D. Shearer, was a member of Kappa Sigma at Wabash, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1940.

Shearer inherited his father's love for sailing, crewing boats in the Mackinac Race. He also inherited his family's commitment

to the Republican Party, running for office in Cook County and working at the precinct level.

In World War II, Robert served in the U.S. Navy. He captained a patrol torpedo (PT) boat, PT-104, in the same squadron as future U.S. President John F. Kennedy (PT-109) in the Solomon Islands. For his valor in combat, Robert was decorated with both Bronze and Silver Stars.

The Shearer family's Wabash legacy does not end there. His middle name was "Dwight," in honor of his great-uncle Dwight H. Green, the 32nd governor of the state of Illinois, 1941–49. **Dwight Green [W1919]** attended Wabash until his education was interrupted by World War I, in which he served as an army pilot and a flight instructor. After the war he completed his undergraduate education at Stanford and went on to earn a law degree at the University of Chicago. He was one of the prosecutors in the income-tax-evasion trial of Al Capone.

Shearer is survived by his sister, Janet Gross, and a niece and nephews.

He was a good man, loyal to his friends, to his Kappa Sigma fraternity, and to Wabash.

—John A. Burrell '69 and Charles R. Disque '69



1977

John Hughes Morrow was born May 22, 1955, to Lynne Richardson Morrow and Charles Digby Morrow in Norfolk, VA. His father was a Navy pilot and the family moved frequently during John's childhood. By the time he was in high school, they lived in San Diego, CA, and John attended La Jolla Country Day School.

Morrow graduated from Wabash in 1977. During his college years, he took care of the school greenhouse, helped run

the radio station, and pursued his interest in marine science and biology. His postgraduate work took him to the University of Southern California, where he earned two master's degrees and a PhD in marine science. The bulk of his professional life was spent working at Biospherical Instruments Inc., a small, but vital, company that builds, markets, and does research with instruments engineered for climate research. Frequently working with grants from NASA, NOAA, NSF, and major universities, the company builds instruments that John designed to monitor light in the water column and in the atmosphere. From 2002 until recently, he was the president of the company. He oversaw grant proposals, work in the field, and instrument design.

Morrow was also at the forefront of using in-water optics for automated algae detection in drinking water reservoirs and worked closely with LADWP for many years to improve the quality of the municipal drinking water supply. He traveled extensively and worked with the Cousteau Society on many of their expeditions. He was an avid scuba diver and loved being on or in the ocean. He was always interested in cultures beyond his own and developed deep relationships wherever he traveled. Some very enjoyable trips were with his wife, Margaret, and the San Francisco Symphony. Trips to Europe and Asia were wonderful times spent together and in the company of so many engaging colleagues. His family and friends miss his witty and sometimes barbed sense of humor, his kindness and generosity, and his profound intelligence.

He is survived by his mother, Lynne Morrow; siblings, Digby, Paule, and Sarah; wife, Margaret Tait; former wife, Leslie Lucas; children, MaryJane, John, and Olivia Wu; granddaughter, Miriam; and nephews and nieces.

BELONGING

FINALLY. WORDS ON PAPER (or screen, at least).

"Write about why you came to Wabash and what keeps you here," said *WM* editor Kim Johnson.

Really? That's it? I thought. This will be a piece of cake!

As cartoon character Quick Draw McGraw would say, "Well, hold on there, Baba Looey!"

This was not going as effortlessly as I had anticipated. I didn't know where to start. There is just so much I could say.

The answers to these two questions are really the same.

What got me here as a student in 1981 is what has kept me here as an employee for 30 years. It's a culture, a feeling, a comfort. It's belonging.

The constant thread that connects decades and creates this feeling of comfort and belonging is a combination of many things, but a few stand out to me.

We know who we are, and we aren't trying to be anything else.

Arrogance and pretentiousness won't cut it here. New students figure that out quickly when they receive a lower-than-expected grade from a professor, a stern correction by a coach, or an interaction with an upperclassman. We are serious about improving ourselves and lifting each other up.

We are in this together. I see so many instances when our students support one another. I fondly recall when I was coaching football during the Friday practices before the Monon Bell games. The basketball team would emerge from the side doors of Chadwick Court, freezing in their basketball uniforms, and fill the stadium cheering.

Our students compete hard, but they also help and support one another. Someone once said, "At Wabash, it's hard to get an A and it's hard to get an F." I have always liked that.

