

FIRST-GEN ALUMNI PAVE THE WAY
FOR FIRST-GEN STUDENTS
PAGE 36

WABASH SOCCER PLAYS AND LEARNS
IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE
PAGE 42

SUMMER CAMPS CONNECT YOUNG MEN
TO CAMPUS SOONER
PAGE 54

THE JOURNAL OF WABASH COLLEGE | SUMMER 2024

Wabash

MAGAZINE

FIRSTS

Bill Butcher '87 has seen his share of challenges. Some of those challenges he asked for—like staring a shark in the face. His never-ending quest for adventure and spirit of lifelong learning has taken him underwater where he captures stunning images of life in the deep.

Wabash.

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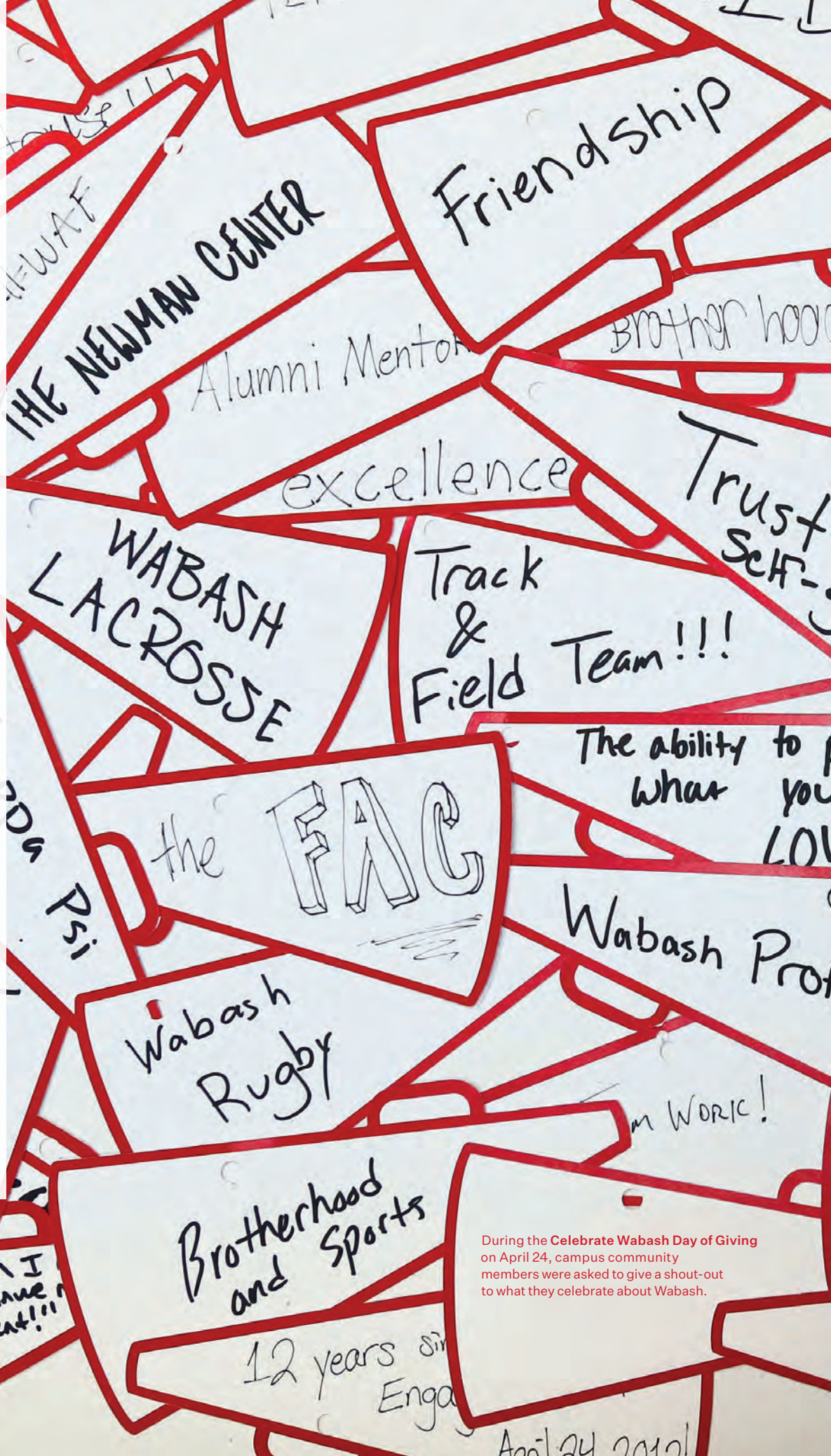
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wabash.edu/magazine

Wabash College educates men to

**think critically, act responsibly,
lead effectively, and live humanely.**



During the Celebrate Wabash Day of Giving on April 24, campus community members were asked to give a shout-out to what they celebrate about Wabash.



CONTENTS

28

Commencement

It was blue skies for the 186th Commencement ceremony. The only thing brighter that day were the smiles on the faces of the 184 graduates in the Class of 2024.



photo by Julia Moravec

FEATURES

Big Bash

Summer at Wabash officially kicked off during the annual alumni reunion weekend. Big Bash filled campus with laughter, hugs, and celebration. A special shout-out to the members of the Class of 1974 who received their 50th reunion medallions.

34

Wabash Men at the Gate: Soccer Sharing and Exchange in the South of France

Associate Professor of English Eric Freeze, along with soccer coaches Chris Keller and Jesse Olivas, built a first-of-its-kind immersion experience for the Wabash soccer team that combined study and friendly competition in France.

by ERIC FREEZE

42

Alumni Gallery: Bill Butcher '87

From Cuba to Indonesia, Bill Butcher '87 has come face-to-scuba-mask close to a variety of sea creatures. With his camera in hand, he captures details of life that most people never encounter.

48

It's All About Connections

Wabash knows the best place to learn about college is at college. Summer camps offer a fun way for high schoolers to learn about college life and colleges to start the recruiting process early. Wabash has added two new opportunities: Pathway to Your Future and Playbook for Life.

by ALLIE NORTHCUTT

54

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **From the Editor**
- 8 **From Center Hall**
- 10 **Moments**
- 16 **Works in Progress**

Sarvik Chaudhary '25



▲ Jacob Oostman '25

- 22 **Speaking of Sports**
- 24 **Season in Sports**
- 58 **Big Question**
- 62 **Class Notes**
- 76 **Faculty & Staff Notes**
- 84 **Last Glance**

David Adesanya '27

Firsts by Ron Dostal '92

Full Circle

by Jim Hawksworth '95

Bend the Trajectory

Abbott Wins Excellence

in Teaching Award

Retirees

Quick Notes



ABOUT THE COVER

About one of his many dives, **Bill Butcher '87** says, "The tiger shark was coming to take a little nip." He admits, "Things get a bit dicey at times. It helps to really understand shark behavior. Sometimes it helps to be lucky." See Butcher's images beginning on page 48. Photo by JJ Murtaugh.



36

A Walk in My Shoes

Navigating college often brings extra challenges for first-generation students. Rudy Duarte '14 (pictured), Tyler Holmes '14, Francisco Huerta '14, and Barry Tyler '06 have dedicated their careers to supporting young people and guiding them through high school graduation and beyond.

by ALLIE NORTHCUTT

Getting Started

AM NOT A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT. I'm a third-generation college student. Getting a college degree was a given for my siblings and me—and my parents covered the cost. There was no question.

There are a lot of reasons why someone may not go to college, but I never thought about how hard it could be for someone who doesn't already have college "in his or her genes" to step into the environment.

I had applied to and been accepted to the college of my choice before Labor Day my senior year. My brother was starting his second year there and I had spent plenty of time as a child on the campus. I understood Early Decision and deposits, housing and scholarship applications, FAFSA, meal plans, lab fees, vaccination expectations, placement testing, BINGO sheets, copy cards, library systems, parking procedures, and when and where to purchase my books.

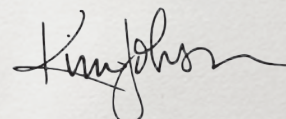
As my daughter turns 16 and starts her sophomore year of high school, I feel pretty confident in our ability to maneuver the college search and guide her as she becomes a fourth-generation (or continuous-generation) college student.

It wasn't at the forefront of my mind as a potential WM theme until Communications and Marketing's expert first-generation college student and amazing advocate Allie Northcutt suggested it. She was the first in her family to graduate from college and has since assisted her younger siblings through their searches and matriculation as well. They are lucky to have her blaze that trail for them.

Wabash has many programs to seek out, lift up, and assist first-generation college students. Long before first-generation was a term, the College has been a place that focuses much attention on great students who deserve a shot at higher education regardless of their knowledge about getting started or their ability to afford the cost. (Being a continuing-generation college student doesn't mean one needs no assistance with the process or the finances to attend, but the likelihood of having more of one or the other is greater.)

In this issue of WM, you'll find stories about many in the Wabash community who were in the first generation of their families to attend college. I'm excited that Dean of the College Todd McDorman agreed to share a bit of his story as the guest-author of From Center Hall. In addition, you will see the stunning Alumni Gallery by Bill Butcher '87. Also included are the stories of several alumni as they answered this issue's Big Question and offered advice to prospective first-generation students.

Thank you for continuing to share your stories with us! As we count down the months (fewer than 100) to the College's bicentennial in 2032, watch for opportunities by email and social media to tell us your Wabash memories.



Kim Johnson

Editor | johnsonk@wabash.edu





Firsts

HAVE HAD MANY GOOD FORTUNES in my life, starting with being adopted into a loving two-parent household. My parents were—and are—nurturing and supportive and promoted the value of education.

Neither of my parents attended college. Only one of my four grandparents graduated high school. We took vacations, but it wasn't until I was traveling to a debate tournament in Texas my junior year in college that I flew on an airplane. I was in my second year teaching at Wabash the first time I spent the night in another country.

I didn't understand what a college search was, and initially only applied to a state university. During my senior year of high school, my mom told me I would likely need

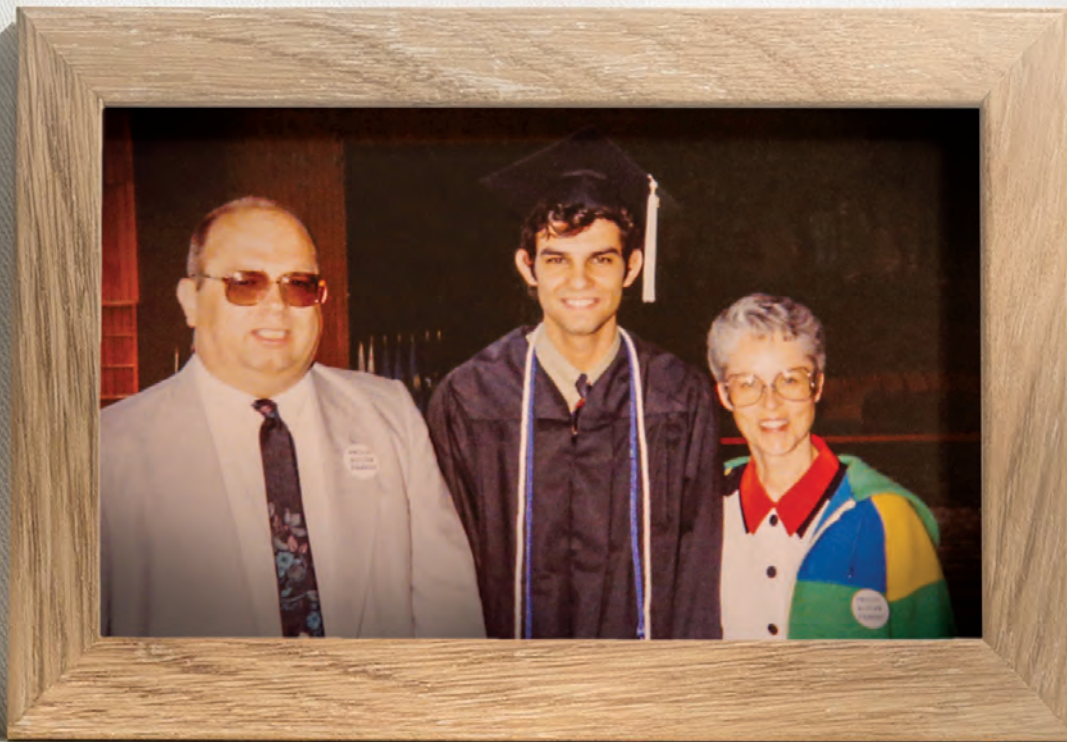
to attend community college for two years before moving to a four-year school.

I was a successful high school debater. My partner and I made a good showing at a multistate tournament, and I received a generous debate scholarship from a private university. Then I received an academic scholarship that covered the remainder of tuition. It isn't an exaggeration to say the opportunity changed my life.

Arriving as a first-generation college student—although I don't remember ever hearing that term at the time—I had no idea how college worked and little idea about what I was supposed to do. And yet, it only took until the end of orientation for me to understand I loved it. I've not spent a year away from a college campus since.

But I was largely unaware of opportunities that might have enhanced my experience like the writing center or quantitative skills assistance. I didn't know what a dean of students or dean of the college was, and don't recall ever meeting either. I didn't know about career services. I never had an internship and spent four summers working in my hometown Kmart's lawn and garden center. I never contemplated study abroad. I didn't know where to learn about it, and would have been convinced it was out of reach financially.

Importantly, in my first year, I experienced a series of small wins that built my confidence. I had some success in debate. I formed a small friend group. I didn't make the dean's list my first semester; however, I improved my work



and study habits and became a better student than I was in high school. I had two college debate coaches and a professor who invested heavily in me. It created a reassuring sense of belonging.

challenges are further magnified with the college-going rate of high school graduates at only 53%, which is below the national average (62%). The rate of college-going males in the state is even lower at 46%.

complete their first college course and acquire valuable cultural capital that aids their Wabash success. Similarly, First Plus Scholars is a new in-year program in which a cohort of predominantly first-generation students takes two courses together while being introduced to important college offices and services and interacting regularly with student mentors.

When I speak to incoming students I make sure they know more about how college works than I did, and that they know how to take advantage of the opportunities that exist at Wabash. It is also important that students know there are people here who came to college with the same deficit of experience. We want to make sure they know where to look for help.

This issue of Wabash Magazine celebrates the stories of students and alumni who were firsts in their families to attend college. Wabash and its people are better because of their influences here as students. They have helped the College learn to better serve all students. They continue to pay it forward at this institution and in all their endeavors away from campus as well.

Enjoy these stories and please share your own with us.



Todd McDorman

Wabash Dean of the College |
First-Generation College Student

“When I speak to incoming students I make sure they know more about how college works than I did, and that they know how to take advantage of the opportunities that exist at Wabash.”

My story is one that many Wabash alumni and students likely find familiar. I was attracted to Wabash College, as a professor of rhetoric and now as dean of the college, because I saw a college that is committed to making a profound impact on the lives of its students and providing them with transformational opportunities. I’ve taught many Wabash students who share commonalities with my own experience: solid students with untapped potential; the first in their family to attend college; and uncertain how college works.

Nationally, the retention and four-year graduation rates of first-generation students lag behind that of continuing-generation students (students who have a parent who graduated from college).

First-generation students are less likely than continuing-generation students to enroll in college and more likely to enroll in two-year, non-residential schools on a less than full-time basis. In Indiana, these

Despite a degree of public skepticism, a college degree remains the best path to increasing social mobility, particularly when the education is elite in its quality but relatively affordable in its total cost, as is the case at Wabash.

That is why, with support from Lilly Endowment Inc., Wabash has created summer programs to encourage college attendance by young men from backgrounds less likely to attend college. We had nearly 80 such young men on campus this summer as part of two programs, Pathway to Your Future and Playbook for Life: Navigating Careers in the World of Sports. It is also why we continue to invest in the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP), now in its 10th year, and why we recently developed the First Plus Scholars program. The WLAIP has impressively narrowed the first-generation student graduation rate gap by bringing 30 young men from the entering class to campus for the month of July to

Wabash Wrap-up: A Look Back



Immersion Learning

Wabash students traveled the globe during the spring and early summer months as part of immersion learning courses and programs. Locations within the U.S. included Alabama, California, and Florida. Students also spent time studying internationally in Poland, France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, and Peru.



Asian Studies Tea

Members of the Asian studies faculty hosted a Chinese Tea Celebration. Students sampled teas and learned about the rituals and importance of tea throughout Asia.



Holi

Partnering with Purdue University's International Students Association, the Wabash International Students Association celebrated Holi, a Hindu festival that celebrates the arrival of spring and is known as the Festival of Color.



Admitted Student Weekend

During Admitted Student Weekend, admitted students discovered extracurricular and academic opportunities and explored Greek and independent housing options. They also met potential future classmates, current students, faculty, and alumni. In addition, prospective students got a taste of campus life during Backyard Bash and the bed races on the Mall.



◀ Military Careers

Wabash Trustee **Eric Eversole '94** and colleagues hosted a panel to share with students the various paths to military service. **Cole Copsey '20** joined Eversole for a special military Coffee and Careers to further connect with students.



Eclipse

The Wabash and Crawfordsville communities gathered in Little Giant Stadium to observe April's total solar eclipse. The Society of Physics Students held demonstrations and answered eclipse-related questions.



Women's Collective

Members of the Wabash Women's Collective met on campus to choose the latest group of campus projects to support. The mission of the Collective is to engage women as philanthropic investors of time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of the College.



National Act

Hundreds of students filled Knowing Fieldhouse to see country artists Rodney Atkins and Hank Ruff perform during the National Act concert.

Moments



Ramadan

The Muslim Student Association hosted a traditional Iftar meal and answered questions about Ramadan. The group also invited members of the campus community to celebrate Eid-al-Fitr (Festival for Breaking the Fast) at the conclusion of Ramadan.



Awards Chapel

More than 70 awards were distributed to students at the annual Awards Chapel. At the event, Professor of Rhetoric **Jennifer Abbott** was awarded the McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Excellence in Teaching Award. This year's George Lewes Mackintosh Fellows included seniors (pictured left to right) **Mason Naaman, Will Keeling, Alex Litts, Ben Jansen, Camden Cooper,** and **Cole Bergman.**



Petty Patch

Professor of Biology **Amanda Ingram** and students in the vascular plants course hosted a reading and plant walk in Petty's Patch to celebrate the 50th anniversary of **Robert O. Petty's** book, "The Deciduous Forest." Later, members of the Petty family gathered for a reception in Hays Science Hall.



Peck Dinner

At the annual Peck Lecture and Dinner, Professor of Law and Political Science at the UCLA School of Law **Richard Hasen** received the David W. Peck Senior Medal and presented the lecture, "How Can We Safeguard American Democracy?" The Junior Peck Medal was awarded to **Seth Kirkpatrick '24.**



Fraternity Day

At the annual Fraternity Day celebration, Theta Delta Chi was awarded most-improved fraternity, **Luka Difilippo '25** was named Fraternity President of the Year, and Tau Kappa Epsilon was recognized for having the top fraternity GPA. Fraternity members completed 5,663 hours of community service during the 2023-24 academic year.



"Airness"

The theater department concluded its season with "Airness," directed by Associate Professor of Theater **Jim Cherry.** The design team transformed the Experimental Theater into an immersive, functioning bar for the performance.



Snodell Reception

Wabash recognized its newest group of Snodell Scholars. The gathering honored the incoming freshmen from the Chicagoland area who will benefit from the scholarship program endowed by **Walt '68** and **Kathy Snodell.**



Senior Bench

In conjunction with Homecoming 2023, Little Giants ages 4-12 were invited to participate in a Senior Bench coloring contest. The winner was, **Eleanor Miller, 9**, daughter of **Patrick '00** and **Melissa Miller** of Cumming, Georgia. The Sphinx Club painted the Bench according to Eleanor's design in preparation for Commencement in May. Congratulations, Eleanor! The 2024 coloring competition is underway. Entries are due by Sept. 9, 2024. The winner will be announced at Homecoming on Sept. 14, 2024. For details visit www.wabash.edu/go/contest.

ATTENTION LITTLE GIANTS
AGES 4-12:
ENTER THE SENIOR BENCH
COLORING CONTEST!



Moments



◀ Athletics Leadership

Members of Wabash's Athletics Leadership Academy visited Crawfordsville High School and hosted a leadership workshop and panel with student-athletes. The group shared stories, tips, and talked about the challenges and rewards of being a leader.



◀ MXIBS Speaker

In honor of Women's History Month, the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies hosted a discussion with Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Commissioner **Jacquie McWilliams**. Students asked questions about sports management, mentoring, and job advancement.



◀ Goodrich Lunch

Old National Wealth Management representatives **Tredina Fowlkes, Ryan Groves, and Kevin Noll '87** attended the annual Goodrich Luncheon along with Wabash students who received grants-in-aid scholarships from the John B. Goodrich Charitable Trust. Additionally, the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP) received funding from the Trust to provide paid summer internships to participants enrolled in WLAIP during the summer of 2024.



◀ Goblin Market

Sponsored by the English department, Lilly Library staff presented a public reading of **Christina Rossetti's** poem, "The Goblin Market." Readers included students, faculty, and staff.