We are an egalitarian place. I didn't understand the importance of this as a student, and really didn't think about it at all. We place a premium on effort, actions, and achievement rather than a student's background, wardrobe, or checking account. Opportunities like internships, immersion trips, and study abroad are available and affordable to all qualified students.

Work hard here, and you will have opportunities. Period.

From my experiences and many conversations with alumni and friends of the College, I don't think that the foundation of this place has changed at all. It has always been and always will be Wabash.



Steve Hoffman '85 |

Director, Alumni and Parent Relations
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Morrow (continued)

A remembrance

I clearly remember first meeting John while standing in line for one of the many early days at Wabash events required of freshmen. I learned that John came from La Jolla, CA—much different from rural Indiana where I grew up. But, now that we were both at Wabash College, I also I learned that we had two important things in common: we were both biology majors and we both lived in Morris Hall. We became fast friends that day.

John said he would go back to that time in a heartbeat. Obviously, none of us are able to do that. But in a figurative and memorial way, I drove to Crawfordsville the following weekend and for John “went back to Wabash” and walked through the campus.

I remember how caring John was. Often spending time helping fellow students understand course material, he freely shared his time, which he could have spent on his own studies. That part of John also expressed itself in the time he spent as part of the Wabash Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity.

John had a great sense of humor. His laugh was contagious no matter how stressed we may have been from studying and exams. He enjoyed people; he enjoyed life.

John and I had stayed in contact throughout the years. By God’s good grace, John and I had a long, pleasant, and entertaining (as was typical), phone call the evening before he unexpectedly passed. One of the many things we talked about that evening was how very much we enjoyed our years at Wabash. John said he would go back to that time in a heartbeat. Obviously, none of us are able to do that. But in a figurative and memorial way, I drove to Crawfordsville the following weekend and for

John “went back to Wabash” and walked through the campus. I sat on a bench in the mall looking at each building in turn, thinking about the classes John and I had taken together in each of the buildings—such as Dr. Swift’s calculus class in Baxter Hall, the time we both spent working for Dr. Willis Johnson on his research project in the basement of Waugh Hall, Dr. Haenisch’s quantitative chemistry class in Goodrich Hall, the many meals we ate together in the Sparks Center dining hall, and of course the four years living in Morris Hall.

John was an excellent student. He had an outstanding career. He had a loving family. He had many friends. I was very blessed to have been one of them.

—K. Dirk Berard ’77

1978

Dudley Keith Miller, 67, of Brookhaven, GA, passed away October 16, 2022.

A remembrance

More than a decade ago, in an *unlikely* turn of events, Dudley Miller ’78 became my pledge father. I say unlikely because I didn’t join a fraternity in college. But I did start teaching at Wabash in 1998, and a few years into my career, members of our local Phi Gamma Delta chapter asked for an appointment with me. Deeply curious about why the whole cabinet would want to meet with a Spanish professor, I agreed on a time after I’d finished teaching for the afternoon. The next thing I knew, **Ben Gonzalez ’07** and several of his colleagues filled my small office and told me that they wanted to initiate me and make me their faculty advisor. Being their advisor for several years now has given me a chance to meet many students I wouldn’t have otherwise. I have also had the pleasure of getting to know many Phi Gamma Delta alumni. Few of them were as memorable as Dudley.

One winter as we drove together to St. Louis for meetings with students, staff, and advisors from all over the U.S. and Canada, Dudley and I talked for hours about his time at Wabash and his experience as a member of the fraternity. Those stories were by turns entertaining and poignant. He described traditions in the house and at the College, many of which we have retained (and some we have appropriately sunsetted).

As will surprise no one who knew Dudley, most of those stories and memories described the powerful influence of friendship, often developed in the connections between pledge sons and pledge fathers. When I pointed out that, as a faculty initiate, I wasn’t part of that system, Dudley turned to me with a huge smile on his face and said, “What do you mean? I’m your pledge father!”

It was as sincere a declaration of friendship as I can imagine. A few months later he presented me with a token of that friendship with his name engraved on it, a memento that I keep in my office and which reminds me of the enduring nature of the bonds that are formed here at the College.

We knew Dudley had been seriously ill in recent years, but news of his death last year took all of us by surprise. I asked alums who knew him to send me their memories. The thoughts of **Andrew Dettmer ’15** capture Dudley’s important relationship with FJJs from the early teens: “I vividly remember one Thursday night early into freshman year struggling with an issue between several of my pledge brothers as the newly elected pledge class president as we led up to homecoming week. Here I was an 18-year-old kid trying to figure out how to get a bunch of other 18-year-old kids to all get on the same page to get all of these tasks done. And outside happened to be this guy with white hair and a gold chain around his neck that I remembered from my initiation as a pledge but I wasn’t really certain who or what he did.

“Dudley sensed that I was troubled and frustrated and immediately leapt into action. It turned out helping us with these issues was exactly what his job was. And throughout the next two semesters, Dudley not only helped me understand how to help my brothers, but he showed me what it actually meant to be a ‘brother’ of Phi Gamma Delta. And I also learned that he had done this for scores of Psi Chapter brothers before me and how much of a debt of gratitude we owed him for continually stepping up over the years.

“As someone who learned how to be a grad brother from watching Dudley and his protege and pledge son Dan Rogers in their role as Purple Legionnaire, I will forever be grateful for the lessons that Dudley taught me and the kindness and wisdom he showed. Dudley may no longer be hanging out on Psi chapter’s front porch to help a lost 18-year-old find his way in this world, but dozens of other graduate bothers are because of what Dudley did for them.”

Dudley’s gift was prioritizing friendship and promoting brotherhood. His other gift, according to classmates, was his exceptional late-1970s hairstyle. As Phi Gamma Delta and other fraternities face significant and needed changes in recruitment and culture, the legacy of men like Dudley Miller will help keep them on track.

—Dan Rogers H’12



1984

Merlin William Nice, 60, passed away unexpectedly January 12. Born in Warsaw, IN, January 17, 1962, he was the son of the late Joseph R. and Joy E. (Wertenberger) Nice.

Nice graduated from Southwood High School in 1980 and earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Wabash in 1984. He was a man of many passions with a heart as big as, if not bigger than, his 6'5" frame. First and foremost, Merlin was a man of God and reflected Christian living in his daily life. He consistently set the example for others to follow.

As a multisport varsity letter athlete at Southwood High School, he was well known and respected throughout Wabash County. Putting athletics aside, Nice was a well-balanced student from both an academic and a school activity perspective. Because of his high school achievements in both academics and athletics, he was accepted to Wabash, where he continued to excel in academics and pursue his passion to play multiple sports. Wabash College was a perfect fit for Nice and he was a perfect fit for Wabash College. While Wabash is known for its strong academic ranking, little did Nice know that he would play on the 1982 NCAA National Championship basketball team. Up until a few years ago, he held the record for the most consecutive free throws (24) made during any NCAA tournament. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. He received the Pete Vaughn Outstanding Athlete award and was inducted into the Wabash College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

Once he graduated and left collegiate basketball, he turned to officiating at both the high school level and all college division levels. He refereed NAIA

National Tournaments and multiple postseason Division III assignments, as well as refereeing a record 13 conference championship games in the NAIA Crossroads League. He retired as an active official in 2019.

He was a devoted member of the Emmanuel Community Church in Fort Wayne, IN, where he and his wife became members in 2011. He served as a referee in the church's Upward basketball program, touching many lives along the way. Nice was a member of the Orchard Ridge Country Club, where he made instant friendships, not to mention increasing his love and passion of yet another sport. He also served on his neighborhood's Board of Inverness Commons grounds management team.

Nice was a top sales account manager for Univur Solutions for 27 years, where he managed accounts in northeastern Indiana. Merlin was a natural leader and team player, and mentored many new account managers. As many of his customers said, "If Merlin said he was going to do something, I could take it to the bank."

He is survived by his wife, Susan Hedback-Nice; siblings, David, Rebecca, and Daniel; and stepmother, Elaine. Additionally, he was blessed by several nieces and nephews. Through marriage he is survived by step-siblings, Jim and Steve; stepchildren, Terri, Thomas, and Brandon; step-grandchildren, Shar, Danny, Rachel, Lauren, Brook, Delaney, Drew, Brady, and Molly; and several step-great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Remembrances

I was beyond shocked to hear the news of Merlin's passing. You never are prepared when you hear someone has died so young. I immediately thought of Merlin and what a great teammate and friend he was to me at Wabash. He was a gentle giant who was loved by everyone. My senior year, I was fortunate enough to be the co-captain of our 1982 national championship team with **Pete Metzelaars '82**. Merlin was a critical factor in our team's overall success. As a sophomore, he emerged as a key leader in our rotation and played a critical role for us. Pete and I often talked about Merlin and how much we needed him inside to help take pressure off of Pete—and Merlin

The name literally exemplified the man. Quiet. Kind. Mischievous. Booming laugh. Infectious smile. Masterful ability to disguise himself and come out of nowhere to make a basket.

always delivered for us!