◀ WCI Leadership Breakfast

The Wabash Club of Indianapolis (WCI) brought alumni together for the WCI Leadership Breakfast, where it presented its Man of the Year Award to Emeritus Trustee **Harry F. "Mac" McNaught '76**.



Wabash Leaders Scholarship and Program

Select prospective students and their families visited Indianapolis Motor Speedway to participate in this year's Wabash Leaders Scholarship and Program luncheon. Endowed by **Steve '63** and **Connie Ferguson** and supported by **Mark '76** and **Helen Miles** as part of the Giant Steps Campaign, the scholarship provides support for students who exhibit a high probability of becoming a leader within their communities.



Psychology Symposium

Senior psychology majors presented their capstone projects at the annual Psychology Research Symposium. **Chris Dabbs '16** presented the keynote address, "From Passion to Profession: Weaving Advocacy Into a Career in Psychological Research, Teaching, and Practice."



Senior Art Opening

The Eric Dean Gallery showcased the work of the nine senior art majors in the Class of 2024. Exhibits featured film, audio, sculpture, painting, and more.

Moments

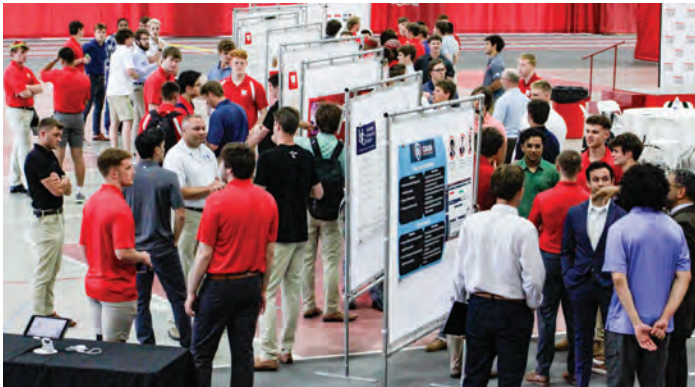
Classics Cookout ▶

The hill behind the Goodrich Ballpark outfield became an ancient civilization during the Classics department cookout. Professor **Jeremy Hartnett '96** and students in his course Pompeii: Life in a Roman City led the crowd in Roman traditions like gladiator battles and (stuffed) animal sacrifices.



Chess Tournament ▶

Wabash students competed in a chess tournament, hosted by the Chess Club.



CIBE Showcase

The next generation of Wabash entrepreneurs and business leaders presented their work at the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship (CIBE) Showcase.



Stephenson Ribbon Cutting

The Stephenson Institute for Classical Liberalism celebrated the opening of its new building with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Established in 2021, the Institute is a non-partisan, student-focused resource center.



Kids on Campus

First graders from Hose Elementary School visited campus to learn more about biology, chemistry, and physics through interactive lessons with Wabash professors and students. Students from Nicholson Elementary School had a similar experience with members of the psychology department and kindergartners concluded their year-long reading program with members of the basketball team.



◀ Habitat for Humanity Build

The Wabash Athletic Department partnered with the National Collegiate Athletic Association and Habitat for Humanity to assist on a one-day build on the southwest side of Indianapolis. Eight student-athletes and 11 coaches and staff worked alongside NCAA staff on the two-house jobsite.



DAY OF GIVING | 04.24.24

Celebrate
WABASH

\$1,719,176

This year's Day of Giving raised \$1,719,176 in support of Wabash and our students, which is a new record and the seventh consecutive year to raise more than \$1 million in a single day

➔ **\$2,035 raised per student**, far higher than our conference, our consortium, and most peer institutions

\$727,000 unlocked in lead and surprise challenge support from 48 individuals, couples, and groups

3,646 unique donors made a record-setting **8,039 gifts**

12,386 celebrations

477 donors have given on all 11 Wabash Days of Giving

55 Affinity and **30 Class Challenges** by 373 challengers pledged \$371,894

434 first-time donors to the College

571 current students made gifts on the Day

Top 10 Classes by Gifts:

| | |
|-------|-----|
| 1991: | 283 |
| 1979: | 278 |
| 1989: | 206 |
| 2003: | 195 |
| 1992: | 155 |
| 1983: | 150 |
| 1987: | 135 |
| 1978: | 129 |
| 1977: | 125 |
| 2012: | 125 |

Top 10 Challenges by Gifts:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Delta Tau Delta | 767 |
| Phi Gamma Delta | 406 |
| Phi Kappa Psi | 387 |
| Phi Delta Theta | 328 |
| Lambda Chi Alpha | 326 |
| Sigma Chi | 273 |
| Beta Theta Pi | 264 |
| Red Pack Track & Field | 207 |
| Football | 206 |
| Basketball | 200 |

Top Fraternities by Donors:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Phi Gamma Delta | 287 |
| Beta Theta Pi | 276 |
| Delta Tau Delta | 264 |
| Sigma Chi | 264 |

Filling the Blank Pages

by Allie Northcutt

SARVIK CHAUDHARY '25 ALWAYS KNEW going to college would be a part of his story, but after high school, he was unsure of what the future would hold.

"My parents made sure my sister and I attended the best schools. It's because of them that I grew up loving learning," says the first-generation college student from Surat, India. "They stressed the importance of education, because they had their own struggles, having not gone to college.

"They were always behind us," Chaudhary continues, "and encouraged us to study whatever we're passionate about."

But Chaudhary says he was unsure of what his career interests were in 2019 when he was finishing his secondary education.

Instead of jumping into college right away, Chaudhary decided to take some time to decide his next steps.

"The best part of taking those gap years was discovering myself," says Chaudhary. "I had to figure out how I can get a good education and equip myself with the information, knowledge, and talents needed to do whatever I wanted."

Chaudhary moved away from home, separated himself from his phone, spent hours reading books and newspapers, and worked as a fellow for The Dexterity Global Group.

The Dexterity Global Group is a national organization in India that provides educational opportunities and training to high school and undergraduate students. Programs are designed to prepare young citizens to become leaders across diverse career fields, from education and entrepreneurship to corporate and global management.

Chaudhary says Sharad Sagar, founder and CEO of The Dexterity Global Group, was the one who encouraged him to take the leadership and entrepreneurship training he received through the organization and to pursue higher education in the United States.

"He was, and still is today, one of my greatest mentors," Chaudhary explains. "He attended Tufts University, so that's how I was inspired to pursue the liberal arts and see how that kind of education could help me figure out what I want to do."

"When I got to Wabash, it felt like a totally new territory, and while that was intimidating at first, it was also exciting. I could fill the blank pages and do whatever I wanted, and I wanted to do it all."

CHAUDHARY PARTICIPATED IN WABASH'S

Scarlet Honors Weekend (via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic) and got a glimpse of college student life. He remembers being impressed by the virtual tour of campus, and the kindness shown by faculty, staff, and potential future classmates, but even more so by the structure of the classroom.

"All of the classes were discussion-based, which was different from classes in India where the teachers lecture," says Chaudhary. "I never was a fan of lectures. I always felt like I had things to say, opinions or questions to raise, or like I wanted to hear more from different perspectives. I saw all that happening here."

WHILE HE WAS EAGER AND EXCITED,

Chaudhary also recalls feeling like "a fish out of water" during his first semester at Wabash.

"Since kindergarten, I attended boarding school so I was used to being away from home, just not this far," says Chaudhary. "Coming here, it was definitely a culture shock. There were a bunch of people who didn't look like me navigating through this space and education system that I really knew nothing about."

Chaudhary says he could have let the newness of it get the best of him, but he instead focused on why he was at Wabash in the first place.

"I worked too hard to get here to just give up when things got hard," says Chaudhary, who is one of the oldest members of his class, arriving when he was 21. "Whenever I needed help, I wasn't afraid to admit it. I didn't shy away from asking questions. I did a lot of that my freshman year."

That stood out to Chris Anderson, Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) director and visiting instructor of rhetoric, who first met Chaudhary in his public speaking course.

"Sarvik is a presence in any classroom he enters," says Anderson. "He came in with this level of maturity and seriousness that was unlike many other freshmen—I think some of that was an attribute of his age, but also his commitment to his education. He always understood the assignment and wasn't afraid to jump in and get the conversation rolling."

Anderson also observed Chaudhary's uncanny ability to connect with his peers on a personal level.

"He's incredibly friendly with everyone. I refuse to meet with him in the library because there will be a string of interruptions, hand waves, and nods to dozens of guys as they walk in," Anderson says with a laugh. "He has built a reputation for connecting with folks, for being open about his experiences, for celebrating everyone else's success, and for being a wonderful presence on campus."



Works in Progress

Chaudhary worked for Violet Benge, campus events coordinator and administrative assistant for the Stephenson Institute for Classical Liberalism, as a student assistant. Benge, whom he calls his “part-time boss, part-time counselor, and full-time Wabash mom,” has always been impressed by the enthusiasm and charisma he has put into everything he does.

“He’s a visionary. He wants to be involved,” says Benge. “He came here from halfway across the world for the opportunities, and hasn’t missed out on a single one of them.”

CHAUDHARY HAS FILLED HIS RESUME with a long list of accolades in his first three years at Wabash.

He is a PPE major and business minor, is a member of the Sphinx Club and Sons of Wabash. In addition, he is a resident advisor (RA), acted in Wabash Theater’s production of “The Amateurs.” He served as the International Students Association vice president, Student Senate class representative and secretary, news editor of The Bachelor, and WDPD fellow. He also spent a semester studying abroad in Paris.

“During those two gap years, all I did was read, work, read, work, and apply to colleges,” says Chaudhary. “When I got to Wabash, it felt like a totally new territory, and while that was intimidating at first, it was also exciting. I would fill the blank pages and do whatever I wanted, and I wanted to do it all.”

Chaudhary credits his major and involvement with WDPD for helping him get one step closer to figuring out what he would like to pursue after graduation.

“I feel like PPE gives you a holistic understanding of what you need to make decisions in life, no matter what you do or what your title may be,” he says. “If you’re politically and ethically aware and have a basic understanding of how the financial systems work, you can make the best decisions for your business.”

“WDPD has taught me how to work with people,” says Chaudhary, who has hosted numerous deliberations and programs within the Crawfordsville community as a WDPD fellow.



“(For example,) we’ve talked to high school and middle school students about a wide range of topics from mental health to substance abuse,” he explains. “I’ve learned how to talk to people from different backgrounds with different perspectives in a way that I can relate to them and ultimately help to educate or provide support. I find that kind of work really rewarding.”

WITH ONE YEAR LEFT at Wabash, Chaudhary says his focus now is on the job market.

He hopes to connect with more alumni and leaders within marketing, business, and nonprofit work—areas where he can picture himself growing and making the biggest difference.

His goal is to work in the U.S. for a few years and then take all he’s learned back home.

“I came here for more than just myself,” says Chaudhary. “My goal has always been to grow as a person so that I can give my best back to my family and my country.” ■



photo by Jim Amidon '87

Chaudhary as Major-Domo in “The Amateurs” at Wabash in 2021.

Jumping In

by **Kim Johnson**

As an athlete in the heptathlon and decathlon, Jacob Oostman '25 must run the race, hurdle the obstacles, throw his best shot, and make every second count. As a first-generation college student at Wabash, he must do the same.

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HIS JUMP, Jacob Oostman '25 may have never made the leap to Wabash.

"I got recruited by Wabash early before all the COVID-19 stuff hit the fan," Oostman says about his first connection to the College as a high jumper and long jumper at Crown Point High School in northwest Indiana.

"I probably would not have found out about this place otherwise because college

searching was hard during that time. I remember not wanting to come here. Then I came on a visit. I loved the small feel, everybody I talked to was awesome."

An injury sidelined his jumping in high school. Chance introduced him to throwing events.

"One of my friends was a thrower," says Oostman. "I was messing around at practice—it didn't hurt me to throw—and my throw beat his. He said, 'You need to

throw.' I thought, 'Okay, cool. I'll throw.'"

He competed in discus, shot put, high jump, and long jump as a high school senior. Then went to regionals in high jump, long jump, and discus. Then state for high jump.

"Going into college, my coaches put me in with the multies (track and field athletes that participate in the heptathlon and decathlon) to train, to get explosive, faster, and more technical with all my events. That's how I ended up in the decathlon."



photo by Tom Runge '71

Works in Progress

ATTENDING COLLEGE WAS NOT a foregone conclusion for Oostman. He could have easily joined the many tradespeople in his family as a mechanic or an electrician, but his father saw his aptitude and love for math and numbers and encouraged him to think about college.

“My dad told me, ‘Do what you need to do to go do what you want to do in your future. You seem fit for college,’” he says.

“My parents were super supportive. They didn’t know a lot about college, but they were eager to learn with me. My mom was looking stuff up all the time and emailing and texting me, ‘Look at this, look at this. I don’t know what this is, but you should look at it.’ It was nice to have other people learning with me.”

Oostman admits there is a lot he didn’t know. So he asked.

“I had a very good college counselor in high school,” he says. “I went in her office one day and said, ‘I don’t know how to apply for a scholarship. I don’t even know how to apply to a school.’ She said, ‘Let’s start from ground zero.’”

He also had an internship with a financial advisor before his freshman year at Wabash who helped him look at potential classes and write his first cover letter and resume.

“Going into my freshman year, that really gave me a good foundation.”

Assistant Track and Field Coach Emile Conde says the sky is the limit for Oostman.

“He showed us his willingness to try different events, he put his trust in us as coaches because we saw something special

there,” Conde says. “That shows a great deal of maturity. It was a discussion—he asked a lot of questions. He wants to know so he can do little things to make himself better. He’s one of the hardest workers I’ve ever coached. I’m not just talking about track and field, but also in the classroom and in life.”

Professor of Economics Peter Mikek agrees.

“He is intelligent. He figures out connections—sometimes much faster than other students,” Mikek says of the financial economics major and psychology and religion minor. “He approaches learning with a sense of discovery.”

Oostman appreciates the links between his major and minor courses, but also the variety of teaching and learning approaches required for each.



Previous page: Jacob Oostman '25 at the Huntsman Family Invitational in 2022. **Above:** Members of the track and field and cross country teams celebrate North Coast Athletic Conference titles in cross country and outdoor track and field in 2023–24.



“I’m pulling bits and pieces from everybody at Wabash. It’s this perfect little pool of people to base your life on how you should be and what you should do.”

“Econ and psychology are pretty related—interpreting factors of the world and how people act,” he says. “The markets are emotional, driven by people. The government could do something, but it really doesn’t matter unless the people react the way they’re ‘supposed to.’ And if they freak out, then you have to interpret what that means.”

“Financial economics is a comfort for me—going into class for 50 minutes, then remembering the stuff and talking about it after class with my classmates,” Oostman continues. “Then religion, a lot of those classes are discussions. ‘How do you think about this? How do you interpret this?’ There’s 50 minutes of straight-up conversation—the conversation skills and the critical thinking skills. It’s a different challenge for your brain.”

Oostman understands every person, conversation, event, and interaction shapes who he is and who he will become.

“I get my personality and drive from my parents,” he says. “My grandfather is witty, funny, caring, and loving towards people, and has a smile all the time. I try to base my life off that and be happy. Coach Conde taught me the grind. Professor Mikek’s teaching style is impactful. I’m pulling bits and pieces from everybody at Wabash. It’s this perfect little pool of people to base your life on how you should be and what you should do.

“I heard a line at a recent Chapel Talk, ‘Your job isn’t to make Wabash better for you. It’s to make Wabash better for the people coming after you,’” he continues. “As many

things as you can implement, be a part of, and keep running. That’s what’s going to form the future for the next guys coming in.”

Mikek has witnessed Oostman doing just that.

“I can think of several occasions where he helped others out,” says Mikek. “He is not self-centered. He works very well in a team. He motivates other people.”

Conde sees similarities on the track and field.

“He’s one of those guys who can talk to anyone, find something in common with them, and instantly become friends,” Conde says. “He’s always laughing and always having a good time. Everybody likes him. He is a natural leader, and people want to follow him.”

Oostman knows it’s not about what he gains from his time on campus that is important.

“The effort I put back into Wabash is my biggest contribution,” he says.

As he begins his senior year, the Sphinx Club member and treasurer of Delta Tau Delta is not going to cruise to the finish. He hopes to expand the multies beyond track and field.

“Every day I want to do something Wabash offers that I have not taken advantage of in my first three years here,” Oostman says. “Whether it’s go to a lunch talk, play disc golf, or go to the play—there are so many things I could be doing. I want to do at least one thing a day my senior year. Then I can look back and know I really made the most of my final year.” ■



Oostman at the Huntsman Family Invitational in 2022.

photos by Tom Runge '71.



photo by Julia Moravec

David Adesanya '27 competes at the Robert H. Johnson "Some Little Giant" Open.

A Different Journey

by **Kim Johnson**

If he hadn't fractured his thigh bone in high school, David Adesanya '27 might be on the soccer pitch at Wabash. Instead, he's set to go great lengths as a distance runner on the cross country and track and field teams.

A**FTER PLACING SECOND** in the 800-meter run at the North Coast Athletic Conference indoor track and field championships, David Adesanya '27 was disappointed with his fourth-place finish at the outdoor conference meet.

"He wanted to be third—he's so determined," says Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary. "He had no idea what he had just done. He had run a 1:53 which is all-time top 10 at Wabash and a huge personal record. He had run the best race of his life and executed it perfectly. When he heard that he felt much better."

Adesanya was born in Nigeria. His family moved to the United States when he was 11. Early in high school, he fractured his thigh bone playing soccer. He initially joined the track team at Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis to get back in shape for the soccer season the following fall. He was fast—so fast he ended up running on the varsity team with a group of upperclassmen on the 4x800-meter relay that went to the state championship meet.

His speed turned heads, but his leadership and dedication have set him apart.

"David was a mature young man from early on and the type of leader and personality you want around underclassmen," says Ryan McMaster, Ben Davis High School cross country coach and son of William McMaster '80. "He is smart and grasps training and tactics quickly. But his leadership has grown the most. He has really stepped up. Even now he encourages, coaches up, and talks to younger runners about the proper way to do things. He helped establish a culture of success. His attention to detail and doing any little thing to make himself better even after practices, on the weekends, and on his own showed others what needs to be done to be great."

His work ethic followed him from Ben Davis to Wabash.

"He is becoming more of a leader, but he's someone who recognizes he doesn't know everything," says McCreary. "He asks a lot of questions. He wants to learn. He connected with some of our veteran runners like Haiden (Diemer-McKinney '26) and Will (Neubauer '25). Day one last year, he attached to their hip and was doing everything they did trying to learn from them. He just wants to get better."

Adesanya appreciates what the talented duo can teach him.

"Haiden and Will are two nationally ranked guys and have embraced me training with them," he says. "I'm always excited to train with them because I know they're making me better."

As year two takes off, McCreary knows great things are possible but keeps Adesanya focused on the training.

"We're really process oriented in our program," McCreary says. "He and I have never talked about the next step in terms of performance. That takes care of itself when you show up, go through the day-to-day, and put in the work. What excites me is being able to work with him every day. He's a wonderful person."

"He trains well every day. Every race he had last year was an incremental personal record," he continues. "I always had to put it in perspective, 'You do know that's the fastest you've ever run? You haven't had a bad day yet.'"

"He's consistent because that's how he works."

Even when Adesanya feels like he hasn't done as well as he should, he tries to keep a positive attitude.

"When I have a bad race or something, I try to say to myself, 'Everyone has a different journey. Sometimes you're going to feel bad,'" he says. "I just keep driving and training. It's going to come. Just be patient." ■

Season in Sports



Bawibawi Thang '27

Volleyball

The volleyball team earned its first winning season in program history. The Little Giants posted a 14–11 (2–6 MCVL) record under first-year head coach **Ashaun Baker**. **Bawibawi Thang '27** led in scoring, averaging 3.56 kills per set, and set the school record for service aces. **Will Beikes '25** set a record for assists with 54 in a game. The team's biggest win of the season came in a road match against conference rival Olivet College, during which players posted 15 individual records and three school records.



Golf

Wabash finished fourth out of eight teams at the 2024 NCAC Men's Golf Championships, the highest placing by a Wabash team at the tournament. **Miles Patterson '24** and **Mark Poole '24** both captured third-team all-NCAC honors, finishing in a tie for 13th place. Wabash took home second place at the Rose-Hulman Great Lakes Invitational, as **Brayden Weis '24** shot two under par in a second-place finish, and **Sean Bledsoe '26** tied for seventh.



Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26

Track and Field

Wabash won the 2024 NCAC Men's Outdoor Track and Field Championship to capture a conference-record 10th title. **Will Neubauer '25** and **Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26** finished first and second in the 800-meter run, posting times of 1:52.26 and 1:52.28, respectively, and earning all-NCAC honors. **Evan Furuness '26** earned all-NCAC honors with his career-best toss of 51.41 meters for a second-place finish in the hammer throw. **Takeshi Greiner '24** produced a career-best time of 54.58 in the 400-meter hurdles to earn all-NCAC honors. **Sly Williams '26** earned all-NCAC honors with his second-place finish in the triple jump, posting a career-best mark of 13.64 meters. **Connor Grimes '26** also earned all-NCAC honors with a third-place finish in the 200-meter dash. The Wabash coaching staff of **Clyde Morgan**, **Tyler McCreary**, **Emile Conde**, **Mitchell Kessler**, **Dillon Fredrickson**, and **Robert Johnson** was voted as the NCAC Men's Outdoor Track and Field Coaching Staff of the Year.