The first time I met Merlin I knew he had a big heart. This was evident throughout his time at Wabash. He was kind, supportive, and never showed anger in the time that I knew him. Yes, he was aggressive, and he was a fierce competitor, but he would always be the first guy to help a teammate up off the floor or encourage another teammate who was having an off game.

After college, I moved away and didn't have a chance to see him very often over the years. But when I did see him back at Wabash during our reunions for our basketball team, I could always count on his smile and warm embrace when we saw each other. His smile was infectious.

I know Merlin had a strong faith in Christ and he exemplified this in his daily life. I was proud to call him a friend and a great teammate. He will be sorely missed by all.

—Mike Holcomb '82

Words about Merlin Nice can't explain enough what I think of him.

I recruited Merlin because he was a good student first and a real good basketball player second. I went to see him play and was impressed immediately. I'm grateful I was able to coach him for four years. We became good friends after he graduated and I feel blessed by that.

He would text and call me about many things related to basketball. I followed him during his time as a referee. He was one of the good ones. I would go scout opponents and there would be Merlin doing the game. It was a pleasure to watch him. He officiated the way he played, under control and knew what he was supposed to do.

Merlin was not a stranger on campus even after he graduated. He came back for many functions and continued to support the basketball program in many ways. It was especially meaningful to celebrate with him and his teammates at the National Championship reunions. When I shook his hand, I could never

believe how big they were. And if he hugged me, it was a bear hug for sure. I can see him with his big smile and pleasing personality. What a great guy. Merlin took up golf and bonded with **Rem Johnston '55**, who encouraged him to join Orchard Ridge. So, golf provided us another opportunity to get together and share some more memories. A few years ago, he called and invited me up to Fort Wayne because the Division III National Championship was being played there. I stayed with him and we went to the games. When we talked, he would tell me about his siblings, Becky, Daniel, and David; his wife, Susie; and his church. If you knew Merlin, you knew how much he loved people and cared about them. Such a fine man I was blessed to coach and call a friend. I will miss his calls and texts. The memories of him will be with me until I see him again. When I do, I'm sure I will get a great handshake and bear hug. It's tough on a coach to lose a player. Like losing one of your children. It sucks. Rest in peace, big guy, we love you very much.

—Mac Petty H'82

Merlin Nice. The name literally exemplified the man. Quiet. Kind. Mischievous. Booming laugh. Infectious smile. Masterful ability to disguise himself and come out of nowhere to make a basket. Stepping up in clutch moments to make free throw after free throw with brutal, killer precision—and then flashing that eye-crinkling, full-on grin, slapping high-fives and giving a bear hug. Merlin held the NCAA record for most consecutive free throws made (24) in any division season tournament from 1982 until just recently. His stoic demeanor and competitive fire used to make the folks from that little school south of Crawfordsville cry while making the Chadwick Crazies go even crazier. Then there is the Merlin Nice eternity will remember. The man who loved Jesus Christ with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength.

The man who literally lived his mission by loving and caring for his beautiful wife, Susie, as she battled dementia and remaining by her side, faithfully visiting her daily. Merlin, the man who gave his all selflessly—becoming a companion to our fellow Wabash brother and Fort Wayne resident **Rem Johnston '55**. Merlin made sure Rem got to the events he wanted to attend and also golfed at Orchard Ridge Country Club, where they shared a love of the game. Merlin, the teammate you wouldn't see in person for years but who would remember your children's names and ask about them when you did meet—and you could tell by the smile on his face and the look in his eyes he really did want to know. That kind of authenticity is rare and unforgettable. Merlin Nice—my friend, my brother in Christ, my teammate, Wabash man, and SOME LITTLE GIANT—would, I believe, want to be described and remembered by these most fitting words: “And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). That he did. Rest in Peace until we meet again.

—Pete Metzelaars '82



Margaret “Margie” Zimmerman, retired teacher, community volunteer, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, died peacefully October 9, 2022, in Crawfordsville, IN.

Zimmerman was born in Leon, IA, in 1938 to Arch and Anna, the first of four children. She grew up in Monticello, IA, attended Iowa State University, and graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in secondary education.

Zimmerman was open-minded, knowledgeable, and insatiably curious, and will be remembered for her many contributions to the Crawfordsville community. She was a creative, committed teacher. Her unofficial teaching career began when her kindergarten teacher left the room, whereupon she gathered her classmates and read them a story, an occurrence that led to a quick midyear promotion to first grade.

Her official career began with teaching high school math and science in Kansas. She moved to Indiana, took a break to be at home with her children, and then returned to teaching through the First Christian Church nursery school program for children in need. After recertifying to elementary education, she taught at Nicholson Elementary School, joining a team of fellow teachers to launch the full-time gifted and talented program in the Crawfordsville School District. This program continues today.

She delighted in her students' achievements and nurtured their creativity and curiosity through such projects as annual team-based entries to media fair competitions, the release of Monarch butterflies raised from caterpillars, the Star Lab planetarium, and the much-loved plastic-bag ice-cream-making experiment. For five summers, she shared her knowledge as a mentor in the University of Wisconsin Institute of Chemical Education training program for elementary school teachers.

She received the DeHaan Award for Excellence in Education Teaching Award and the Outstanding Teacher for the Gifted Award from the Indiana Association for the Gifted. From the proceeds of these awards, she created closets full of materials for hands-on science projects, and launched her post-retirement career as the “science lady.” Throughout the school year, every kindergartener to fifth grader in Crawfordsville experienced the joy of science learning and discovery through multiple visits from Mrs. Zimmerman armed with pulleys, magnets, rocks, beakers, and other exploration tools. Her legacy as an educator will endure for years to come through the colleagues, student teachers, aides, and thousands of students

she inspired in her five-decade-plus teaching career.

Throughout her life, she was a committed volunteer leader in ways small and large. She could always be counted on to step in unassumingly when there was a gap to be filled and an important need to be served. Her decades of service as a meal deliverer for Meals on Wheels spanned her time as a teacher, when she would take students with her during the lunch hour to experience the pleasure of service, to recent years, when she continued to make regular deliveries through a route maintained by church volunteers.

She was a founding member of the local housing authority, president of the Crawfordsville School Board, and an active participant in the League of Women Voters, Camp Fire, and the Women's Legacy Fund. She and John joined Christ Lutheran Church when they moved to Crawfordsville in 1964, and she served the church as organist and choir member. She taught Sunday school and, in characteristic fashion, stepped in again last fall to fill a need for an extra teacher. She was one of the first women to join the church council and was the church's long-serving financial secretary. She helped guide a church-based quilting project that drew dozens of participants from inside and outside the church. The team delivered 250 quilts to people in need through Lutheran World Relief. Her needle-threading skills were legendary.

She and her husband, John, loved traveling to new places, a passion she inherited from her adventurous parents. Tent camping in the summer was the norm until recent years when Road Scholar trips and river cruises entered the rotation. She traveled the country with her children and grandchildren, visiting too many state and national parks to count. People still express awe about the annual tent camping trips across

the United States she organized decades ago for her Camp Fire group, many of whom traveled outside Indiana for the first time thanks to her enthusiasm, superb organizational skills, and steadfast confidence in hitting the road with a few moms outnumbered by a big group of fun-loving girls.

Her siblings, children, and grandchildren share a love of puzzles, word games, and the “take no prisoners” approach to game playing she learned at an early age in Iowa. Her game playing continued to her last days, thanks to online gaming meetups with her children and grandchildren, daily Wordle puzzle completion, and “Wheel of Fortune” and “Jeopardy” viewing with John. The entire family shared her love for piles of holiday presents under the tree and freshly baked cinnamon bread.

She is survived by her husband, John, whom she met in high school and married in 1959; three children, Kathy, Chris, and Mike; and seven grandchildren, Anna, Mark, Jill, Henry, Ben, Julia, and Adin.

Remembrances

Can you see her walking toward us, tall and lean—with that Iowa girl, that Campfire Girl, stride?

Margie on the move reminded me of “Miss Rumphius,” Miss Alice Rumphius, Barbara Cooney's amazing protagonist who was grounded in her place and traveled around the world, accomplishing so many things while always remembering her grandfather's advice that she must do one more thing: “You must do something to make the world more beautiful.” Our wide-ranging Mrs. Z did all that to the nines.

Margie wrote an article for an Indiana education newsletter so other teachers would be encouraged to take the plunge with a kid like Ian. Reader's Digest spotted that article. Ian's story went “viral” before the internet even existed.

Zimmerman (continued)

Marc and I first met Margie Zimmerman in the late summer of 1989. We had only been in Crawfordsville for a year. We had a new baby, and it was time for our six-year-old son to start school. Our Ian's physical disabilities were so significant—he couldn't walk, or move much at all without most of his body being supported. He couldn't talk by speaking words—so I had homeschooled him for kindergarten, having known since he was a baby that he was captivated by books and learning.