Cole Borden '24

Tennis

The Little Giants finished the season 13–10 (4–3 NCAC) and placed fourth in the regular-season conference standings before their season ended in the semifinal round of the 2024 NCAC Men's Tennis Tournament. **Cole Borden '24**, **Augusto Ghidini '24**, **Ethan Koeneman '26**, and **Cole Shifferly '26** were named to the 2023–24 College Sports Communicators (CSC) Men's Tennis Academic All-District Team. Shifferly and Ghidini were selected to the 2024 all-NCAC first team as a doubles pair, and Shifferly was a repeat pick for the all-NCAC second team in singles play. Borden was named a 2024 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine.



Sly Williams '26



Lucas Cunningham '26

photo by George Shagley '26



AJ Reid '24



Artie Rogers '24

Lacrosse

Following a decisive 19–7 victory over Hiram, the Little Giants set a new single-season record in wins, finishing the year 8–8 (1–7 NCAC), and continued an upward trajectory for third-year head coach Chris Burke. **Artie Rogers '24** leaves the Wabash program as the all-time leader in assists (87) and assists per game (1.45). Attack **Quinn Fitzgerald '26** earned a place on the 2024 NCAC third team, and his 4.07 points-per-game average ranked third in Wabash single-season history.



Camden Scheidt '25

Baseball

AJ Reid '24 became the Little Giants all-time leader in hits by collecting four over the course of a home doubleheader against the College of Wooster. Reid became the first player in Wabash baseball history to hit for the cycle in a double-header sweep of Hiram. He was named to the 2024 American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings NCAA Division III all-region first team while earning second team all-region honors from D3baseball.com. He was named the first-ever NCAC Gold Glove Award recipient after recording 49 putouts and 94 assists in 40 games at third base. Reid led the conference with a .525 on-base percentage, and his seven triples ranked fifth among NCAA Division III players in 2024. He ended his career in the top 10 in 20 different offensive categories in the Wabash career record book and added four single-season records. **Camden Scheidt '25** led the team in runs, hits, doubles, triples, and RBIs this season. **Reece Bauer '24**, **Caleb Everson '26**, **Dylan Haslett '26**, and **Robbie Manuzzi '25** were all named to the 2024 CSC academic all-district seven team.

Q&A with Head Volleyball Coach Ashaun Baker

LED BY NEW HEAD COACH, Ashaun Baker, the Wabash volleyball team posted its first winning season, finishing 14–11 with a 2–6 record in Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League play. In addition to the team’s achievements, multiple players set team and individual records.

Baker is no stranger to success. After earning a master’s degree in sports administration from Ball State University, he served as the head boys’ volleyball coach at McCutcheon High School in Lafayette, Indiana, where he guided the Mavericks’ first-year program to 11 wins and a top-20 ranking among Indiana high school teams.

Since taking the reins of the Wabash squad in August, Baker is determined to light a fire within the team.



WM: What were your goals for the 2024 season?

What have been your biggest challenges in your first year as head coach at Wabash?

What has been the key to the team’s success this season?

What were some highlights of the season?

What does the off-season look like in preparation for next season?

AB: I wanted to create as many great relationships as possible with my student-athletes and to spread the good name of Wabash to the volleyball community around the country.

Balancing the many interests of our athletes while cultivating a strong volleyball culture at the College. Wabash student-athletes dedicate time equally to academics, varsity athletics, and extracurricular activities.

Communication. We communicate about well-being, culture, and how to maximize development individually and collectively.

The first highlight was when we played in Worthen Arena at Ball State University. That moment was nostalgic for me. Second was when we won the NCAC Showdown at the Columbus Convention Center in Ohio against Hiram and Wittenberg.

The off-season for the entire squad looks like more hard work than during the season. As for me, I am trying to outwork each coach in the conference and division by learning from some of the best in volleyball. I have been matched with two mentors through the American Volleyball Coaches Association, which is an exciting opportunity.

Commencement 2024

Reflect on the last four years and think about the friends you made; the laughter you shared; the times you lifted one another up; and the many ways you made your brothers better people and better men.

It is my hope you will stay close—*really close*—to your classmates, roommates, and teammates. You will be surprised how quickly time flies from this day forward. It is my hope that, in times of adversity, you will rely on the brotherhood and friendships you have developed these last four years.

—17th President of Wabash College **Scott Feller**



THE WORLD NEEDS WABASH MEN. The world and this nation face many challenges—political polarization, a struggle over truth, climate change, gun violence, the promise and perils of artificial intelligence, disagreements of the meaning of gender identity, and more.

Treat what you have learned here not just as an idle academic exercise but as a toolkit for navigating the world. Lean into the mission of Wabash College and what you have learned. Draw upon the lessons of what it means to be human; the understanding of how science works; and the beauty of literature and the fine arts. You have been taught to write, speak, deliberate, and the importance of quantitative reasoning. What you learned at Wabash will help you. It will help society address the wicked problems that demand our reasoned and compassionate attention.

It's tough out there, but I have hope. I have hope because of you. The opportunity that lies before you is one of the greatest that any group of young men has ever faced. You will have to assist in solving the problems of this country, the problems that must be solved in a very short time.



—Dean of the College **Todd McDorman**
at the Deans' Senior Breakfast

I INVITE YOU AS YOU GO FORWARD TO LOOK BACK. Look back from time to time and remember where you have come from. Remember the family, the friends, the teammates—those who have loved you, supported you, and brought you to this moment. Remember Wabash, this particularly special place that is sending you forth.

You are being sent off into the world like a light with the ability to bring all that you are and all that you have learned to a world that desperately needs your compassion, your fidelity, your honor, and your inquisitiveness.

You are being sent out into a world that is in desperate need of those who want to make this world better. When the world and social media and the pressures of adulting attempt to tell you otherwise, remember where you come from. Remember who brought you through to this day. Remember who you are and whose you are: this College, these families, friends, and teammates, the alumni, the ancestors—all those who have had faith in you and the dreams you have for your life—look around. Look at the rock from which you were hewn and know that your quarry is gold.



—Excerpted from the Baccalaureate address by Rt. Rev. **Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows**,
B.A., M.A., M.Div., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis.



“I learned from my father that one of our greatest responsibilities as parts of the human family is to figure out how you can spend your life enriching, edifying, and empowering the lives of others.”

Dennis E. Bland

Honorary Degree Recipient



Honorary Degree Recipients

Dennis E. Bland, Doctor of Humane Letters



Dennis E. Bland is one of Indiana's leading voices in the promotion of higher education and leadership development for our state's most underserved students. A graduate of Wabash's Opportunities to Learn About Business (OLAB) program, he received his bachelor's degree from DePauw University and his juris doctorate from the Indiana University McKinney School of Law. He enjoyed a highly successful career as a medical malpractice attorney, but left that work to find his true calling.

As president of the Center for Leadership Development (CLD) for more than two decades, Bland has devoted his life to empowering and equipping minority youth of Indianapolis for the highest levels of success and achievement—in college and beyond. The CLD annually serves 1,200 young people and their parents through an array of programs that contribute to success: character development, educational excellence, leadership effectiveness, community service, and career achievement. Many past and current Wabash men cite the CLD as contributing to their success at the College and throughout their careers.

Three different governors have appointed Bland to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, while he has served on the Indiana Education Roundtable and the boards of the Tobias Center on Leadership, IU Law School Alumni Association, and the Indiana Black Expo, among others. He has received distinguished service awards from Broad Ripple High School, DePauw University, and the IU McKinney School of Law.

I learned from my father that one of our greatest responsibilities as parts of the human family is to figure out how you can spend your life enriching, edifying, and empowering the lives of others. So it just always seemed to me with whatever my life's journey would be, there would not be a sense of fulfillment unless, at the end of the day, there was somebody else being empowered and enriched, which took me to the Center for Leadership Development.

—**Dennis E. Bland**, Honorary Degree Recipient

Paul Woolls, Doctor of Humane Letters



Paul Woolls is a 1975 graduate of Wabash who majored in psychology before earning a law degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He practiced law for more than 30 years, primarily in California, specializing in insurance litigation and regulatory matters. As a second career—with his wife, Betty O'Shaughnessy Woolls—he created Napa Valley's Progeny Winery, a destination winery on Mount Veeder dedicated to producing world class wines to pair with fine food and gracious hospitality. The couple also manages O'Shaughnessy Winery, which Betty founded in 1997.

Woolls joined the Wabash Board of Trustees in 2009, and in 2015 chaired the ad hoc committee for long-range fundraising. The committee created a detailed plan to leverage and expand the College's long tradition of philanthropy through two comprehensive fundraising campaigns between 2016 and 2032—Wabash's bicentennial.

Woolls was appointed chair of the Board's Advancement Committee and co-chair (with Betty and Steve and Joanie Bowen) of the Giant Steps Campaign. At the public launch of the campaign, Mr. and Mrs. Woolls announced their own pledge of \$40 million—the largest single gift in Wabash history—and their dedicated commitment to reaching the Giant Steps goal. When the campaign ended in June 2023, Wabash had secured more than \$250 million from more than 12,000 donors.

Board of Trustee chairs Steve Bowen and Jay Allen praise Woolls for his analytical and entrepreneurial approach; passion, optimism, and humor; and unwavering focus on achieving the College's goals.

The education I got at Wabash has made it possible for me to excel and achieve and have a wonderful life. I never forget that for a day because it's just been that strong of an influence in my life.

—**Paul Woolls**, Honorary Degree Recipient



Consider afresh the words of the song we love so well and paint them on the canvas that awaits you on the other side of that arch.

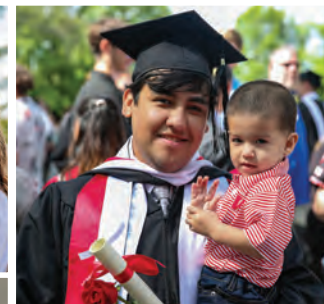
May the gorgeous dyes of human diversity burst upon your sight and move you to joyful compassion for all of God's people;

May the song that echoes in your heart issue forth loud and long into our classrooms, boardrooms, legislative chambers, and halls of justice as a call for peace, equality, and dignity for all;

May you praise in song and story those who labor on behalf of the last, the least, and the lost;

And when each day is done, as the sun slips under the western horizon, may you rejoice that you have done honor to your alma mater, to your communities, to your families, and to the One who sets the stars in motion, watches over the sparrow, and holds your future in the palm of His hand.

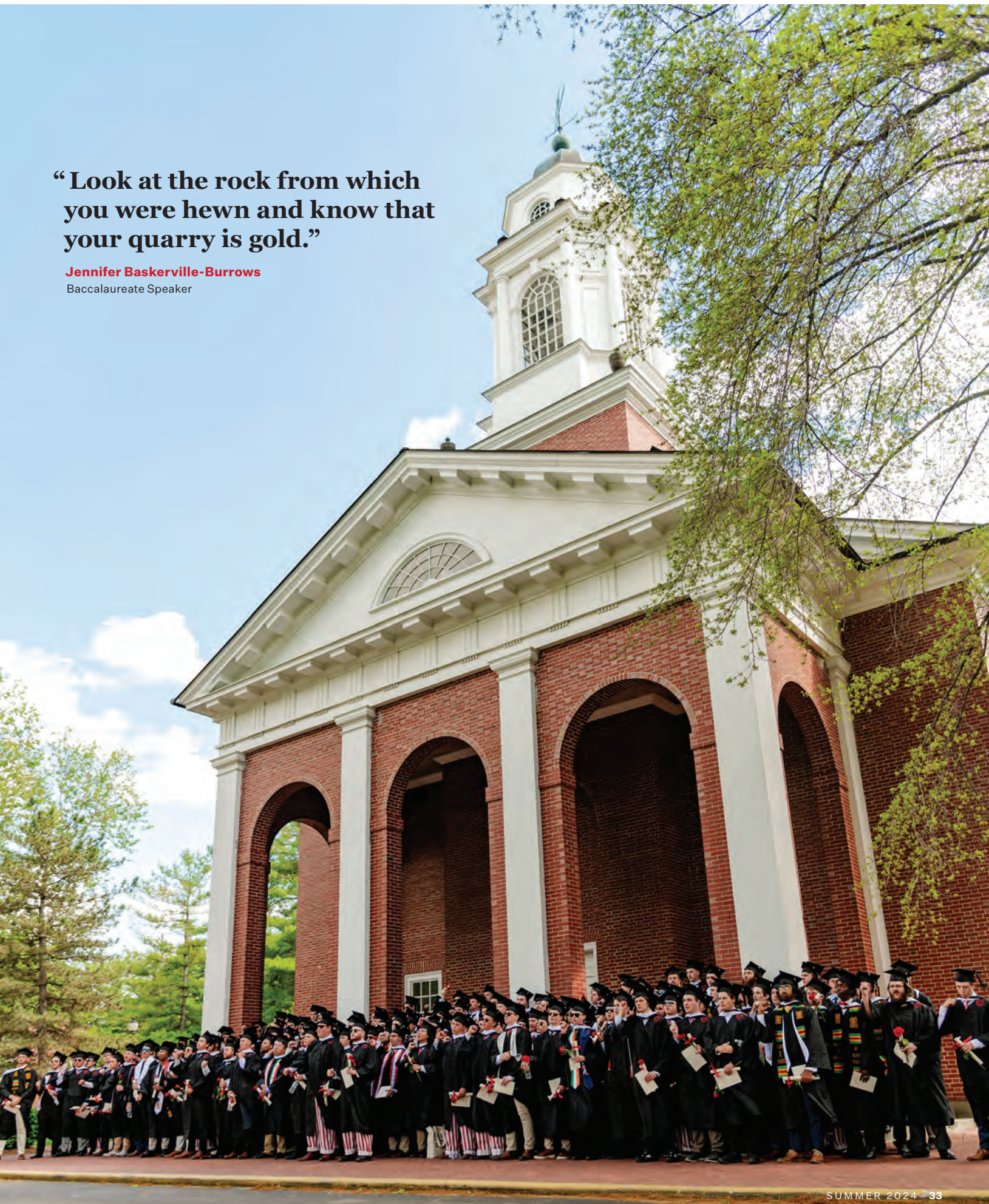
—Professor of Psychology
Preston Bost,
Charge and Benediction
to Class of 2024



**“Look at the rock from which
you were hewn and know that
your quarry is gold.”**

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows

Baccalaureate Speaker



BIG BASH 2024





In the fall, I will ring in members of the Class of 2028—we call these students iGen because they were basically born with smartphones in their hands. None of them has ever used a printed dictionary; Google has always been their source for information. They will come from 18 different states and 13 countries.

However, once they are here in this great, good place, these young Wabash men will quickly learn that their most important teachers are in their midst. They will teach and learn from each other—to thrive in the classroom, the words to “Old Wabash,” our traditions, and what it means to be a gentleman and responsible citizen.

Those men in the Class of 2028 will also learn from you—our alumni—what it means to lead a liberally educated and meaningful life. In short, they will be a lot like you were.

—President **Scott Feller**
at Big Bash Banquet



A Walk in My Shoes

by Allie Northcutt

Navigating college can be challenging for any learner, but first-generation students often face additional academic, financial, and emotional hurdles while pursuing a degree. Four alumni educators share their experiences.

RUDY DUARTE '14 THOUGHT **WORKING IN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT** was where he belonged after graduating from Wabash.

After two years of working at tech start-ups, he felt like something was missing.

"I enjoyed software development and was making good money," says the first-generation college student from Santa Ana, California, "but I believed there was more I could be doing to impact my community."

Duarte found that calling once he started tutoring kids in Orange County—kids, Duarte explains, who reminded him of his younger self.

"I always told myself I would never go into education because I didn't want to get students who were like me—I was kind of rowdy," Duarte says with a laugh. "I did end up getting kids who were just like me, and realized that was a blessing. I was able to understand them because, at one point, I was in their shoes."

"Along with being a tutor, I became a mentor to these kids," he says. "I told them, 'Hey, what you're experiencing is normal, and you might not feel like you belong, but it's quite the opposite. You have what it takes. You do belong.'"

Duarte ultimately left the software development industry and reconnected with the organization that helped him become the first in his family to earn a college degree: the Nicholas Academic Centers (NAC).

NAC is a nonprofit organization that provides academic support, mentoring, and college success services to underserved high school students in Santa Ana.

Duarte began working for the organization as a college success services coordinator in 2016, then as director of programs from 2018 to 2023, and now serves as NAC's executive director.

"The NAC changed my life," says Duarte, a 2010 NAC graduate. "It changed the trajectory of a boy, where he is now a man with a master's degree from Chapman University, a loving husband, and a positive role model for his two kids. To say this is personal for me is an understatement."

DUARTE WAS WRAPPING UP his sophomore year in high school when he was approached by two NAC leaders who wanted him to join the program. They boasted free tutoring and activities, free mentorship, free food, and free access to the internet—a luxury he did not have at home.

"They let me know there was a new after-school program that helped students like me go to college," Duarte recalls. "I remember them asking me if I ever thought about going away for college, and in my 14-year-old mind, the only concept of a college out of the state was something I saw on TV. It was unattainable for me."

Duarte says pursuing higher education was always in the back of his mind growing up, but he never knew what it looked like.

"I didn't know what I didn't know," he says, "and before NAC, I didn't have people I could turn to for answers."

"I figured maybe I would apply to schools nearby like California State University Fullerton, University of California, or Santa Ana College, and just leave it at that," Duarte continues. "I had no concept of programming, what you should consider when picking a school—nothing. I just understood that those were colleges close to home."

IT'S A TREND DUARTE SAYS he continues to see among many first-generation college students.

Not only are some students less knowledgeable about how to navigate the resources available to them, such as scholarships and additional financial aid to attend schools out of state, but many often experience guilt and anxiety over leaving their families and possibly their financial responsibilities at home.

“What’s really hard for first-gen students right now—speaking more to my community itself—is being able to view yourself outside of the state and away from your parents,” says Duarte. “The community

that we live in is about 90% Hispanic. It’s all these kids have ever known.

“The NAC serves about 200 seniors a year and about 25% of them will end up going to a private liberal arts college—and I actually think that number should be higher,” says Duarte, who discovered Wabash after attending a Colleges That Change Lives college fair with NAC.

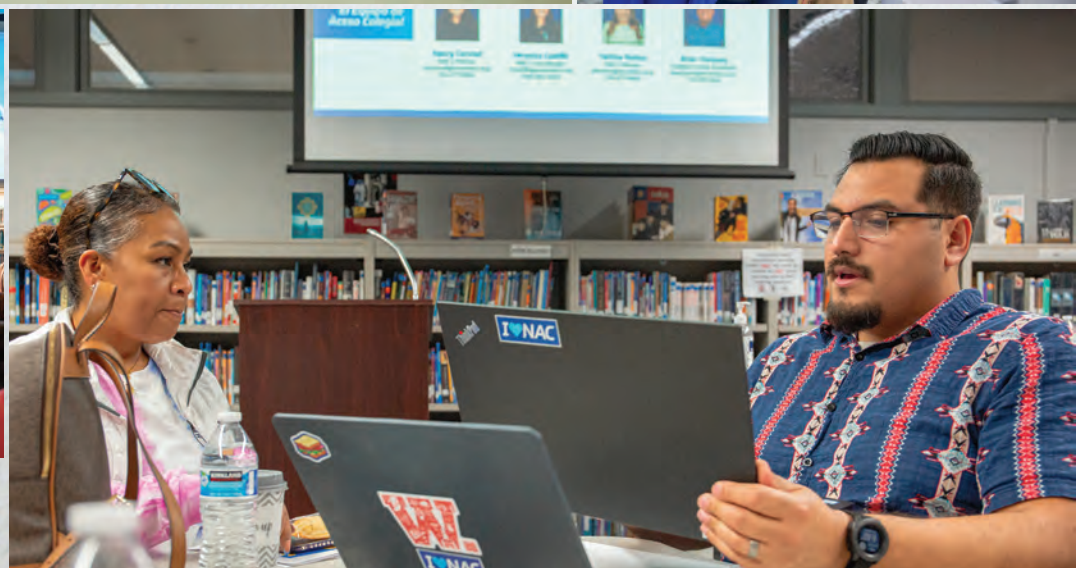
“There’s so much value in going away to these schools because you learn so much about yourself and the world when you step outside of your own comfort zone.”

FRANCISCO HUERTA '14, a psychology major and religion and economics double minor from Chicago, says he experienced “growing pains” his first year on campus.

“I went from growing up in a neighborhood that was predominately Spanish-speaking with lots of rich Hispanic traditions to what felt like another world,” says Huerta. “That cultural shock forced me to look and learn outside of my bubble—which I’m ultimately grateful for—but initially I felt sad to no longer be in the comfort of a community I was so used to.”