Now we had to make this bold move. We wanted to do it, but how? We thought we'd be going to Nicholson Elementary, our neighborhood school. This was exciting but the barrier to ordinary school—such a simple thing for most of us—seemed impossible. West Central Special Ed Coop therapists came to our house to test Ian. Contrary to all expectation, this little kid tested high in all subjects.

The therapists looked at one another and told us there was a fairly new accelerated and enriched (A&E) program. Mrs. Zimmerman, of course, was the teacher of the combined first- and second-grade A&E class.

Marc, Ian, and I went to visit Mrs. Z's classroom just a couple days before school started. Oh, my! Who was this woman willing to take on the teaching challenge of a career in a completely unknown situation? There were no books, materials, or guidelines for having a severely physically disabled kid in an ordinary classroom—let alone in a classroom that demanded accelerated and enriched curriculum.

Margie strode to meet us, greeting all three of us in the warmest, most welcoming way. “Hi, parents! Hi, Ian! Come on in.” She showed us how kids worked and sat in groups and said she had an idea of someone who could be Ian's aide.

For a whole lot of reasons, it was hard to be Ian's mom—especially in a social context—but Mrs. Z, from that first moment, made it good, natural, and ordinary. That gave me courage and hope. What a gift.

I knew from the get-go that I was in the presence of a powerfully bright, kind, no-nonsense person. Margie was clearly multitalented and here she was devoted to some of our youngest learners.

I soon learned that Margie was a highly trained chemist—like her friend and neighbor Pru Phillips. Both had come to Crawfordsville as spouses of Wabash chemists. These two brilliant women who could have held posts in chemistry departments at any university were instead devoting their marvelous selves to teaching generations of kids in our public schools.

Margie said of Ian, “I don't know what's coming but we can handle it. I know we'll have bumps in the road but you and I are up for it.” Margie described Ian as “a really bright, energetic kid with sparkling eyes.” She quipped, “He's probably smarter than all of us.”

Margaret Zimmerman was a genius of classroom hospitality and management. She treated Ian just as she did the others so it felt like he had been there all along. Implicit in the Margie-magic was her core belief that every child deserved every chance to learn. It was her job to make that happen.

Knowing that this Ian-thing was pretty unusual, Margie wrote an article for an Indiana education newsletter so other teachers would be encouraged to take the plunge with a kid like Ian. *Reader's Digest* spotted that article. Ian's story went “viral” before the internet even existed. Ian's story was in *Reader's Digest*, *Women's Day*, *The Indianapolis Star*, the *Journal Review*, and on Australian public television. Who knows where in the world some other disabled kids got a big chance because Mrs. Zimmerman took time to write an article.

So, our Ian, whose life could have been so disastrously less than it was, got to have something as near as possible to an ordinary start to school, to life outside the family, thanks to Margaret Zimmerman.

Maybe Ian's happiest brush with fame was when he got a letter in the mail from Stephen Hawking, who had seen “The Boy Who Surprised Everyone” in *Reader's Digest* and wrote Ian an encouraging note.

There is no doubt that without Margaret Zimmerman in his life, Ian might well have been the Boy Who Surprised No One. Instead, in an extraordinary, ordinary public school classroom, Margaret Zimmerman set things in motion that gave Ian the world, pledged him a life.

Margaret Zimmerman's great flood of light is part of this community's DNA, as is the ethical beauty she wove into every thread of her school lessons and her being—not to mention into those hundreds of Christ Lutheran quilts. That light will always be the brightest beacon to those of us who knew her.

—Helen Hudson

In most ways, my relationship to Margie Zimmerman was typical of the many students she taught in her combined first- and second-grade class at Hose Elementary School. As the youngest child of three, I eagerly waited to follow my sisters' footsteps into Mrs. Z's class, which loomed as the gateway into elementary school and all the things ahead that seemed so distant and mysterious and grown-up.

In the end, however, the relationship of my class to Mrs. Z was not typical, for an unusual plan meant that following another teacher's retirement, Mrs. Z became our fifth-grade teacher, too, getting us mostly into the year before handing us off to a new teacher and attempting her own retirement. In the end, we spent more days with Mrs. Z than without in those five formative years of elementary education. Mrs. Z was there at the beginning, and Mrs. Z was there at the end.