Left: Rudy Duarte '14 talking to a group of alumni from the Nicholas Academic Centers (NAC) about the importance of networking and building community; **below:** Duarte with a group of students on a cultural enrichment field trip to a regatta; **bottom left:** Duarte congratulates the Class of 2024 on their accomplishments and journeys through college applications; Duarte helps a parent fill out a portion of the FAFSA.





Top: Francisco Huerta '14 assisted with a teacher recruitment video at Mansueto High School where he served as the ESL coordinator for two years; **above:** Huerta was part of the team that announced the Noble Network of Charter Schools' new Distinguished Teachers; **right:** Huerta at Hansberry College Prep, where he taught ninth grade world history for seven years.



His coursework was another challenge. “The rigor is a completely different monster,” says the former National Honor Society member, senior class student council representative, and robotics team captain at Rauner College Prep. “I was a very successful student with strong academics who believed I was prepared and had the right training to do well at Wabash, but that wasn’t my reality.”

The Lilly Scholar had to learn how to study, something he says he never had to do in high school. That meant more than simply reading and rereading texts and notes, he says. Active studying involved analyzing and understanding—not memorizing—

materials and being able to form, anticipate, and answer complex questions.

“I am where I am today because I was taught to think critically at Wabash, but it definitely was a struggle at the very beginning,” recalls Huerta. “I remember running into (former) President Patrick White after getting my midterm grades, which were all Cs and a D. He asked me about my grades and I told him how disappointed I was in myself. Here’s someone who is supposed to be well-regarded and academically inclined, and I felt like I wasn’t fulfilling my end of the deal.

“We had a heart-to-heart,” he continues. “President White said, ‘You know, this isn’t

dissimilar to what I experienced my first semester. I started out with low grades, and look at where I am today.’ I credit that conversation for forcing me to stop feeling sorry for myself. It forced me to change my mindset, to continue to grow and learn, and to think in ways I hadn’t before.”

After Wabash, Huerta joined Teach For America and worked at Hansberry College Prep in Chicago for seven years as a world history teacher. In 2020, the Noble Network of Charter Schools honored him with the prestigious title of Distinguished Teacher. Today, he serves on Noble’s academics team as the manager of assessments and curriculum.

FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

often do not have family members who can provide advice on how to get to and succeed in college. Having a mentor—such as a local community leader, high school and/or college faculty or staff member, or peer adviser—to turn to who has gone through the same experiences can be invaluable.

Barry Tyler '06, the Indiana director and state team lead for Empower Schools and a School of Hammond City football coach, says mentors can inspire students to achieve their academic, personal, and career goals by helping them develop important skills such as time management, communication, and networking.

“Having someone outside of their family who they can talk about life with can make a huge difference for first-gen students.”

Barry Tyler '06

“It starts as early as elementary school,” explains Tyler. “The sooner we can help students build stronger connections to their communities and expose them to different careers and the people working in those careers who look like them or walk the same streets as them, the better we aid in their overall long-term development. That identity work is super important.”

Mentors at all levels of education can help build a sense of community and belonging, Tyler adds, which can contribute to a student's social and emotional well-being.

“Everyone is going to experience some kind of challenge in life, and what sets communities like mine apart—Black and brown communities—is that we don't always seek out assistance in terms of trying to navigate those challenges,” says Tyler.

“It's important for youth to know they have somebody they can confide in when they do make a mistake or have this off-the-wall idea they want to explore,” he continues. “Having someone outside of their family who they can talk about life with can make a huge difference for first-gen students.”



Top far left: Barry Tyler '06 reading “Granddaddy’s Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box” by Eric Stein and Michael S. Bandy to a group of elementary school students at Morton Elementary School in Hammond, Indiana; **bottom left:** Tyler tutoring a student as a volunteer of By the Hand Club for Kids in Chicago; **left:** speaking to a group of campers at the 4 Quarters 4 Life annual football camp in Hammond; **below:** Tyler volunteering at the Young Black Males Matter event at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis with the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, President Obama’s My Brothers Keeper initiative, and the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus.





Tyler Holmes '14 leads the initial training of upperclassmen leaders who will assist incoming freshmen through orientation on the first day of school. The student leaders will work with freshmen throughout the school year so they are continually supported as they begin high school.

TYLER HOLMES '14, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL at Westerville Central High School in Ohio, believes it's important to surround first-generation students with support early.

"I didn't have a ton of that and really didn't know what it meant to be a college student," he says. "If I had those services wrapping around me in the secondary level, I'm confident my transition from high school to college would have been different."

Holmes encourages other first-generation students to seek resources early and often throughout their college careers. That includes taking advantage of professors' office hours and tutoring sessions, as well as Wabash's Career Services, the Writing Center, the Counseling Center, and Health Services.

Duarte agrees, saying, "It's about more than just getting the grades." If students don't take advantage of all the resources available, they aren't making the most of their overall college experience.

"There has to be a little bit of hand-holding, though," Duarte adds. "I understand a lot of times you have to throw people in the deep end, but I think with first-gen students in particular, there has to

be intentionality. That could be in the form of advisors physically walking students over to meet with Career Services or a professor checking in with a student, saying, 'Are you going to the Writing Center?' and then following up later to see how they are growing and improving."

DUARTE CREDITS HIS NAC MENTORS and Wabash faculty and staff members, like Roland Morin '91, former associate dean for professional development and director of the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship, for holding his hand and helping get him to graduation.

"Roland was caring, honest, and thoroughly believed in me from the start," says Duarte. "One day I went into his office to vent about life, and he looked at me and asked, 'Why are you hiding your light? You have so much potential, and you're hiding. Why are you doing that?'"

"I don't know how, but those words cut right through me, and I started to cry," Duarte says. "I will never forget that moment. He inspired me to push through to the end."

He says Morin, who passed away three years ago, shaped him into the leader he is today—one who guides other first-generation college students through challenges and celebrates their successes, both big and small.

"I hear the stories of some of the things students experience, and through all of that adversity, there is a resilience to still go on and succeed," Duarte says.

"Roland always said, 'We stand on the shoulders of giants, and one day others will stand on your shoulders.' That's what I am doing now," he concludes. "I don't necessarily see myself as the executive director for the Nicholas Academic Centers. I see myself more as a community leader who wants to make change for other first-generation students. I take Roland's words and what I have learned at Wabash—our motto and core values—to guide that work every day." ■



Wabash Men at the Gate: Soccer Sharing and Exchange in the South of France

by **Eric Freeze**

“It is not a romantic matter. It is the unutterable truth:
all men are brothers. That’s the bottom line.”

—James Baldwin, Amsterdam, 1981



I**N ST. PAUL DE VENCE, FRANCE,** 30 Wabash men play boules. Ramparts from the walled city frame the playing area. It's early afternoon and sunny with occasional olive tree and cypress providing little shade. Tiny chalky pebbles provide the ideal playing surface for boules, a Bocci-like game that's popular in the south of France. I've brought these men here to learn about the author James Baldwin, who lived in St. Paul the last 17 years of his life. Baldwin famously moved to France after the assassination of his friends Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers. We have just finished visiting the site of Baldwin's home. What used to be a sprawling complex of stone Provençal buildings with gardens and terraces and views of St. Paul and the Vaulongue Valley is now a gated luxury condominium complex. The gatekeeper, who I know for the number of times I've brought visitors there, ushers us in quietly, directing us not to touch anything. "The residents would be furious!" Now we're relaxing, playing boules—*petanque*, they call it in the south—and channeling a little of that Wabash spirit to win.

The boules, like everything this week, was my idea. When I first met the students and coaches Chris Keller and Jesse Olivas at the airport, I could sense their hesitation. For the next 10 days, I would be their guide

on a new program to a place they'd never been. Before coming on the trip, I gave the students a reading list, articles about issues of race in French soccer, Baldwin's memoir "No Name in the Street," and an essay from The New Yorker about breaking into Baldwin's house before it was slated for demolition. What I was asking the students to do was no easy task: interrogate their athletic practice, analyze the socio-political forces behind the sport that they love, and contrast it with the experiences of a famous expatriate writer who had chosen the south of France as a refuge from racism in the U.S.

The trip was the first of its kind.

I got the idea during an off-campus studies committee meeting. The committee had just started vetting athletic travel programs. Before this point, athletics and academic travel were separate. Athletics would occasionally send teams to play friendlies abroad, but there wasn't an academic component. Students would, of course, benefit from any kind of travel, but if there was a way to combine academics with athletics, it would benefit our students even more.



Students would, of course, benefit from any kind of travel, but if there was a way to combine academics with athletics, it would benefit our students even more.

Left: Members of the Wabash soccer team on the way up to the chateau hill overlooking Nice, France; **above:** Professor Emmanuel Desclaux lectures at the Grotte du Lazaret cave on Neanderthal migration while Associate Professor of English Eric Freeze (right) looks on.



Bryce Kinnaman '27 throws in the ball during the friendly match against Cavigal Football U18s.

Since my first sabbatical when I purchased and renovated an apartment in Old Nice on a shoestring budget, I had been coaching for Cavigal Football, a prestigious soccer club in Nice, France. The club is typical of many urban French soccer clubs, drawing from a largely middle-to-lower class, predominantly immigrant, predominantly Muslim demographic. Club functions always served halal options along with the usual Nicois specialties of pan bagnat, tarte aux blettes, or pissaladière. In March, my children would often be the only players not observing Ramadan. For many of the kids joining the selective

Cavigal, soccer was a lifeline, a potential career path. Indeed, much of the club's budget drew from the contracts that their graduates signed with professional training centers and teams. But many talented players never broke through, languishing in entry-level jobs without many other prospects, often due to forces beyond their control. For every Mbappé and Benzema, there are hundreds of other players who never parade the national flag down the Champs-Élysées. They're not held up as the example of what hard work and talent can accomplish. Instead, they're the pied-noir, the immigrant, the kid

who gets overlooked for job after job because his name is Mohammed. They're Algerian, Senegalese, or from the Ivory Coast. The *racaille*—the “rabble.” Blamed for a million social ills and rarely fully welcomed into French society.

The beautiful game, combined with the promises of a gold-star liberal arts education, has lured many children of immigrants to Wabash College. The current soccer team boasts students with roots from Mexico, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Many of the students come from the Southwest or California, areas very different from the Midwest. Coming to Wabash can be a major

I marveled at these young men, all of them, at their successes, their easiness in the world, their ability to transcend boundaries that sometimes seemed unsurmountable for others. Was this the hidden value of a Wabash education? Or was it something more basic and fundamental?



Myles Bernat '26 and Bruno Zamora '25 at the friendly match against Cavigal Football U18s. Wabash won the game 5-0.

cultural adjustment for some. Other members of the team are from an entirely different cultural caste, from backgrounds that could afford the expense of elite soccer clubs, a barrier that doesn't exist in France, where sports clubs are subsidized by the state. But a Wabash education puts these different men on equal footing. They might not be playing for OGC Nice or PSG, but they are getting an education, being extended a rung in society that allows them to grow, to see the world.

The boules games were arranging themselves in a kind of round-robin. Some of the players had already mastered the technique, throwing the metal ball a little higher, putting on backspin so that when it thumped to the ground it moved very little from the intended target. The boules were

getting closer to the cochonnet. I got out my tape measure to verify distances. A couple millimeters could make the difference between a win and a loss, who made it to the next round. One team was still undefeated, a group of seniors whose confidence seemed to assure their win. I marveled at these young men, all of them, at their successes, their easiness in the world, their ability to transcend boundaries that sometimes seemed unsurmountable for others. Was this the hidden value of a Wabash education? Or was it something more basic and fundamental?

During a tour of the Lazaret caves with our students, Professor Emmanuel Desclaux, a friend of mine who teaches at the Université Côte d'Azur, explained the competing theories about the assimilation of

early humans in pre-history. Many theoretical models in the past assumed that early humans came in, conquered, and suppressed the human beings who lived there before them, but the paleontological record showed something very different. The preponderance of tools, for example, that seemed to travel more quickly than different populations. How could one settlement of humans in Africa or Asia have the same tools as in Europe? And at almost exactly the same time? It would require years and years for those same populations to travel and establish themselves. Instead prehistory tells us that human beings shared. They shared information, shared techniques. And as our Neanderthal-inflected DNA tells us, also shared our beds.



Assistant Soccer Coach Jesse Olivas and Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller talk to the players before the game against Cavial Football U18s.



The Wabash soccer team in front of the Prince's Palace in Monaco.



Drew Scanlon '25,
Ty Freedman '27,
Bryce Kinnaman '27,
and Henry Giesel '25
get ready to snorkel
at Coco Beach.

“The idea of the other is a fairly recent cultural concept,” Emmanuel told us. “Our tendency to draw up boundaries, to enforce differences, all are cultural phenomena that are undermined by our inherently unique human characteristics: our ability to cooperate, to empathize, to love. These were the keys to humanity’s survival.”

What the trip taught me, what I felt and observed over and over again with our student-athletes and their interactions with others, was that our young men were thriving, that their solidarity valued their collective difference in a way that benefited the whole. During both our friendly matches, other coaches complimented our students on their communication, their drive, their ability to work together as one.

“Your guys came to win,” the head coach of AS Monaco’s U17 Medhi said. Coaches admired our athleticism, the team cohesion. They heaped a healthy dose of French criticism on their own teams. Too individual. Some were trying to impress you. Chris and I countered their criticisms. Any of their players would be welcome on the Wabash squad. So technical. Gifted vision. Amazing what they could do with the ball. The styles were so different. While the French teams dominated in possession and construction, we exploited weaknesses, hit hard on the counterattack, and outmuscled them off the ball. While we were happy to win (5–0 against Cavigal’s U18s and 5–2 against AS Monaco’s U17s), we were even happier for what we learned, for the cultural exchange.

Differences would often keep them separate. The different cohorts, the regional differences, the different majors created artificial barriers that tended to keep some guys together and others apart.

The last night of our trip, we ate at Chez Palmyre, a restaurant and Nicois institution that's owned by my friend Vincent Verneveaux. All 30 of us crammed into the cozy one-room restaurant. We had smoked salmon cannellonis with fresh cheese as the appetizer, then daurade, a popular Mediterranean fish that I often catch just off the Promenade a couple blocks away. For dessert, a simple lemon tart. We ate, talked, and ate some more. Near the end of the meal, the captain, Myles Bernat '26, served as emcee. "What had we learned this week? Could everyone share? What were the moments that mattered the most?" I thought, visiting Baldwin's house, being welcomed in by the gatekeeper. Maybe snorkeling on Coco beach or visiting AS Monaco's training center, La Diagonale, or going to the OGC Nice professional soccer game. The occasional student would mention one of these events, but the experiences that kept coming up over and over again were the times that they spent together as a team. "Back

at Wabash, we don't often get to hang out together." Differences would often keep them separate. The different cohorts, the regional differences, the different majors created artificial barriers that tended to keep some guys together and others apart.

One experience that came up again and again was the combined practice session with Cavigal Football the day before our friendly. During the practice, both teams intermingled, slalomed through cones, one-touch-passed the ball back and forth. "*Prends du plaisir*," one of the coaches often tells our Cavigal players. Take pleasure or enjoyment in a game where you work together. Halfway through the practice we divided up into half-field scrimmages that switched every five minutes. Freshmen, seniors, Latinos, Arabs, a dozen different cultures and languages, children who were products of the multicultural world that we now live in: all buzzing with the energy—that one perfect pass, the strike on the volley, a headed cross—of the beautiful game. Afterward, we

ate together in the clubhouse and mingled with the other team, trying out rudimentary English or French, making connections. Sharing and exchange: the outcomes that our student-athletes valued even more than the wins. ■

Eric Freeze is an associate professor of English at Wabash College. He and his family spend half of the year living in Nice, France.



Lunch at the Grotte du Lazaret.



Alumni Gallery

WILLIAM 'BILL' BUTCHER '87 has been a great friend to the College, particularly to the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP). He is a wonderful example of a true life-long learner—someone who never stops looking for his next adventure. When I first met Bill, he was doing adventure racing, running through deserts, and kayaking through jungle rivers. Then he moved to scuba diving and diving with sharks. While becoming a dive instructor, he started taking and studying underwater photography. He is someone who never rests and who seems most fulfilled by having a new topic of study, something to learn, and a new domain in which to excel.



Butcher's work from his dive trips in and around Cuba have recently been featured at the Fabrica De Arte gallery and the National Photographic Museum and gallery in Havana, Cuba.

—Professor of Psychology Bobby Horton

photos by Bill Butcher '87



Alumni Gallery

WILLIAM “BILL” BUTCHER ’87 is a seasoned financial services professional who parlays his knowledge of that sector to providing support and counsel to the banking industry.

Bill struggled academically at Wabash. The only things that kept him moving forward were running track and field and the support of his fraternity brothers. When he got injured and could not compete or train, it only became more difficult. He barely graduated. And when he left, he shook his fist at the College and said, “I will never darken the door of this place.”

Bill found out years later he is dyslexic. When his daughter was diagnosed, he learned it runs in families. The lights clicked for him. He has a hard time reading, writing, and spelling but he has a superpower. He can look at a spreadsheet, a series of numbers that would make my eyes cross and he can say, “Oh, there’s the problem. I can fix that.”

When I asked Bill to talk to the students in the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP), he told me he had never shared his story about his struggles publicly and wasn’t sure he felt comfortable doing it. I told him it would be really helpful if he did. The first time he was set to come back to campus, he told me he was so nervous he had to stop alongside the road to throw up. During our first introductory lunch, he was shaking almost uncontrollably—this super successful businessman who had overcome mountains.

That afternoon, he went on to tell the students how hard Wabash was for him and how difficult it was to learn but he did it. There were people around him that helped. He told the students that whatever the challenges they needed to overcome, that just like him, they could do it too, that he would be there for them when it gets rough. And he has been.

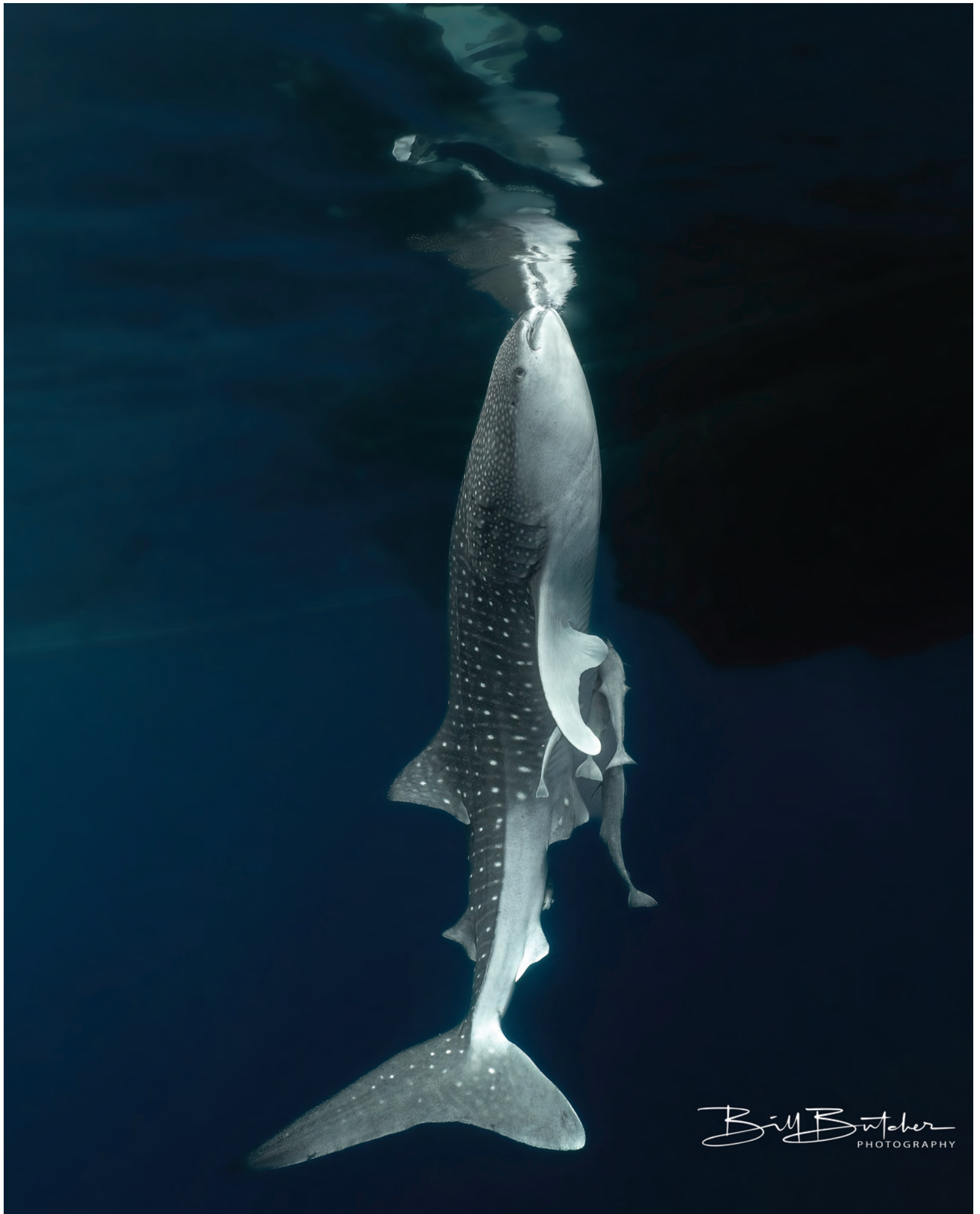
Since then, he has connected to that program and the students in a way that is just magical. He continues to come to the WLAIP summer institute each year and quietly lends financial support and internship banking contacts to a program that he believes in at a place that he believes in, but most important the students he believes have the potential to succeed no matter what.

—Dean for College Advancement
Michelle Janssen










Bill Butcher
PHOTOGRAPHY



IT'S ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS.

by ALLIE NORTHCUTT



THERE ARE PLENTY of books and guides out there that can teach young men about college, but nothing compares to real, on-campus experiences.

Approximately 200 high school students from around the country have gotten a glimpse into college life during the past three years by participating in one of Wabash's two new summer programs: Pathway to Your Future and Playbook for Life: Navigating Careers in the World of Sports.

Both programs are designed for rising high school sophomores and juniors.

Steven Jones '87, dean for professional development and director of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS), says colleges like Wabash must connect with these scholars early and often to improve student outcomes, such as college enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.

"It's all about building connections," explains Jones. "When you think about students who have the right GPA, are involved with extracurriculars—are captains of this, or presidents of that—if you have not established a relationship with them early in their high school journey, when they get to the point of making a decision about college, they're going to have a zillion options. The institutions that do a better job of creating those relationships earlier in the process will have a better chance of closing the deal with those individuals."

Jones speaks from his own experience. In 1982, he attended Opportunities to Learn About Business (OLAB), a one-week summer program formerly at Wabash designed for rising high school seniors interested in business and the market economy.

During that time on campus, Jones connected with Wabash students, faculty, and staff.

"It was through those relationships that I realized I do belong here," he says. "This is a place where I could see myself. Those feelings are still valid for high school students today."

PATHWAY TO YOUR FUTURE, part of the "Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust" grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., is a free weeklong program for high school students that aims to ensure all students, regardless of background, are prepared to navigate the challenges of higher education and graduate with skills that will help them succeed in life and build more inclusive communities.

Out of 71 applicants, 20 students from Indiana, Ohio, and Texas, with an average GPA of 3.9, participated in the program this summer.

"These young men are highly coveted," says Kim King '99, assistant director of the MXIBS. "They are the cream of the crop. They are making the grades, taking on leadership roles in their high schools and communities, and are the kinds of students every competitive and resourceful college or university targets for admission."

Pathway to Your Future students spent the week engaging with Wabash faculty and staff in student-centered, hands-on learning experiences that featured engaging in networking sessions with successful alumni, learning from civic and business leaders about the transferable skills needed to succeed in college, enjoying the College's first-class athletics and recreational facilities, and participating in an immersive experience in Indianapolis.

Each participant has the potential to receive an annual scholarship of at least \$25,000 upon admission to Wabash College.



A Pathway to Your Future class session led by Professor of Chemistry **Laura Wysocki** exploring the intersection of water quality and communal resilience.

IT TYPICALLY TAKES four to five years for quantitative data to show the direct impact of a summer program on students. Although Pathway has only just wrapped up year three, King says Wabash leaders are already seeing indicators that it's working.

"We will have a member of our freshman class at Wabash who attended Pathway and applied early decision—and he then influenced one of his peers to do the same," says King. "That offers a glimmer of hope for what this program can do specifically for recruitment."

Survey responses submitted by students are also telling, explains King. These measure the participants' expectations and overall knowledge of how college works from the beginning to the end of the program.

"Results show that students are leaving with a much stronger sense of college readiness," he says. "What's even more important is that they are also discovering that they do belong at an institution like Wabash."

A survey prompt asked Pathway to Your Future participants what they would tell a friend about Wabash College. One student—now a rising senior who joined the program as a rising sophomore and again as a junior—shared: "It's a college like no other that prioritizes the students and the networking so that we could experience that brotherhood bond with each other and be way ahead of other students at any other school."

Another student shared: "Attending Pathway to Your Future not only opened my eyes to the college life I'd be living soon, but

it also strengthened the hunger I already had deep inside of me. I not only found myself to be very fond of Wabash College, but I also truly felt like I belong somewhere."

PLAYBOOK FOR LIFE: Navigating Careers in the World of Sports is a free weeklong residential summer camp funded by the "Indiana Youth Programs on Campus Initiative" from Lilly Endowment Inc., created for high school students interested in a career in sports.

The program combines concepts from Wabash's liberal arts curriculum with high-impact teaching practices to help young men develop skills for successful leadership and administration at all levels of amateur and professional sports. These life skills include the ability to speak and write effectively, listen carefully, and think critically.

"It's really important to get students exposed to the idea of going to college and the kinds of careers that are available to them earlier in the process when they are 15- and 16-year-olds," says the College's Director of Pre-College Programs Tyler Wade '12.

"We believe a liberal arts education is a great pathway to success in any career, and the level of success Wabash graduates have achieved in the business of sports is impressive," Wade continues.

In its second year, the College hosted two Playbook for Life programs this summer.

Out of 90 applicants, more than 50 students from Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Texas participated in the program.



Top: Pathway immersion experience at the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative; **middle:** Playbook for Life participants attend an Indianapolis Indians game; **bottom:** Pathway leadership activity led by Associate Head Football Coach **Jake Gilbert '98** titled "Dreaming Big."

Camp participants spent their weeks engaging with Wabash faculty, staff, and alumni who led sessions utilizing current issues and topics in sports as a vehicle to introduce subjects like economics, rhetoric, and psychology—core to the liberal arts.

Students also participated in immersion trips around Indianapolis. They met with alumni and friends of the College who work in sports including, Steve Campbell '92, Chris Carr '82, Michael Del Busto '14, Eric Dunaway, Jake Gilbert '98, Kyle Grand '11, Brent Harris H'03, Tobey Herzog H'11, Joe Johnson '11, Chris Keller, Todd McDorman, Clyde Morgan, Ron Rychlak '80, Hunter Seidler '22, Matt Tanney '05, Clark Tinder '19, Abe Wade '21, and Wes Zirkle '01. These individuals connected their liberal arts experiences to their current work and engaged campers with discussions, case studies, and various media productions.

"Students were satisfied with their experience of camp and really enjoyed the activities they were able to do, especially the site visits," says Wade. "It's one thing to be on campus and hear about what our alumni are doing in sports, and it's a whole other experience to walk into the Indianapolis



Playbook for Life students visited the team headquarters for the Indianapolis Colts.

Colts practice facility or National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) headquarters and see it all in action."

ONE OF THE FEATURES of both Pathway and Playbook for Life, King says, are the current Wabash students who work on campus alongside participants as mentors and class tutors.

"Our student mentors are the most important window to glean Wabash life," he says. "There is a certain level of comfort and trust that they facilitate with the high school students that's built on the fact that they are experiencing college life right now."

The student mentors are thriving at Wabash as varsity athletes, student club and fraternity members, and community leaders.

"Mentoring and role modeling are critical: that's why we do it," adds Jones. "We want these college-bound students to build relationships and learn that it's not just about those who came in with you. It's going to be the upperclassmen who share their own experiences and connect with you that help you navigate Wabash.

"Those mentors help participants appreciate that it is a tough place and show them that they, too, can make it."

Outcomes and feedback from students and their parents have been overwhelmingly positive, says Wade.

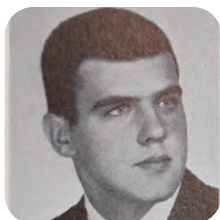
"We've heard stories from parents about how exciting it was to see their sons come back with a broadened imagination about all of the possibilities out there for them," he says.

"Those who are farther away also said sending their kid to the summer camp was a good experience for them, being able to see that even if their son does leave and go to college far away from home, they're going to be OK," he continues. "They are more confident and understand that there are people on campus (at Wabash) ready to support them and take care of them." ■



Colts Vice President of Communications and External Relations **Steve Campbell '92** speaks to the Playbook for Life students about managing public relations.

» What was your experience as a first-generation college student at Wabash?



**JERRY
BLOSSOM '66**
RETIRED PEDIATRIC
EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN

My parents grew up during the great depression. On Pearl Harbor Day they had been married for one month. I was born in 1944 when Dad was overseas with the Army. From the time of my birth, the family hoped that I would go to college—enabling me to “make a decent living” and hopefully “make something of myself.”

I had no money or family savings for college. My parents began to work some savings into the family budget. I had a job or two every summer and saved for the next school year. And Wabash awarded me a generous scholarship. I had just enough money for each semester and was careful to not overspend.

At Wabash, many of us were first-generation college students. We formed friendships before anyone knew family backgrounds. We never thought about being the first generation to attend college. Our parents had the same expectations as those who had been to college.

STEPHEN FENTON JR. '15

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES,
WUNDERKIND

While I was not the first in my family to attend college, I was the first to graduate. It was an important milestone for me, but also for my parents, who were instrumental in me making it all the way through. The general nature of the Wabash student life was paramount in me feeling and being supported. The network of peers and alumni gave me the confidence and knowledge to enter the job market after graduation.

My parents were hugely influential in me attending college. I aspired to attend college, but my father saw it as a huge priority for both my sister and me.

I was not capitally or materially as well off as other students, but in terms of adjusting to college life socially and academically, I



always felt supported within the Wabash campus environment. It was one of the biggest reasons I chose Wabash.

Initially, I had insecurities about being from a more rural, blue-collar background. However, I quickly recognized the diverse economic and social backgrounds on campus.

JOHN HENRY '10

PARTNER, SUMMIT LAW GROUP

I was on the cusp of not getting into Wabash with barely a B average in high school. My admissions counselor saw promise in me and helped me to get into the College. I remember hearing a Wabash graduate speak to us at the beginning of freshman year who graduated with honors and accolades and thinking that such a result was unobtainable for me, and just graduating would be a success. The mentorship

and guidance my professors provided shaped my future. It was with that guidance and great grades my first semester that I realized and believed in myself for the first time. I graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. My family and upbringing showed me how to work hard, and Wabash translated that into showing me how to do the same for academic and professional success.

It has been a circuitous path from Wabash to law school and my professional journey to law. My area of practice is labor law, working with unions. My blue-collar upbringing is essential to my ability to code switch with the unions I negotiate with and to be an effective representative for my clients. The beginning of that path was Wabash, and it is the singular greatest influence in my life to date. Nothing before or since has so thoroughly shaped the man that I am today.



JOE HUFFER '84

GLOBAL KEY ACCOUNT
MANAGER, CW BEARING

Wabash opened my eyes to a world of learning. I discovered culture, new ideas, and how to think critically.

The learning did not come only from coursework, but discussions with faculty and fellow students. It was eye-opening for a young man from small-town Indiana to meet students from urban and suburban communities, from other states and countries, and of every economic stratum.



PATRICK GARRETT '12

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, NAZARETH UNIVERSITY

I was a first-gen college student and nontraditional, because I had a child while in college. I got my Ph.D., am thriving as a college professor, my son is an exceptional student, and I'm establishing myself in a

new state. I used my experiences as a first-generation student when applying for jobs and have been told that my reflection

on my experience at Wabash was one reason I landed my current job.



KIM M. JACKSON '91

ATTORNEY, BOVIS, KYLE, BURCH & MEDLIN

Wabash changed my life. I was born in central Kentucky to a teenage mom who dropped out of high school because of me. We bounced around between central Kentucky and Tennessee. I went to seven elementary schools.

I went to a public high school, and although we lived in a couple of different places, I was able to stay in that school my senior year. I drove an hour each way to school so I didn't have to transfer and lose my spot on the football team or my class rank.

My mom preached to me that the way out was education. She expected me to do well in school.

I came to Wabash to major in math and become an engineer. I took an economics class and fell in love. I had some people who were important in my life suggest that my skill set was well suited for law school. I took the LSAT, and I killed it.

I started out playing football, but I didn't finish. Sometimes I regret it, sometimes I don't, but I decided that I would focus on the other stuff. I was very active in my house and did a couple of radio shows each week.

I was your typical latchkey kid—used to being by myself. Wabash made me more social. I ended up with several great friends. My career is all about networking. That started there. I didn't know I was training, but Wabash got me to come out of my shell.



CURTIS PETERSON '10

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT SALES AND MARKETING,
USA FOOTBALL

I was the first on my mother's side who didn't go to the military. Instead I attended a four-year college and graduated.

My parents were hard workers but for perspective, when I graduated in 2010 my first paycheck, which was pretty small compared to those of my fellow recent alumni, was bigger than the paychecks of both my parents combined.

Doing my own FAFSA—gathering the information and figuring that out all by myself—was frustrating and hard. I used the online support I had, but it was a rude awakening to the real world.

While Wabash had a good grant program, in many cases I fell into the window of people who were just above "poor"—enough to miss out on extra assistance from the government, financial aid, or other programs, but not enough resources on our end to cover that gap.

I didn't have a lot of spending money.

There were times my friends went out and I just couldn't afford it. My parents were proud of me, but driving from Chicago was stressful because money and time were tight.

My freshman year I didn't have a cell phone. To call home and chat with my parents, who didn't use the Internet and had no cell phones, I had to use the payphone at the quick mart.

I have taken the hardworking lessons of my parents, the willingness to overcome being a first-generation college student, and the support of my wife who loves, respects, and challenges me, to do very well in my career and with our family.

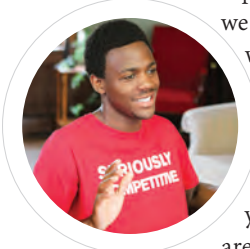


FABIAN HOUSE '16

DIRECTOR, GRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND RECRUITMENT,
WILLIAM & MARY'S MASON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

I have five siblings; four are older, and all four of them went to school. We were first-generation, but I did have a template. The hardest part was figuring out where to apply and how to do a search.

Working in admissions was the thing in college I did to make some money. It ended up being my career. When



we are so focused on what we're going to do, we don't always stop to recognize what people are telling us we're good at. People will tell you what your strengths are. People are going to

recognize those skills innately within you. Becoming a better listener will help a lot of young people who are thinking to themselves, "What do I want to do? What do I enjoy? What am I good at?"

PIERCE VAN HOUTEN '20

MANUFACTURING CHEMIST AT ANTECH DIAGNOSTICS

My mom's dream was to have all three of her sons graduate college. Being the youngest, I was the last to graduate college and fulfill her dream.

If I could do anything different, it would be to go to Career Services more often, and ask for more help when I didn't fully understand class material. I made college a lot harder by not doing these two things.

The Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP) is one of the greatest



programs. It gave me confidence and a sense of belonging before classes began. When I reflect on my time at Wabash, the WLAIP tops my list of

transformative experiences. More colleges should implement these bridge programs for first-generation students.

ADAM MILLER '12

FOUNDER, GOOD GAME FOUNDATION

Growing up, it was never a foregone conclusion that I would go to college. I was a four-sport athlete. I experienced life through sports. The biggest influence on attending college was football. I ended up not playing all four years, but Wabash opened my eyes to the possibilities that were out there.

Academically I was not the best. That was a big adjustment. There was not a single class in which I did not feel supported. I had a philosophy class I was doing terribly in, and the professor met me on a Sunday afternoon to go over stuff. I liked the more intimate



connection even though I wasn't seeking it out. I probably wouldn't have known to ask for support.

In my mind, all I needed was a college degree and then I would

be set in life—very naive. I would have loved to have been paired up with a first-generation student to ask and get some advice. You don't know what you don't know.

I had no clue without football the first two years. When you're in season, it's structured—you work out at this time, there were mandatory study groups. That was super helpful.

At Wabash, and its liberal arts education, there is not one path you can go down. Some people may not like that, but for me it was a journey. You are not going to know where you're going, but you're going in the right direction. Trust that you will get there.

BILAL JAWED '17

RESIDENT PHYSICIAN IN PEDIATRICS,
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The term "first-generation student" is loaded. For many, the term is deeply intertwined with other labels like low-income, disadvantaged, or being a child of immigrants—essentially, all things to be pitied. Initially, I kept these labels to myself, hidden under a chip on my shoulder, mostly because I wanted to fit in.

With time, I realized that my successes weren't despite these presumed disadvantages but in part because of them. The journey of being



a first-generation student taught me grit, resourcefulness, and perseverance. Eventually, this label became a proud part of who I am.

In medical school,

I learned that being a first-generation physician was something to be celebrated. Navigating the world of medicine with this second-tiered label was a whole different beast, but the lessons learned from being a first-generation college student remained to guide me. Today, my experiences as a first-generation student help me relate and care for my underserved patients.

One of the biggest challenges for me was navigating the financial aspect of college. I came from a family where the only investments my parents made were in my education, not stocks or bonds. It was a scary experience navigating financial aid documents, loan paperwork, and FAFSA applications alone.

The best thing that colleges can do for first-generation students is simply to allow them ample opportunity to attend, and that can only be done by generous financial aid and scholarships. I owe my college experience to this support; without it, attending college wouldn't have been an option. I'm grateful to Wabash for this opportunity.

Bilal Jawed '17

Just making it this far, you've proven yourself to be a disruptor, a change-maker, an exception. **Don't stop doing it!**

If college can help you achieve your career goals, then be open-minded and try new things. **Be ready to put in the work.**

Pierce Van Houten '20

Go where you feel you're wanted.

That's not just advice for college and career prep. It's advice for life. When you're navigating job opportunities, think about who you want to spend time with and who you want to grow with. You should be going into spaces where people see and appreciate you and where you don't feel like you need to try to change who you are to fit into the environment.

Fabian House '16

What advice do you have for first-generation students?

Ensure that the college you choose has a support network and mentors that will give you the tools to succeed. When you don't have the framework or benchmark for what professional or collegiate success looks like in your immediate family or life, those mentors and leaders who will invest in you or be available to you are the biggest factor toward success in college.

Do not forget the humble beginnings and where you came from. I know many first-generation successful people who have forgotten the struggle they grew up in and fail to treat others with the same dignity and respect that everyone is worthy of. Be an honest and decent person to everyone you encounter, regardless of class or status.

| John Henry '10

In professional development, we talk a lot about building a personal advisory board. This can be particularly helpful for first-gen students to think about how they accept advice from their support systems. Think about mom, dad, or other important influences in your life as getting a seat at the board table, because they know you—your values, what is important to you, and where you're from. It's a good idea to also include advice from people who have experience in the professional settings you're interested in, because our parents and families may not have the type of professional experience we aspire to. **Take in advice** from alumni, faculty, internship supervisors, or other professionals you respect and trust. Take in advice about what job offers to accept, what careers to pursue, and other important decisions from a well-rounded board of advisors, and then make the decisions for yourself.

Cassie Hagan, director of professional development and the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship

Get involved,

take advantage of all the programs, clubs, and academic opportunities Wabash offers. Those experiences were every bit as much of my education as readings, blue books, textbooks, and course lectures.

Joe Huffer '84

Take advantage of resources—study tables, trips, networking events (even after you graduate). **Be willing to learn outside of the classroom** as much as you are inside the classroom.

Stephen Fenton Jr. '15

You will have your own challenges. It may seem like others can't relate. Don't give up—there is a Wally out there who has been in your shoes. Sometimes, being a first-generation college student means you come from a hardworking, prideful, and under-resourced family. **Don't be too proud to ask for help.**

Curtis Peterson '10

Class Notes

1960s

Jack '66 and Sally **Hauber** welcomed three new great-grandchildren, bringing the total to six. | **Ned Luce '66** writes the "Life in Ludlow" column for the weekly newspaper Port Townsend Leader. He and his wife live in Port Ludlow, WA. | **Rick Helm '67** retired after 50 years of practicing law. He continues as a field editor for Muskie Magazine but has retired from active pursuit of muskies.

1970s

Henry J. O'Connell '75 has welcomed two grandchildren to the family, bringing the total number of grandchildren to nine. He has also added sulcata tortoises to the family and is learning about their care. | A manuscript by **John Kerezy '77**, "Jesse Owens: Sensation, Superstar, Survivor, Symbol," has entered peer review at Kent State University Press, intended for publication in 2025. He has also created an online Black History Month project called "Black History: Olympians, Presidents, and Snubs." It can be viewed at: <https://eyeoncleland.com/2024/02/16/black-history-month-olympians-and-presidents/>.



| **Ray Swisher '77** was given the Career Achievement Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives. The award coincides with his retirement. | **John Wittenbraker '79** was elected to the Community Music School Board of Directors by unanimous vote. He will serve a three-year term with the 42-year-old Allentown nonprofit that provides access, inspiration, and opportunity for anyone to achieve excellence in music education and appreciate the transformative power of music.