Images, more than memories, are what I remember from those first two years: her desk covered by a mountain of papers that even to a six-year-old seemed messy and a bit precarious, always a source of conversation the few times each year it was cleaned; that more frequent ritual of watching her, once a day, let down her long, gray hair, and then deliberately put it back up in a bun (reliably surprising me with how much hair she had, even after witnessing this ritual dozens of times); the column of netting in the corner of the room, home to monarch butterflies visiting once year; the small sheets of lined paper used for our spelling tests; reused metal coffee cans that served as our classroom mailboxes; her ubiquitous pink erasers worn down to nubs from what a six-year-old could only imagine as centuries of math corrections.

These are the images of my earliest education, and Mrs. Z is in each one. She was a teacher with a capital T. She taught us the basics: reading and writing, spelling tests, simple arithmetic, the stars in the sky, the one-room schoolhouses of the past, elementary science, cursive script, how to work on a team, how to wonder about what you don't know. These are the building blocks of a life of learning, the building blocks of a life well lived. Mrs. Z worked hard to impart knowledge, but she taught us that being human is about more than knowledge. A couple times a year, we each got our turn to leave school for an hour to help her deliver Meals on Wheels. We served others. We watched our teacher serve others.

There's a saying of Jesus in St. Matthew's Gospel that brings Mrs. Z to mind. At the end of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus (a teacher himself) says to his disciples, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock” (Matthew 7:24–25).

Mrs. Z was the foundation on which generations of Crawfordsville children built their lives. Where are they now? Some are doctors and lawyers. Some have advanced degrees. Some are parents and poets and public servants. More than a few are educators themselves. What we all share is the foundation that she laid. I pray that we heard her words and acted on them. Because she was a good foundation. We are all built on rock.

—Samuel Vaught '16

Quick Notes



Violet Bengé, administrative assistant for the Stephenson Institute for Classical Liberalism, was awarded a Montgomery County Unsung Hero Award for her work during the COVID-19 pandemic to establish and maintain the Facebook page “Crawfordsville Curbside and Delivery.” The page connected restaurant owners and customers, which helped businesses survive when in-person dining was put on hold.



College Archivist Nolan Eller '11 was appointed by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb to the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB). Eller's term on the board runs through 2025.



Athletics and Campus Wellness Communications Director Brent Harris H'03 received the Bob Williams Helping Hand Award from the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association. Harris has been a fixture on the Wabash campus and NCAA Division III athletics for the past 24 years, assisting media in coverage of any sport at the College. He has also been a part of the Indianapolis Colts gameday stat crew for nearly two decades, and has worked numerous Final Fours in Indy.



Elan “EJ” Pavlinich, assistant professor of English, published the book “Erotic Medievalisms: Medieval, Pleasures Empowering Marginalized People.”



Robert “Bob” Royalty, professor of history and religion, published the book “Walking Hadrian’s Wall: A Memoir of a Father’s Suicide.”

photo by Richard Paige



Don't Forget to Look Up

by JACOB PAIGE '23

B LINK AND YOU'LL MISS IT.

At the bottom of a hill just outside Prague's city center, we pass through a pre-communist apartment building. Exiting through the back, we enter the workshop of a living legend.

The soft-spoken but outrageously funny master carver, Myric Trejtnar, is internationally recognized for his achievements in crafting Czech marionettes. The puppeteer has spent more than twice the number of years behind a chisel than most of us in the room have been alive.

This week he is Professor Trejtnar, teaching Wabash students selected to participate in Costume Designer Andrea Bear's course Puppets in Prague. By week's end, even the students who claim to have zero artistic talent leave with fully maneuverable figures with fingers and painted faces.

My role as the group's documentarian gives me a unique opportunity to observe the creative process that brings the puppets to life.

The themes of the week are exploration, trying new things, celebrating the successes, and not letting mistakes define the work or the end product.

Immersion trips sometimes reveal new places with each sunrise as classes take in as much as possible in the time allotted. In Prague we have time to develop routines, like shopping at the same Protaviny (a local convenience store) each morning. In these everyday interactions, our communication skills adapt and flourish despite our previous fear of the language barrier.

We learn by trial and error how to use common Czech phrases to traverse city streets and the local public transportation system before the end of the first night. As we stare into our maps, Bear reminds us periodically, "Don't forget to look up!"

The first few days in Prague, we meet Teddy Witkowski '15 and Michael Lembke '11, who now live there. We explore the city, averaging 20 miles of walking a day. We trudge across the Charles Bridge, over the

Vltava River, and uphill to the 18-acre site of the stunning Prague Castle. Our jaws drop at the striking concrete vistas from the highest point in the city.