1980s

David Dessauer '80 received two awards for his screenplay. The screenplay, based on his book "Harper Lee and Me," received awards for best writer and best screenplay from the Christian Online Film Festival in 2021. | **Emmett McAuliffe '80** has started DJing as DJ Flavio on a 42 kW community radio station in St. Louis. His Saturday-night show is called World Disco. While at Wabash, he was a DJ on WNDY. During the day he occupies his time as an IP lawyer.



| **Scott Boone '81** is joining Duke University's football staff as senior quality control coach for special teams. | **Shawn Crane '81**, a Pinellas-Pasco circuit judge, was elected the chief judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit for a term that began July 1, 2023, and ends June 30, 2025. | **Dan Heiser '81** retired for the second time this year. He was formerly the Dean of Business & Economics at St. Norbert College. | **Frank Roman '82** celebrated the birth of his granddaughter, Lillian, in December 2022. | **Alan Willadsen '82** has "sort of retired" after more than 37 years as a practicing CPA. He is now serving as interim/transitional/lay pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Fairbury, IL, in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). | **Steve Kent '83** stepped down as Dean of the School of Psychology & Public Health after nine years in the role. He is retiring from La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, after 28 years.



He has started a part-time role as the executive officer for Australia's Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Association. | **John Roberts '83** retired from his family medicine practice with Franciscan Physician Network in Crawfordsville in July 2022. After 26 years of service, he also retired as Wabash College physician/team physician. In 2023 he retired as medical director of the Crawfordsville Fire Department after 31 years of service. He continues to serve as chief medical officer of the Montgomery County Free Clinic. | **Tim '85** and Michelle **Grusenmeyer** welcomed their first grandchild, Avery McDonald, in January. | **Steven W. Huder '87** has accepted a position as a neurohospitalist in Myrtle Beach, SC, where he will continue the inpatient practice of neurology and the teaching and mentoring of residents and medical students. He and his wife, Jennifer, would love to hear from Wabash friends, especially any visiting the area. | **Terry Hamilton '89** is relocating to Lakeland, FL, and has a son, Will, graduating from Michigan State.

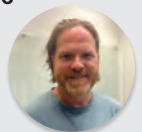
1990s

Mike Berry '92, a NAWM board member, has started a new position at Adobe Systems as senior director of business capability design and delivery. | **Mark Sutton '92** has been included in Marquis "Who's Who." He has been a wealth advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services LLC for more than 30 years and received the client experience award in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Sutton supports charitable fundraisers for Special Olympics, helping raise \$33,000 in 2023 at "Serving It Up for Special Olympics."



| **Joel Tragesser '94** has recently restored the 1986 Nissan 300ZX (Z31) he was driving during his time at Wabash.

| **Roy Sexton '95** is launching a new webcast titled "All the World's YOUR Stage: Authentic Culture Drives Authentic Growth." The show will feature discussions with notable business leaders on why culture matters, how one's personal and professional brands are inextricably linked, and how to leverage innate authenticity to create growth and spur sustainable organizational change. | **Mike Sullivan '95** was featured in a recent news clip on WXII 12 News out of Winston-Salem. The clip highlighted a local philanthropic project that partnered with the Clemmons Food Pantry in North Carolina. Sullivan is the executive director of the food pantry. The video can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDyNSIdLDIE>. | **Chris Carpenter '96** has accepted a new role with Software Engineering Professionals in Westfield, IN, as an engagement manager.



| **Deon T. Miles '97** was appointed the interim associate dean of the college for inclusion and faculty development at the University of the South for the 2023–24 and 2024–25 academic years. He has been with the University of the South for nearly 22 years and is a professor of chemistry.

2000s

Matthew Kriech '00 has been appointed as the CEO of Biosynthetic Technologies, which specializes in sustainable base oils. Previously he served as the company's president and COO. | **Pete Riordan '00** has been named the head football coach at Penn High School. While at Wabash he majored in history with specialization in education. He was a Phi Delta Theta, played football and rugby, belonged to the Interfraternity Council, and served on the Student Senate Activities Committee. | **Doug Kowalski '01** has been hired as general counsel by Ports of Indiana. While at Wabash, Kowalski majored in rhetoric and psychology. He was a Phi Kappa Psi.

Class Notes

| **James D. "J.D."**

Myers '03 has been named associate director for policy at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER). CBER regulates biological products for human use, with oversight of vaccines, cell and gene therapies, and blood. In this role, Myers is responsible for CBER's overall policy activities and directs policies involving the regulation of CBER-regulated products, including those involving clinical trials, pre- and post-market approval issues, counterterrorism, emerging infectious diseases, legislative matters, and novel and emerging technologies. | **J.T.**

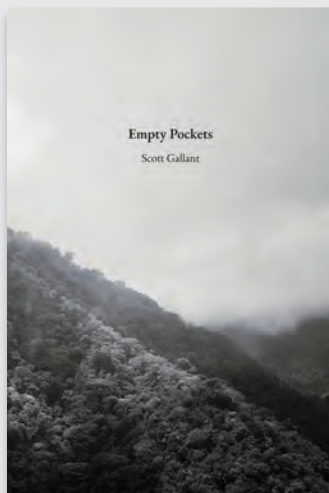
Hoke '03 completed his Ed.S. degree in school administration from Indiana State University in August 2023. | **Sean Baylor '03** and **Josh Richey '04** have partnered to run Timber Ridge Pools starting in 2022. They are installing a pool at the estate home of their fraternity brother **John Cox '00**. | **Nick**

Bourff '04 was made a partner in the firm of Schiller Law Offices in Carmel. He has worked as the managing attorney of the litigation department since January of 2019. | **John Dustman '05** is the new operations manager at Mercy Beyond Borders. He will be managing HR and finance in support of their mission to provide education for girls and young women in countries of extreme poverty. While at Wabash, Dustman studied chemistry and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta. | **Barry**

Tyler '06 was just reelected to a second term on the Hammond City Council, where he will serve as the representative for the 3rd District. Since 2021, he has been the Indiana director and state team lead for Empower Schools, a national educational nonprofit dedicated to transformative solutions that ensure all students receive a quality education and the tools and resources



needed to live the lives they want. | **Eric '08** and Rachel **Eder** welcomed their fourth child, Joey, in February 2023. In the spring, Eric graduated from the Naval War College in Newport, RI, with a master's degree in defense and strategic studies. The family then moved to Oklahoma, where Eric serves as a department head at the Naval Aviation Squadron VQ3.



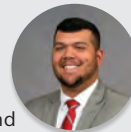
| **Scott Gallant '08** recently self-published a small book of poems titled "Empty Pockets," which can be purchased on Amazon. Gallant also facilitates an annual permaculture design course at Tierramor in Nosara, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. | **Matthew Dodaro '09** and his wife welcomed their first child, Cecilia Dodaro, in October 2022. They moved to the Meridian Kessler neighborhood in Indianapolis and had their second child in July 2024. | **Andrew Rode '09** is now the head football coach at Indiana Wesleyan University.



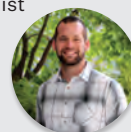
2010s

Joel Bustamante '11 has been accepted to the University of Michigan–Dearborn to study for his master's in marketing. | **Scott Walker '11** married Jessica Rogers in May 2023 on the Isle of Skye, Scotland, U.K. They live in Houston, TX, where he is president of a boutique marketing firm and she works

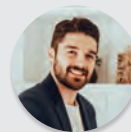
as a city manager. | **Jeremy '12** and Abby **Coons** welcomed their son, Kai Larson Coons, on May 12, 2023. They live in Carmel. Abby is a senior account executive at Salesforce, and Jeremy recently took over the Village of West Clay Edward Jones office from a retiring advisor. | **Zack Thompson '13** is teaching at the Virtual Academy in Burnsville, MN. | **Derek Dean '14** is the new



football coach at Attica High School in Attica, IN. While at Wabash he was a psychology major and a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. | **Andy Walsh '14** became fully licensed as a clinical and sport psychologist and is serving as the Director of Counseling & Sport Psychology at Purdue University within the Purdue Athletics Department. Walsh is overseeing the provision of individual and team-based psychological services to student-athletes across Purdue's 17 Big Ten varsity sports in order to optimize both psychological health and athletic performance. | **Stephen Fenton Jr. '15** was recently promoted to associate director of professional services at Wunderkind. He and **Tim Dunkel '15** run Fountain



Square Community Garden in Indianapolis, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary. | **Adam Alexander '16** celebrated the birth of daughter Vivian in October.



2020s

Pneuma Media, a company founded by **David Riggs '20**, has been named to INC 5000's Fastest Growing Businesses for the Rocky Mountain Region. Riggs was a four-year CIBE member during his time at Wabash. **Nolan Ring '26** worked for Pneuma Media through the Small Business Internship Fund during Summer 2024.



| **Jonathan Thibodeau '21** is about to finish law school at Northern Illinois University. He was one of the champions of the 4th annual Villanova Professional Football Negotiation Competition. Thibodeau (left) is pictured with team members Cristina Sandoval and Ty Marth. The two-day competition featured law students from around the country negotiating deals for NFL unrestricted free agents. | **Latham Davies '22** took

Buddhist vows in January of 2023 and participated in a summerlong book colloquium at the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. He is planning to study counseling at the University of North Texas in the fall. | **Hunter Seidler '22** was recognized by The Mississippi Law Journal as the Outstanding Case Note Award recipient for Volume 93. This honor is awarded annually to the staff editor who scores the highest in the case note portion of the Mississippi Law Journal Membership Competition. Hunter's case note will be published in Volume 93. | **Bryce McCullough '23** has accepted an offer to work as a law clerk in the administrative and regulatory enforcement litigation section of the Office of the Indiana Attorney General. | **Arman Luthra '26** had a political cartoon published in an Irish political science book by Gill Education. | **Austin Pickett '26** was named a "Realizing the Dream" recipient by Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI). This scholarship program, which is made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., awards \$4,000 for outstanding achievement.



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In Memory

Paul Benz '43

Paul William Benz, 102, of Indianapolis, died Aug. 5, 2023.

He was born in Indianapolis to the late Otto M. and Bertha D. (Meyer) Benz.

As a youngster, Benz took saxophone lessons and, by the age of 13, performed at his first concert in Noblesville, IN, where he was paid \$1.50. He joined the Musician's Local #3 at age 16. He was baptized at Emerson Avenue Baptist Church. He graduated from Arsenal Technical High School in 1939 and attended Wabash College for two years. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942.

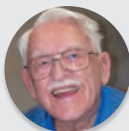
While in the Army, Benz attended Syracuse University, where he graduated with a degree in engineering. He was also bandmaster of the Army band at Syracuse University. He was then sent overseas with his degree as a radio operator in the 12th Armored Tank Division in France. World War II ended, and he was honorably discharged in 1945.

After returning from the war, Benz worked as an electrical engineer at Sanborn Electric for 40 years. He retired as vice president in 1982. One of his biggest projects was installing the electrical work for Assembly Hall at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Benz played the saxophone and clarinet in several dance bands in the Indianapolis area during the 1950s and 1960s. He was an active member of Northside Sertoma Club, the Masonic Lodge of Indianapolis, and Murat Shrine, and was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Indianapolis (60 years). He was an avid golfer, bridge player, fisherman, and IU basketball fan. He traveled to many national parks and historical sites. He also vacationed in Canada and Florida.

While in high school, Benz met his wife, Norma H. Bell. They married Nov. 15, 1941, at Garfield Baptist Church and began their lives together in an apartment on Washington Street in Indianapolis. They had been happily married for 55 years when she passed away in 1996.

He later married Betty (Busch) Benz, in 2002. They were married for 20 years until her death in 2022. Benz was also preceded in death by his son, Douglas Benz;



and four brothers, Otto Benz Jr., Robert Benz, William Benz, and James Benz.

Benz is survived by his daughters, Janis Antrobus and Joyce Bennett; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Edward Luckey Wolfley '47

Edward Luckey Wolfley, 97, died July 28, 2023, in Cincinnati. He was born in Indianapolis and attended Shortridge High School. Graduating from Central High School in Evansville, IN, Wolfley then attended Wabash College, Duke University, Herron School of Art, and the University of Illinois.

He earned his B.F.A. and M.F.A., and then had a 38-year career teaching art at the University of Illinois, Ohio Wesleyan, and the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning. He primarily taught painting and drawing, as well as design, anatomy, sculpture, and art history. He retired as professor emeritus of fine arts.

Richard Hamilton '50

Richard D. Hamilton, 97, of Seymour, IN, died June 3, 2023. He was born in Seymour, the son of Ralph and Juanita (Decker) Hamilton.

Hamilton served in the Army Air Force from 1944 until 1946. While in the Army Air Force, he worked as a radio mechanic until he was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant. He went on to work at CBS in Terre Haute, IN, as a data processing manager until he retired in 1985. He was a member of the Elks, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Sporting Clay Association. As a member of the Sporting Clay Association, he was a recipient of the prestigious Sullivan Award in 2000. He was a past winner of the state championship in his division and age group. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

In 1947, Hamilton married Shirley Gebhart, and she preceded him in death on April 10, 1985. He later married Carol Speckner, in 1985, and she preceded him in death in 2002. In 2007, he married Margaret Denny, and she preceded him



in death in 2011. He was also preceded in death by a special friend, Viola Decker.

Hamilton is survived by his four children, Kelly Lawson, Katie Collins, Krissy Doan, and Kevin Hamilton; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by several stepchildren and step-grandchildren, as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Hamilton was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Helen Evans and Hilda Hill.

Chester Sweeney '50

Chester C. Sweeney, 98, of Safety Harbor, FL, died Jan. 29, 2023. He was born in Columbus, IN, to Oscar and Pauline Thomas Sweeney.

Sweeney graduated with a bachelor's from Wabash College. He enjoyed walking, riding his bike, playing tennis, and cooking. He was a Kiwanis member and belonged to the Elks.

He is survived by his loving wife of 76 years, Wanda; sons, Brian, Gregg, Mark, and Todd Sweeney; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Warren Jackson '51

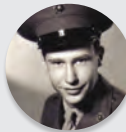
Warren K. Jackson, 96, of Fort Mill, SC, died Jan. 14. He was born in Chicago.

Jackson attended public schools in Chicago. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, he received his college education at Wabash College and Northwestern University.

He served as a deacon and an elder at the Presbyterian Church in Clarendon Hills, IL, and was a member of the Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill at the time of his death.

Jackson's employment was entirely with Mutual Trust Life Insurance Company. He joined the company in Chicago as a clerk in 1949 and retired from the company in Oakbrook, IL, in 1990 as an executive vice president and corporate secretary. He was a member of the board of directors for more than 20 years.

Jackson and his wife enjoyed 40 years of homecoming with Wabash College friends; he was part of a group that brought their fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, back to Wabash after an absence of



more than 40 years. He was also a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Jackson was preceded in death by his father, John Ross Jackson Sr.; mother, Hazel M. Jackson; and brother, John Ross Jackson Jr. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Paula; three children, Ronald R. Jackson, James C. Jackson, and Kelly A. Ussery; and seven grandchildren. He is also survived by his walking partner, Roxie.

William Kramer Ransom '52

William Kramer "Bill" Ransom, 93, of Fort Wayne, IN, died

April 6. Ransom was born in Frankfort, IN. He graduated from Frankfort High School and played on the Hot Dogs' football and basketball teams. While attending Wabash College, he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Ransom was an essential part of his family's 150-year-old Kramer Lumber Company, after which he went on to operate his own building supply company in Rossville, IN. Ransom's greatest talents lay in his hand-drawn residential designs that placed him in much demand by central Indiana home builders. He was an award-winning member of the Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis.

Ransom enjoyed Broadway musicals, great seafood, James Michener novels, walks on the beach, and travels to China, Italy, Canada, and many stateside favorites. He was a loyal Indiana University basketball and football fan. He was a member of Kiwanis International and was a 32° Freemason. He was a member of Trinity English Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

Ransom is survived by his wife, Sue Ann; daughters, Karen Webbink and Karen May; sons, Myke Ransom, Jon Barnes, and Hal May; son-in-law, Joe Hannah; 11 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his previous wives, Betty Robertson Ransom and Betty Barnes Ransom; parents, Tim and Blanche Ransom; and daughter, Cheryl Hannah.



In Memory

James R. Smith '53

James R. Smith, 92, of Bradenton, FL, died Jan. 7. He was born in Shelbyville, IN, to Omer and Velda Smith. In his career as a teacher, Smith taught at the high school and college levels for a period of 38 years.

He received a B.A. from Wabash College in 1953, an M.A. in teaching English from Harvard University, and an M.A. in American civilization from the University of Pennsylvania. He was awarded a John Hay Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching at Yale University and studied for his Ph.D. in education at the University of Massachusetts.

During the Korean War, Smith was assigned to the Army Security Agency and served as an intelligence analyst on Okinawa. Following his service, he became a teacher of English, a coordinator of humanities and science, and the director of a demonstration school in Abington School District in Pennsylvania. He was a lecturer in education at Yale, an educational consultant throughout New England and the Midwest, and a professor of education and department chair at Earlham College. Smith served as president of the Indiana Association for Colleges of Education and was active on several community boards, including the American Cancer Society, Leadership Wayne County, and the Richmond Symphony.

An avid tennis player and the winner of several amateur singles and doubles championships, he was president of his tennis club in Bradenton, president of the Sun Coast Tennis League in Sarasota, and a state doubles champion in Florida and Tennessee.

Smith served First Presbyterian Church as an usher, an elder, a convener of the adult education committee, an adult education teacher, a grief share facilitator, and a Stephen Ministry leader.

He was predeceased by Patricia B. Smith, his first wife, mother of Kimberly, Gregory, and Kyrielle; and by Natalie W. Smith, his second wife, mother of Bill Wiesehuegel, Susan Cress, and Robert Wiesehuegel. Survivors also include several grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a brother, **Joseph '51**.

Herb Dixon '54

Herb Dixon, 92, died Jan. 26. He was raised in Indiana.

He graduated from Mishawaka High School and attended Wabash College from 1950 to 1952, and then transferred to and graduated from Butler University. Dixon majored in history and political science with a minor in speech, graduating in 1954. At Butler he lettered in tennis, and was president of the senior class, president of Rho chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity, and a member of Blue Key. He earned an M.S. from Butler in 1956.

Dixon married Jo Ann Kershner in 1956. After college, he taught economics, government, and U.S. history at Washington High School in Indianapolis for a year. In 1957, his son Randy was born. Soon after, Dixon joined the Air Force for three years. He served as an Intelligence Officer at SAC headquarters in Omaha, NE, which is where son Dwight was born.

Returning to Indianapolis, Dixon taught again at Washington High School and then became dean of boys at Northwest High School. From 1963 to 1989, he worked for Blue Cross/Blue Shield and retired as executive vice president. Dixon was a member of the Butler University Board of Trustees from 1976 to 1979. He also served on the boards of Crossroads Rehabilitation, Indiana Allied Health Association, and Indiana Health Careers, and was an elder at Second Presbyterian Church.

In 1990 Dixon and his wife retired to Maui, HI, where he enjoyed the warm weather and played tennis. He filled in as a preacher at a couple of churches and started and managed a preschool at one of them. The couple moved to Scottsdale, AZ, in 2007. There Dixon spent his time watching the stock market and Butler basketball, managing his investments, attending church and Bible studies, and spending time with his family, including seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Lynn Ault '55

Lynn Lyell Ault died March 2. He was born in Findlay, OH, to Russel and Agnes Ault, alongside his brother, Neil.



While Findlay can proudly claim him as a native son, it was in Lima, OH, where he spent his formative years, discovering a lifelong passion for cars and a special knack for inventive summer jobs. From there, he attended Wabash College on an academic scholarship, which left him enough credits to go into zoology or medical school after graduation.

Ault chose medicine and headed off to Harvard Medical School for a career in orthopedic surgery, which took him to Scotland, London, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Fort Polk, LA, where he proudly served in the Army as a doctor during the Vietnam War.

Eventually, he found himself in Chicago, where a chance encounter led to a friend giving out his phone number to Linda Rochelle, who became the love of his life and wife of 50 years. Together, they moved to the Twin Cities and raised children Andrew and Amy, as well as several family dogs.

Ault devoted his professional life to his many patients and his home life to his family, as well as an endless to-do list on the garage chalkboard, and he spent most weekends covered in motor grease from working on his favorite pastime, fixing cars. He loved telling stories, specializing in ones that would keep all within earshot howling with laughter. His dry sense of humor, encyclopedic knowledge, and boundless love will be deeply missed.

Ault is survived by his children, Andrew and Amy; two grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and their extended families.

J. Paul Trenary '55

Jean Paul Trenary, 90, of Fort Wayne, IN, died Jan. 13.

Trenary was born in Fort Wayne, the son of the late Harry and Rose Trenary. He was a graduate of South Side High School, where he participated in choir, football, and track and field.

Following high school, Trenary earned his bachelor's degree from Wabash College. He was a member of the Glee Club and Kappa Sigma fraternity. Shortly after college, Trenary enlisted into the U.S. Navy, serving his country until 1957. He was a dedicated worker, employed at the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company for almost 30 years.



Trenary enjoyed reading, singing in his church and men's choir groups, traveling, and spending time with his family and beloved wife, Charlotte, to whom he had been married for more than 56 years.

Trenary is survived by his children, Susan Jauregui and Dan Trenary; two grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Carol Trenary Miller; and wife, Charlotte Trenary.

Henry Frederick Eggers Jr. '57

Henry Frederick Eggers Jr., 87, of Gulf Breeze, FL, died March 8, 2023.

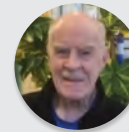
Robert S. Hegberg '58

Robert Stanley Hegberg, 90, originally from Brookfield, IL, died Feb. 8.

Hegberg was a graduate of St. Francis Xavier grade school in LaGrange, IL, Fenwick High School in Oak Park, IL, and Wabash College. He lived for some time in Grayslake and spent many years in both Chicago and Oak Park. A lifelong dedication to table tennis found him winning many Chicagoland tournaments and becoming the U.S. Army champion in Korea in 1955.

In 2000, Hegberg won a trip to the Olympics in Australia at the Chicago Ping Pong Festival Raffle and traveled there with his longtime friend Bob Beiter. Hegberg medaled in six different sports at Chicago's Senior Olympics starting when he was in his 60s.

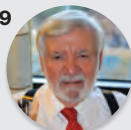
Hegberg was the father of four children with his late former wife, Patricia Hastie Hegberg: Karyn Gleeson, Erik, James K., and the late Brian P. Hegberg. He was a grandfather of nine. He was the older brother of the late Nancy Hegberg Dustin and Deborah "Debbie" Hegberg Heer. He was an uncle to several nieces and nephews.



In Memory

Charles Esposito '59

Charles Esposito died March 24 with his wife and daughter at his side.



Esposito, or "Espo" as many of his friends called him, was born of Italian immigrant parents in Blue Island, IL, a suburb of Chicago. He earned a bachelor of arts degree at Wabash College and did postgraduate study in computer hardware and software design at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Throughout high school and college, Esposito was an active accordionist, performing as a soloist and with his small jazz ensemble. While at Wabash, he was a member of the U.S. Army Reserve, and later went on active duty with the 71st Infantry (ski) division of the Alaska Defense Command in Anchorage, before Alaska became a state.

During a 30-year career with the IBM company, he served in various staff and management positions in administration, systems engineering, marketing, and education. Esposito's interest in education extended outside his working career to include development and teaching of classes and seminars in photography, firearms use, motorcycle safety, and driver safety. While employed in the international operations of IBM, he worked in about 40 countries and lived in Tokyo for three years. Photography, including darkroom operations, was a major hobby while in Tokyo, where Esposito served a term as the vice president of the International Camera Club.

Esposito was a certified instructor with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and National Rifle Association, and an AARP driver safety program instructor. He was a life member of the American Motorcyclist Association, a voting member of the National Rifle Association, a charter member of the Saved-by-the-Helmet Club, a charter member of the National World War II Memorial Society, and a member of the IBM Quarter Century Club, the Libertarian Party, the Gun Owners of America, the Second Amendment Foundation, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, the Heritage Foundation, the Georgia

Firearms Policy Foundation, the Chatuge Gun Club, and the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity. In addition, he was a contributing supporter of the American Immigrant Wall of Honor (Ellis Island), Cato Institute, End-of-Life Choices (Hemlock Society), Fully Informed Jury Association, Hillside College, Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Wabash College.

After being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2006, Esposito became active in promoting Parkinson's disease awareness. In 2009 he joined the Blairsville, GA-area Parkinson's Disease Support Group, and in December 2011 he was elected leader of the group, a position he held until August 2017. In 2012, he earned the President's Volunteer Service Award (the country's highest honor of recognition for volunteer service), and in January 2017, the APDA Georgia Chapter presented the annual "Outstanding Service and Commitment to the Parkinson's Community" award to Esposito and his wife, Brenda.

Esposito occasionally served as an official poll worker during elections in Union County. Beginning in 2004, he served the citizens of Union County and the Union County Board of Electors as the Libertarian Party representative on the Union County Vote Review Panel. Esposito regularly worshiped at the Mt. Lebanon Church in Suches, GA.

Early in 2018, Esposito and his wife sold the beloved "Terra Espo" property they had built in the town of Suches, located in the north Georgia mountains, and moved to an assisted living community in Gainesville, GA, and then, in the fall of 2023, to Venice, FL. After each move, they kept in close contact with their dear friends from Suches.

Esposito is survived by his wife of 41 years, Brenda; daughter, Christy Colato; son, Ken Esposito; stepdaughter, Cindy Thompson; stepdaughter, Trina Aker; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

John Hollett III '59

John E. Hollett III, 86, of Indianapolis died March 1.



Gary Johnson '59

Gary O. Johnson died Dec. 17, 2023, at his home in Babcock Ranch, Punta Gorda, FL. He was born to Oral and Margaret (Haines) Johnson in Lafayette, IN. After his mother died when Johnson was three, his father married Frances K. Selby Hinman, and together they raised him. Frances passed away when Johnson was 19 and a student at Wabash College.

A graduate of Jefferson High School and Wabash College, Johnson served in the U.S. Army and enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the insurance industry, primarily as a regional manager with CNA in the Denver, CO, area. He resided in Lakewood, CO, and a treasured vacation home in Red Feather Lakes, CO.

Johnson was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, which provided several lifelong friendships. He enjoyed owning horses and participating in harness racing in his earlier years. He was enthusiastic about growing tomatoes, traveling, golfing, listening to music, reading spy novels, and watching the Denver Broncos.

Johnson is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Debra, and their beloved dog, Sophie. He is also survived by two daughters, Linda Gentile and Karen McCall; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two sisters, Gay Vaughan and Christie Hilkert; and a special cousin, Linda Currin. Other cousins and several nieces and nephews also survive him. He was preceded in death by his parents and his daughter, Andrea Faoro.

Lee Hoyt Miller '59

Dr. Lee Hoyt Miller, 87, of Cortez, FL, died Feb. 26.

Miller was born the son of G.L. Hoyt Miller and Laverne M. Miller, in Danville, IL. Soon thereafter, the family moved to Indianapolis, where, at Howe High School, he met the love of his life, Katheryn A. Wilkens (daughter of Dr. Irvin W. and Delta M. Newton Wilkens). They married June 20, 1959.

Miller graduated from Wabash College in 1959. He sang first tenor with the Wabash College Glee Club under the direction of his mentor and close friend Bob Mitchum. He was a proud member

of his social fraternity, Sigma Chi. He remained close with his Sigma Chi brothers and his fellow Class of 1959 classmates over the years.

In 1963, Miller graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine, and after completing a residency in family medicine at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, he joined Drs. Dan McLaren and Hal Williams in their medical practice, Devington Family Physicians. He later formed Castleton Family Physicians with his medical partners. He was a staff officer at Community Hospitals of Indianapolis, where he also served as clinical director of the Family Practice Residency Program.

He was a member of the Indianapolis Medical Society, Indiana State Medical Association, Indiana Academy of Family Physicians, and American Medical Association. He was also a Fellow in the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Miller was a veteran of the Indiana National Guard and 38th Medical Battalion, and served as a medical officer during the Vietnam War.

He was a member of Millersville Masonic Lodge #126, Indianapolis Valley of Scottish Rite, and Murat Shriners. For several years, he was chairman of the medical clinic at Murat Shriners, which identified children who could benefit from medical treatment at Shriners Children's Hospitals.

Miller and his wife purchased a condominium in Cortez, FL, upon their retirement in 2001. He obtained his medical license in Florida and staffed the medical clinic for students enrolled at IMG Sports Academy in Bradenton, FL.

Miller's avocation was music. He and Bob Mitchum formed the Sound Foundation in Carmel, IN. Their performances raised money to fund an annual college scholarship for teens who had been active in musical performance in high school. In Florida, he formed and led the jazz band The Sea Notes, which performed for several years in the Bradenton area.

Miller was a member of Harvey Memorial Community Church in Bradenton Beach, FL, where he sang in the choir and served as deacon, trustee, and chairman of the board. He was also a member of Key Royale Golf Club on Anna Maria Island, FL.



In Memory

He is survived by his loving wife, Kathy; their three children, **Gregory Hoyt Miller '83**, Julie Ann Phelps, and Dr. Kristen Lynn Ward; seven grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

George Swartout II '59

George D. "Jake" Swartout II died March 16, 2022. He was born in Muskegon, MI, to George D. and Anne Katherine Swartout.

In 1947, Swartout's family moved to Winter Park, FL, where he attended elementary and high school. He played most sports and was later named all-conference and all-state in Football. He was inducted into the Winter Park High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1998.

Swartout joined the Navy Reserve and served for nearly two years, until he attended Wabash College. He later joined the U.S. Army (Florida National Guard). He served six and a half years on active duty as a medic and later in reserves. He achieved the rank of staff sergeant and proudly has honorable discharges from the Navy and Army.

In 1956, Swartout met the love of his life, Alice. After four years of courtship, they were married on Sept. 2, 1960. Swartout worked at Martin Marietta Corporation and attended Rollins College School of Business. He graduated in 1968 with a BGS degree.

In 1970, Swartout went to work for RCA as purchasing manager in their computer plant in Palm Beach Gardens. After RCA closed its computer business in 1971, he and his wife opened Florida Golf and Tennis along with partner Bill Howden. They were the first off-course golf and tennis shop in Palm Beach County.

Swartout was elected governor of the Florida district of Kiwanis International in 1988. He and his wife traveled the state, visiting 31 divisions, over 350 Kiwanis clubs, and 16,200 members. He worked with Kiwanis International to start a program called Aktion, which is a service club like Kiwanis, composed entirely of developmentally disabled adults. In 2000, Aktion was chartered as a service program by Kiwanis. To date there are more than 12,000 members in 600 clubs worldwide.

Swartout was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach. He served as a deacon, an elder, and chairman of the missions committee, where he headed a project to build a Christian school in Chichicastenango, Guatemala. He also served on the boards of Global Missions, Gathering of Men, Adopt-A-Family, J.A.Y. Ministries, First Presbyterian senior membership, and also many Kiwanis entities.

Swartout's caring and sense of humor made him an incredible son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend to all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Alice. They have three children, Karen, Christopher, and Jennifer, and two grandchildren. He is also survived by his three sisters, Nancy Brown, Toni Swartout, and Debbie Crabtree.

Malcolm Young '62

Malcolm "Mal" Black Young, 83, died at home Feb. 20. Young grew up in Scarsdale, NY, and Oxford, OH. After graduating from Wabash College, he married his high school sweetheart, obtained a master's degree in international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, and joined the headquarters staff of the Peace Corps in Washington, D.C., in its earliest days.

With his wife and infant daughter, Young then spent two and a half years in Costa Rica as the associate Peace Corps director. Upon his return to Washington, D.C., he worked for the community action division of the Office of Economic Opportunity. He then moved with his growing family to mid-coast Maine, where he was the executive director of a nonprofit anti-poverty program.

That experience led Young to return to graduate school, where he received a Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh and conducted dissertation research in the Philippines. He and his family moved back to Washington, D.C., where he joined the consulting firm Development Associates Inc., and ultimately served as senior vice president and director of the evaluation and research practice for 35 years.



Subsequently, Young became the founding director of the Monitoring and Evaluation Services practice of Development and Training Services Inc. Over the years, his work included technical and managerial direction of multiyear contracts with federal and state government agencies, including national evaluations of the Indian Education Act, several major bilingual and English as a Second Language programs, and extensive work in Central America, Asia, and Africa.

Young's professional life was consistent with and a way to support his more important priorities—serving God, his family, less advantaged members of society, and his church. Wherever they lived, he and his wife were active in their community and church. He served as a ruling elder in Presbyterian churches, held leadership roles in the Anglican Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic, and at the time of his death was a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

Committed to adult literacy, Young was a board member for the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia for more than 15 years. He tutored English as a second language and trained future tutors. In 1998, he and his wife felt called to become involved with people with intellectual disabilities. They became involved with L'Arche of Greater Washington, D.C., where he served as a member of the board of directors for 20 years, including four years as its president, and nationally was on the board of L'Arche USA from 2007 to 2016. Young's kindness, humility, and sense of humor drew out the best in people and encouraged it in us all. He will be dearly missed by family and friends.

He is survived by his loving wife of more than 61 years, Cheryl Ann Young; four loving children, Bethany Cook Young Holt, Malcolm Scott Young, Marta Minton Young, and Charlotte Tycie Horsley; and five grandchildren.

William Augspurger '64

William Dale Augspurger, 81, of Galesburg, IL, passed away on Jan. 15 in Cincinnati, OH.

William attended Peoria High School, Wabash College, and Indiana University.

He worked for Corning Glass, Welco Industries, and Tetra.

Alfred G. Craske Jr. '65

Alfred George "Skip" Craske Jr., 81, died March 21. He was born in Chicago, to parents A.G. Craske Sr. and Jean Laird Craske, who preceded him in death.

A graduate of Wabash College with an M.A. in ecology from Indiana State University, he began his business career in laboratory instruments and supplies in the Raleigh branch of Fisher Scientific. His Fisher career led him to corporate staff positions in marketing. After Fisher, he moved to several turnaround management positions in scientific manufacturing and sales organizations experiencing financial and growth trouble.

The most gratifying parts of his career were leaving behind the turned-around companies with their employees protected by opportunity growth and taking his experience to another opportunity and leaving a lot of himself behind. He retired on Jan. 11, 2011, as the president of LabChem Inc., a company located near Pittsburgh, PA.

Craske is remembered as a training mentor to many individuals in the scientific industries. He is remembered by his family and friends for traveling to 22 countries in his lifetime and the memories made during summers at the family cabin.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Gale; two daughters, Daphnia Wise and Amy Boas; and six grandchildren.

Firsts

WHO WOULD BRING YOU BACK TO WABASH?

Our alumni form a powerful network. In the past five years, almost half of our alumni, many of their spouses, current students' parents, and other friends of the College have engaged with Wabash by attending events, contributing time and talent in service to the College, or donating financially in the form of generous gifts (every year, four out of 10 alumni donate to the Annual Fund).

The other half of our alumni population tends to be less engaged—including many who receive this magazine, open the College's emails, and follow Wabash on social media. They are somewhat connected, perhaps, but distant.

I relate to our alumni brothers who have been remotely and minimally connected to Wabash. For the better part of 20 years, in most of my 30s and 40s, I was rarely on campus or involved. My time in Crawfordsville during those years was limited to being a spectator at a single Monon Bell Classic—the resounding 47-0 Little Giant victory in 2010. My participation in regional events was limited to a couple of happy hours in Los Angeles and New York City. Not intentionally, but inexorably, I had drifted away. Professional commitments, personal challenges, busy schedules, and an overwhelming feeling of being, well, overwhelmed with life's pressures kept me from engaging in any meaningful way.

By my early 50s, I was seeking new ways to find fulfillment. It was Susan Dyer, (the late) Roland Morin '91, and Chip Timmons '96 who helped me find it by bringing me back to Wabash.

Susan, who later became my colleague when I joined the Wabash staff in 2023, reminded me that whenever I was ready, there would be ways I could return to the Wabash fold and help students. Roland asked if I would share my consulting career experience with students in the College's Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship. And Chip invited me to join Terrence Butler '96 and Professors Peter Mikek and Damon Mohl in the Lilly Awards Selection Committee.

Those invitations came to me at just the right times and in just the right ways—a chance to share some experience, give back, and pay it forward.



It was the what that mattered in bringing me back—finding personal fulfillment. But it was the who that was more important. It was the chance to meet current Wabash students and help them achieve their educational goals—to be the first in their families to go to college, to get a degree from an elite institution, to get into medical or law school, to graduate and get the perfect job or launch a new business, or to learn to be a leader in their communities all around the world.

If you haven't been to Wabash lately, know that reconnecting is easy. Come to one of our many events on campus (wabash.edu/calendar). Meet the students, staff, and faculty. Respond to an email from us asking to share your stories. Visit the website (wabash.edu) or join one of our monthly "After the Bell" learning sessions led by Wabash faculty on Whenever.Wherever.Wabash.wabash.edu/www.

And maybe, even after leaving the College and moving on through life, you will discover that you still belong at Wabash. It's never too late. We would love to see you.

Ron Dostal '92

Director of Alumni and Affinity
Group Engagement
| dostalr@wabash.edu



Above: Director of Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement **Ron Dostal '92** with the 2023 Business Immersion Program participants; **left: Randy Kelley '26** and Dostal in 2023.

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From the NAWM

Full Circle

THE FALL SEMESTER AT WABASH is magical—a new freshman class arrives, and sporting events welcome students, alumni, and families home to cheer on our Little Giants. This fall is particularly exciting for me. My son, Jimmy, will be a freshman on campus, making him a third-generation Wabash man.

Somehow the stars aligned to afford me the honor of addressing the Class of 2028 alongside President Scott Feller at the Ringing-In Ceremony. For someone who loves Wabash as I do, it is a storybook moment! I'm excited for Jimmy to experience his own "firsts" at Wabash, but I can't help looking back at my time as a student and thinking about the fond memories from that time in my life. There are three "firsts" that stick out to me.

An important decision a Wabash man makes early in his tenure is where he will live. My brother, Mike '91, was part of a new fraternity forming on campus, Theta Delta Chi. I had come to know several of the guys from Theta Delt from visiting Mike during high school, and I immediately sought them out on campus when I arrived. It didn't dawn on me until several years later that I was one of the very first to accept a bid at Theta Delta Chi at Wabash College since the original chapter had gone dormant in 1882. It is still going strong more than 30 years later. I am proud to have been with the house at its infancy, and I value the many friendships I have developed with several generations of Theta Delt.

In my first Monon Bell game, Wabash had lost four in row and frustration had reached a boiling point. An intense game that looked like it could end in another loss gave me my first true glimpse of the "Wabash Always Fights" spirit. The offensive line and running back Dave Kogan '95 punished the Dannies with run after run

on a long, sustained drive late in the fourth quarter. Wabash pounded in the game-winning touchdown, the defense held DePauw, and the Wabash fans in the stands poured onto the field to take the bell back to its rightful home. The celebration on campus that evening was legendary—the bell was home and there was a campus-wide sigh of relief.

Finally, an invitation to a party at the Beta house would change my life forever. The spring semester of my junior year, I met the woman I would marry. My wife, Rem, and I have been together since. We have been blessed with three wonderful and talented children. Rem loves Wabash, which means the world to me. She is an avid follower of Little Giant athletics, and we are looking forward to watching our son play for the baseball team.

The couple that met at Wabash 30 years ago now has a son headed to Wabash. Life has come full circle, and to say we are thrilled is an understatement. We plan to spend considerable time on campus in the next four years. I hope that you will join us. We look forward to seeing you!

Jim Hawsworth '95
President | NAWM



In Memory

Jerry Zook '65

Jerry Allen Zook, 79, of Indianapolis, died May 2, 2023. He was comforted in his last days at home by family and loved ones.

A lifelong resident of the Castleton area, Zook was born in Noblesville, IN, to Blaine and Wilda (Whitesell) Zook. After graduating from Wabash College, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he advanced to the rank of first lieutenant and served in the Army Intelligence Unit in Vietnam.

He was a partner in Fountain-Zook Builders Inc., where he spent much of his life building houses in the Geist area. He enjoyed fishing, woodworking, and playing board games.

Zook married the love of his life, Carolyn (Cash), in October 2007. She survives. They spent many years traveling the country and enjoying life, family, and friends together.

Zook lived a life of strong Christian faith and devotion to his friends and family. Surviving, in addition to his wife, are a brother, Tim Zook; a stepdaughter, Christina Cash Meyers; a stepson, Dr. Michael Cash; and five beloved grandchildren.

He also played a significant role in the lives of his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews as "Uncle Jerry."

Zook was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Eda (Zook) Fountain; and a brother, Claude Zook.

Greg Garman '66

Greg Garman of Minneapolis died Jan. 25. He was born to Cathryn (Smith) and Harry Garman in Indianapolis.

Garman was an outstanding baritone who began his choral journey at North Central High School in Indianapolis. He graduated from Wabash College in 1966, a Lambda Chi fraternity member. He went on to earn two master's degrees from the University of Minnesota. Garman was a Hennepin County probation officer. Returning to college, he graduated from United Theological Seminary in 1987 and served several United Methodist churches.

Garman was a loving family man who was proud of his daughters and always found his life partner, Barbara Hager, interesting. Compassionate and resourceful,

he devoted his life to equal rights and justice.

Garman is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, Emily Hager-Garman and Meaghan Hager-Garman; brother, Andy Garman; two grandchildren; two grand-dogs; and several cousins, nieces, nephews, and in-laws. A lifelong animal lover, he missed having a cat.

Frank Starkey '66

Frank D. Starkey, 77, died Jan. 3, 2022. He was born in Indianapolis to Frank and Margaret (Kennebrew) Starkey and grew up in Indianapolis.

Starkey graduated from Wabash College and received a Ph.D. in chemistry from Brown University. During his time at Brown, he was a founder of the Afro-American Society. He was married to his wife, Gunilla (Ekstedt), for over 50 years.

Starkey was a college professor at Illinois Wesleyan University and worked for many years in human resources at GE Global Research Center in Niskayuna, NY. He liked working with people and helping fellow employees and others. His love of teaching continued after he left academia. He volunteered with young schoolchildren in Schenectady, NY, and developed and taught some courses at GE. He enjoyed going to track meets and helping coach recreational youth soccer. He liked hiking, spending time in Maine, and walking along the beaches in Rhode Island.