By Monday we are ready for the task at hand. Each morning in the workshop, the master puppeteer begins quickly sketching models as a guide—not a blueprint—displaying the expected progress for the day.



Left: Sam North '23 studies a map of Prague while learning to navigate the city's transportation system; right: Jonathan Gonzalez '24 (center) and Dario Benuelos '23 in the beginning stages of painting their puppets.



Hands and feet are the first appendages we form on day one. Carving facial expressions and painting take place on the final day in the workshop.

Trejtner's close quarters provide an intimate space for close collaboration. We are in awe of the power and grace in his craftsmanship and his willingness to so openly share his wisdom.

The puppet master emphasizes mistakes as an important and inevitable component in the making of marionettes. Spending tireless hours behind a block of wood can create a tunnel vision that distracts carvers, forcing their focus on asymmetrical eyes or fingers that feel too knobby. Trejtner reminds students these imperfections are what give life to each character.

BLINK AND YOU'LL MISS IT.

I arrived at Wabash, this small Midwestern campus tucked among the corn and soybean fields, with a camera in hand, less than four years ago. The creaking floorboards of Center Hall and the chiming bells of Pioneer Chapel welcomed me. In a few weeks, the Caleb Mills bell will ring me out.

“Freshmen enter Wabash like the blocks of wood that greeted us that first day, unshaped and rough around the edges.”

I had a rough roadmap for my next four years, but I wasn't sure where the beaten path would lead me. There have been times, especially in the beginning, where I felt like I had no direction. I just kept walking—sometimes for miles—reminding myself to keep moving forward. Some days it was a trudge uphill. Other days I was at the highest point with a view of how far I'd come.

I developed routines, learned the language of the brotherhood. Each semester, professors provided a guide—not a blueprint—but an idea of the progress that would be expected of me.

I have learned side by side with other students and have been taught by faculty known around the world for their teaching, research, and wisdom. I have been surrounded by alumni, faculty, and staff who have willingly taken the time to listen when I struggled, given advice when asked, and cheered me on every step. They have reminded me that mistakes are important and inevitable. They don't define me but add to my story. They have given me life and character.

Working as a student photographer for Wabash has given me an added vantage point for understanding the fundamental traditions that make this institution so unique. I have followed people, organizations, and teams as each traversed parallel roads. We have all faced unique struggles over the past four years. Turns out, while our maps are all different, most of us have a matured perspective.

In the spring of my freshman year, I was fortunate enough to be in the class that traveled to London with Theater Professor Michael Abbott '85. There, we explored the city largely self-guided while working on independent projects. My interest in graffiti led to a job shadowing an artist for a day at a London skate park, a popular safe space for street artists in the city.



K'tren Wilson '24 measures as he carves to ensure symmetry.

When we arrived at the workshop in Prague that first day, there were several blocks of wood that all seemed relatively similar. For five days we were guided and encouraged while carving chunks, chiseling slivers, and painting on color. We all started in roughly the same place at the same time, yet none of the puppets looked like any other. Freshmen enter Wabash like the blocks of wood that greeted us that first day, unshaped and rough around the edges.

My college career has been bookended by trips to London and Prague—both global art and culture hubs. My trip to London three years ago set the standard for how to handle the numerous uncertainties that follow first-year college students. Traveling to Prague allowed me to put in practice the skills I learned in London and to adopt the advice offered by Bear: Whether abroad or at Wabash, explore the world more critically and openly, and don't forget to look up. ■

Wabash

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

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Dario Benuelos '23 takes in a view of the city of Prague at the Statue of Jan Žižka.

photo by Jacob Paige '23



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photo by Kevin Smith

LAST GLANCE

Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 surprised even himself by racing to third place in the 800-meter finals at the 2023 NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field National Championships. The All-American broke the school record with his career-best time 1:50.16. His time topped the record set by two-time national champion Jake Waterman '13. Diemer-McKinney nearly missed the opportunity to even run at the championship event. After running in a last-chance qualifier at Ohio Northern, he ranked 21st on the NCAA DIII performance list in the 800. When the qualifying field of 20 runners was announced, Diemer-McKinney made that list as the last runner.

"In Saturday's final, I told myself I wasn't really meant to be here, so just run your heart out and see what happens. I wanted to make the most of the opportunity," Diemer-McKinney says. "Outside of competing this weekend, spending time at dinner with my family, coaches, Dean Steven Jones '87, and Kim King '99 was probably the most memorable part of the trip. I think that showed the importance of surrounding yourself with the people who have shown endless support and have helped me get to where I am at this moment."