After retirement, Starkey moved to South Orange, NJ, to be near his son's family and to watch his granddaughter grow up.

Starkey is survived by his loving wife, Gunilla; son, Michael Starkey; granddaughter and foster granddaughter; daughter, Julia Starkey; several nephews; and a niece. He was predeceased by his four siblings, Frances Viers, Patricia Starkey-Patrick, Helen Young, and Robert Starkey.

John Carry '67

John William Carry, 78, died Dec. 10, 2023, in Osprey, FL. He was a decorated Vietnam combat veteran, dedicated lawyer, and devoted family man.

Known for his dedication to justice and his service to our nation, Carry also found solace

and joy in the pursuits of hunting, fishing, and his love for the American West. His legacy of valor, his legal acumen, and his charming personality, humor, charisma, and wit will be forever cherished.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Dawn; daughter, Emily; son, Benjamin; one grandson; and sister, Janeth.

Carry's love and life lessons have left their mark on those fortunate enough to know him. May he rest in peace.

William Michael Harvey '67

Dr. William Michael "Mike" Harvey, 78, died Jan. 7 in St. Louis, MO.

Harvey was a wonderful husband, father, father-in-law, papa, son, brother, friend, and veterinarian who was deeply loved and will be terribly missed but always cherished and remembered.

Harvey was born in Junction City, KS, to Helen and Warren Harvey. He attended Arsenal Technical High School in Indianapolis, where he was on the football, basketball, and track teams, in addition to serving as class president his junior and senior years. Harvey then went on to Wabash College, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree, majoring in biology and minoring in psychology. He was head dorm counselor, senior council vice president, and a member of the football team, track team, Eta Sigma Phi Honor Society, and Blue Key Honor Society.

After graduating from Wabash College in 1967, Harvey married his high school sweetheart, Donna Burnette, and they moved to West Lafayette, IN, where he attended veterinary school at Purdue University. During Harvey's final year at Purdue, his daughter, Tina, was born. Following graduation in 1971, they moved to St. Louis, MO, where Harvey would reside and practice veterinary medicine for the next 52 years.

Harvey began his career at Lemay Animal Hospital, during which time his second daughter, Kimberly, was born. He worked at Lemay for 15 years until, in 1986, he decided to open his own practice, and that is when Lemay Plaza Veterinary Clinic was established. For more than 50 years, Harvey gave his heart and soul to the veterinary

profession. He never retired. He loved his work so much that at the age of 78 he was still a practicing veterinarian.

He loved the community; he loved the relationships he built with clients, many of whom had been with him for countless years; and, of course, he loved his four-legged friends. Harvey loved his wife, his kids, and his grandkids fiercely and never missed an opportunity to brag about them to anyone and everyone.

Harvey was preceded in death by his parents, Helen and Warren Harvey; in-laws, Betty and Harold Jacobs; and brother, Thomas Harvey.

Harvey is survived by his wife of 56 years, Donna; daughters, Tina Pickens and Kimberly Harvey-Manus; three grandchildren; pets and grand-pets; sister, Susan Minges; sister-in-law, Kim Harvey; nephews, and many extended family, friends, clients, and fur babies.

Paul Nicholas Pitz '68

Paul Nicholas "Nick" Pitz died Nov. 24, 2023. He was born in Indianapolis to Paul and Roseann Pitz, the oldest of six.

Pitz graduated in 1964 from Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, where he gained a love of academic competition. He graduated from Wabash College in with a B.A. in German and English after having studied abroad his junior year at Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany—a year that instilled a lifelong love of all things German. While at Wabash, he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

After graduation, Pitz was drafted into the U.S. Army, and after nine months serving in Kentucky, New Jersey, and Maryland, he used his language skills to earn a military position in Worms, Germany, for 15 months. He was honorably discharged from the military on Aug. 8, 1970. He returned to Germany as often as he could.

Pitz earned a master's degree from Northwestern University and finished all qualifying courses and exams for the Ph.D. program. He met the love of his life, Barbara Waters, on Aug. 17, 1973. They were married exactly a year to the day after they met,



In Memory

and a month later, they moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, to begin the adventure of their 50 years together. They welcomed daughter, Megan, in Toronto and son, Andrew, after their move to the Iowa Quad Cities.

While working on his Ph.D. dissertation and living in Toronto, Pitz discovered his love of teaching and thought that he could contribute the most as a high school teacher. He earned a teaching degree at the Faculty of Education, University of Toronto, and spent the next 11 years teaching at various high schools in and near Toronto as well as teaching Saturday German language classes. At his wife's suggestion, they both learned to ski, and Pitz spent several years teaching skiing as a licensed Canadian Level II instructor, both in Canada and at Sundown Mountain in Iowa. He also became certified and coached high school basketball in Canada.

Over the course of his more than 40 years of teaching, Pitz held many jobs, but most fulfilling were his 23 years at Moline High School until his retirement in 2014. He was fortunate to be able to take students to Germany every other year.

After retirement, he continued to teach part-time at Rock Island, Davenport North, and Davenport Central High Schools until his second retirement in 2021. He coached the Moline High School Scholastic Bowl team for many years, winning the Illinois State Championship in 1999. He coached Team Illinois in a national meet where his teams won back-to-back national championships in 2007 and 2008, and he was inducted into the Illinois Scholastic Bowl Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Pitz loved people. His outgoing approach to life led him to become involved in the community. He served on the board of directors of the German American Heritage Center, as well as on the program committee, and was an active volunteer and German reading group discussion leader. He was active in his church, and he and Barbara organized and served meals to the hungry for 15 years. He took joy in his Stammtisch friends who met once a week to speak German over a beer. He made friends wherever he went.

Pitz's greatest love was for his family, and he gave time and energy to support and encourage them. He coached his son, Andrew, in several sports; had long discussions with Megan, often about politics; and was always available for extra homework help. He loved family vacations spent tent camping in national parks, but the family also visited the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and Cozumel. After their children were grown, Pitz and his wife visited many places, including Greece, China, Italy, Spain, Australia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Iceland, Egypt and Jordan, New Zealand, Scotland, and Morocco, in addition to Alaska, Curaçao, and Turks and Caicos. They were blessed to have been able to spend three weeks last summer driving through Germany.

Pitz is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Megan, and her partner, Jake Viano; and son, Andrew, and his wife, Elora; as well as brothers, Mike Pitz and John Pitz; sisters, Janeann Pitz and Marylynne Pitz; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Roseann Pitz; parents-in-law, Leo and Dorothy Waters; brother, Tom Pitz; brother-in-law, Bill Waters; and several aunts and uncles.

Michael Earl Wright '68

Michael Earl Wright died Jan. 13 in Indianapolis.

He was born in Crawfordsville, IN, to Dorman E. Wright and Loretta Connell Wright. He attended Crawfordsville public schools, graduating from Crawfordsville High School in 1964. He attended Wabash College, graduating in 1968. Wright was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

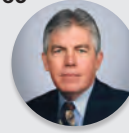
He lived most of his adult life in Bloomington, IN, and Indianapolis. He served in the Army Reserve.

Wright was an athlete and outdoorsman. He earned six varsity letters in high school, quarterbacking the football team and playing catcher in baseball. He was a hunter and avid fly fisherman. He loved dogs. He was also an accomplished two-step dancer.

Surviving are his wife, Linda Wright; brother, David; and sister, Terri Wright Harvey.

Lawrence Biestek '69

Lawrence "Larry" Robert Biestek, 76, died April 3 surrounded by his loving family.



Biestek was born in Hammond, IN, to John and June Biestek. He attended Hammond High School (class of 1965), where he played football, baseball, and basketball. After high school, he played football for Wabash College and then transferred to Purdue University, graduating in 1969 with a degree in industrial management. Following college, he joined the Air Force Reserve, where he was recommended for officer candidate school.

A job with Bank of America led Biestek to Houston, TX. He later became a commercial real estate appraiser for Coldwell Banker, which became CBRE. It was there that he met his wife, Sally. They were married on Nov. 7, 1992, at First Presbyterian Church of Houston. The two of them enjoyed traveling, entertaining, and volunteering with their church.

In 1997 his daughter, Rebecca, was born. Biestek loved spending time with his daughter, especially when coaching her sports teams. Whether it was basketball, softball, swimming, or soccer, he was on the field leading the team or on the sidelines cheering them on. While not known for his dancing skills, he did enjoy escorting Rebecca to every father-daughter dance and dance club (which they usually skipped out early from).

Biestek was a member of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church for over 30 years. His favorite ministry was Kids' Meals, where he routinely enjoyed making and packing sandwiches at the church with other groups and church members. He also loved being involved with their Bible Study Fellowship Sunday school class and volunteering in MDPC's Prayer Partner program, where church members commit to praying for other church members every day. With his family, he also enjoyed packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

In retirement, he could be found traveling; reading a book; listening to classical music; doing a Sudoku, Jumble, or jigsaw puzzle; or watching Wheel of Fortune. Biestek was an avid history buff and loved reading books and watching movies about World War II.

Biestek was preceded in death by his father, John Biestek, and mother, June Biestek. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Sally Biestek; daughter, Rebecca Lyon; son-in-law, Scott; siblings, Dr. Art Euler, Marie Sanchez, and Eileen Tuttle; and many nieces and nephews.

Biestek will be remembered as a quiet and gentle family man. He was kind to everyone he met and a constant source of knowledge and love.

Jeffrey Torell '69

Jeff Torell, 76, of Winchester, IN, died March 23.

He was a curious person who loved to learn. He cleaned up at Trivial Pursuit and never passed up a historical marker. He attended Wabash College and served in the U.S. Army in Ethiopia. He loved to travel and particularly enjoyed visiting Singapore and Israel while employed as a marketing manager and consultant for the aerospace industry. He also enjoyed visiting national parks and taking nature photographs. He was a member of Kiwanis for many years.

Torell's empathy and quiet strength made him a great listener and someone who also cared deeply for others. A member of Mensa, he was perhaps best known for his ability to have conversations with anyone about anything. And if you were lucky, he'd get that twinkle in his eye and a twitch in his smile when he was about to tell a bad pun. Even after his cancer diagnosis, he was determined to help others. He participated in four clinical trials to aid in cancer research.

Torell is survived by Carole, his wife of 52 years; his daughters, Julia and Susan; two grandchildren; and many cousins, family, and friends.

In Memory

Michael Zeckel '70

Michael Zeckel, 76, died Feb. 29. He was born to Rosa (Singer) and Stanley Jack Zeckel. He attended Wabash College, graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine in 1973, completed internal medicine residency in 1975, and completed a fellowship in infectious diseases in 1977.

Zeckel practiced in infectious diseases at Methodist Hospital starting in 1977. He left medical practice to join Eli Lilly and Company in 1990 to develop antibiotics for antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections. In 2000, he began work in drug safety for Eli Lilly. He retired in 2017. While at Eli Lilly, Zeckel volunteered as a physician at Gennesaret Free Clinic from 1991 to 2015. He had a wonderful life, with love for his wife, family, and work.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Sara Zeckel; son Ben Zeckel; son Isaac Zeckel; daughter, Monica Rivard; sisters, Cynthia Pakula, Sandra Dickens, and Susan Sterling; brothers, Fred Zeckel and Richard Zeckel; and four grandchildren.

Dennis Pitts '74

Dennis Pitts died Feb. 7. He attended Wabash for four semesters and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Michael Naumann '75

Michael Naumann, 69, of Atlanta, GA, died Jan. 17 with his wife and daughter by his side. He was a loving husband, dedicated father, and loyal friend. Naumann was known for his integrity, resilience, and strength, as well as for his love of travel and national parks.

Steven Wagner '76

Steven A. Wagner, 70, of Poneto, IN, died at home Feb. 5.

He was born to Victor and MaryAnn Wagner in Fort Wayne, IN. After Wagner graduated from Brebeuf Jesuit High School in 1972, he went on to study biology at Wabash College. In 1973, he met Nancy Carroll. They were married in Fort Wayne in 1975. They went on to have four sons, who benefited from his intentional mentorship, coaching, soft-spoken advice, and dry sense of humor.

After an illustrious academic and athletic college career, Wagner moved to Wells County, IN, in 1976 to begin his teaching career at the new Bluffton Jr./Sr. High School. During his teaching tenure, he was selected as a Fulbright Scholar and instructed for a year at the Hundred of Hoo Academy in Rochester, Kent, England. Wagner taught biology at Bluffton until 1995, when he accepted a position as director of guidance at Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School. He also held three master's degrees from Ball State and IPFW. Wagner's influence on colleagues and students was unmatched, and he was greatly missed following his retirement in 2020.

Wagner was a devout parishioner at St. Joseph Catholic Church, a constant friend, an avid reader, an indifferent sports fan, and a generous community member. He will be remembered for prioritizing his family, students, athletes, friends, and faith.

Wagner is survived by his wife of 49 years, Nancy; sons, Joshua, Benjamin, Peter, and Samuel; nine grandchildren; siblings, Richard Wagner, Diane Walls, Daniel Wagner, and Donald Wagner; sister-in-law, Susan Dunlap; brothers-in-law, David Carroll and Jimmy Carroll; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Victor and MaryAnn; parents-in-law, James and Ann Carroll; sister, Vickie Oslos; and sister-in-law, Marilyn Wagner.

Thomas Duane Clements H'77

Thomas Duane

"Chick" Clements, 89, died Feb. 15. He was born in Crawfordsville to Ruth and Vernon Clements.

Clements graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1952. He briefly attended Butler University on an athletic scholarship. He then served in the Korean War. After returning from the war, Clements married Janet Payne in June of 1956; she was his lifelong partner of 64 years.

He worked as the athletic department equipment manager for Wabash College from 1966 to 2003. While at Wabash, he was made an honorary alumnus, class of 1977. In 1998 he was inducted into the Wabash College Athletic Hall of Fame. And in 2022, a Little Giants Football Stadium suite was dedicated in his name. He was as devoted to the Wabash community as it was to him. It was his devotion to the spirit and place of all things Wabash that made him "Some Little Giant."

Clements and his wife spent countless hours exercising, dancing, and riding their bikes together. He also spent countless hours hunting, fishing, and talking sports to anyone who would partake. He liked to whistle. It was the signal to his family that "Dad is home."

Clements was steadfast and dedicated to his duties as a father and husband. He was a role model for work ethic and appreciating the simple things in life. He carried these traits over to his work at Wabash College, where he found his calling not only as the athletic department equipment manager but also as a mentor, an advocate, a friend, and a father figure to generations of Wabash men.

Clements is survived by three children, Damon, Angela, and Steve; six grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and brother, Jack Clements. He was preceded in death by his wife, Janet; son, Andy; parents, Vernon and Ruth; sister, Mary; and brothers, Robert, Maurice, and baby David.

A remembrance

Chick was known to everyone at Wabash by one single name. Athlete or not, all Wabash men who were fortunate enough to be on campus during Chick's 40



years as equipment manager knew, loved, and respected Chick.

I met Chick for the first time when I reported for cross country preseason camp. After giving me a warm welcome to Wabash, Chick handed me my practice grays, locker assignment, and combination lock. For so many of us, that initial meeting introduced us to a person who would become our mentor, advocate, motivator, counselor, confidant, and great friend.

During the 1970s Wabash did not have a counseling center, but we had Chick. Chick was there to celebrate our victories, to pick us up, to give us some tough love, and to kick us in the butt if we needed it. He knew us all by name, even long after we graduated.

Another part of Chick's legacy at Wabash was serving as commissioner of the Wabash Noontime Basketball Association (NBA). NBA all-star **Tobey Herzog H'11** remembers playing with Chick in the NBA.

"Chick and I played together on the Faculty IM basketball team and in the NBA," Herzog says. "He was a fierce competitor and known for his unique Euro step and shuffle. The first time I encountered this basketball move in the NBA, I was about to call Chick for a travel, but was quickly warned by the other players, 'We don't call a travel on the commissioner.' In our IM games, the student referees seemed to take the same approach."

As devoted as Chick was to Wabash, he was even more devoted to his beloved wife, Janet, and his family. Janet shared Chick's love of Wabash. The two of them also shared a healthy lifestyle which they were able to enjoy following Chick's retirement—daily workouts together in the Allen Center, frequent bike rides, and dancing at the American Legion on the weekends.

I am so proud and happy that Chick chose to join the Class of 1977 when he was made an honorary alumnus. Thomas Duane "Chick" Clements H'77, my classmate, friend, and mentor, rest in peace. You will always be remembered with great love and admiration. Some Little Giant!

—Greg Birk '77

In Memory

Thomas Modrowski '78

Tom "Moe" Modrowski, 67, of St. John, IN, died unexpectedly on March 18, leaving a void in the hearts of everyone who knew him.

While the business world will remember Modrowski as an operational mastermind in steel making and metals processing, his family will remember him as the best husband, father, and "Papa" there ever was.

Born to Art and Anne Modrowski in East Chicago, IN, he was the sixth of seven children. He was proud of his Catholic, Croatian-Polish family and spoke with great admiration of his upbringing on White Oak Avenue in Roxanna. He attended East Chicago Roosevelt High School and went on scholarship to Wabash College, where he played football and baseball, majored in mathematics, and formed lifelong friendships that transcended time and space. It is here he would meet the love of his life, a girl from southern Indiana named Kim, whom he affectionately called "Kimbo" or "Bobo." Together they raised their family while his career blossomed, and for 45 years they were inseparable.

There is nothing Modrowski was prouder of than his three daughters and their families. As a young father, he effortlessly embraced the girl-dad life. He studied how to French braid hair, smoothed out bumps in ponytails, and painted nails. He famously learned that a pair of jeans cost more than \$20, built jewelry boxes for Christmas gifts, and taught himself to play the piano to participate in recital duets. He helped with math homework, coached all the sports teams, and never missed an opportunity to chant, "Girl Power!" Despite all his career accomplishments, "Papa" was his greatest title and his 10 grandchildren were the light of his life. You could usually find him eating a Dilly Bar by the pool with a soaking-wet child on his lap while taking a conference call, organizing a wiffle ball game, and thinking about making popcorn on the stove for a movie-night sleepover.

Modrowski's superpower was making you feel like the most important person in the room, and somehow he had time for everyone and everything. He never missed a game, recital, play, business meeting, tee time, dinner with

friends, vacation, or birthday party. He was the most patient, humble, selfless, kind, and loving man, enamored by all the wonderful people in his life.

He will be remembered for his big group hugs, an uncanny ability to spread joy in all situations, and his love of pancakes, homemade bread, and beef barley soup. He was a great man with great friends and a great family. He loved his life and everyone who was part of it. A steel giant. A Little Giant. A gentle giant. Rest in peace, sweet husband, father, brother, and friend.

Modrowski is survived by his wife, Kimberly A. (Rath) Modrowski; daughters, Kristin Kantroski, Kellee Wyzgowski, and Katye McDonald; ten grandchildren; siblings, Carol Hadidian, Jim Modrowski, Dr. Robert Modrowski, Sherri Abinanti, and Dave Modrowski; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Art and Anne Modrowski; and sister, Pam Modrowski.

Stanley Short '78

Stanley D. Short, 65, of Everton, IN, died Jan. 18, 2022, in Indianapolis.



A lifelong resident of Fayette County, Short was born one of three children of Robert "Birchel" and Lottie Reynolds Short. He was a 1974 graduate of Connersville High School and also attended Wabash College and Ball State University.

For over 30 years, he worked in the office of Hassler Dry Cleaners, assisting the owners.

Short had a passion for all forms of music and was the family's music trivia expert. He loved attending concerts with family and friends. He was also an avid reader and enjoyed watching sports. He had cheered on the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field and was a lifelong fan of University of Kentucky basketball.

Survivors include a sister, Robbie Friend Worley; five nieces and nephews; and a sister-in-law, Brenda Short. He was also blessed with a number of great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. Short was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Keith Short; and a brother-in-law, Gene Worley.

Stig Hammond '84

Stig Hammond died Dec. 13, 2023. He fought a courageous battle with ALS for over three years.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Sharon; and daughters, Leah and Maya.

Kenneth Lee '88

Kenneth Jerome Lee, 57, died March 11 in Indianapolis. He was born in Indianapolis to Bishop Clarence Isaac Jr. and Betty Jean (Mosley) Lee.

Lee graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1984 and attended Wabash College. He was a proud member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity and was active in several Wabash intramural sports. He was a frequent visitor to the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies on campus and was proud to help plan and attend annual Martin Luther King Jr. events. Lee served in the United States National Guard under the Montgomery County command.

He worked at Subaru-Isuzu, Atco Rubber Products, and Clarence Lee & Sons Scrap Iron. He was a member of One Way Pentecostal Apostolic Church under his father, Rev. Lee, and was a member at the church under the leadership of his brother, Pastor Steven Lee. He was an active member of his community, coaching several youth sports teams and leaving a positive impact on the lives of countless young men.

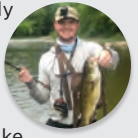
Anyone who knew Lee knew he had a deep love for the game of golf and co-founded his family's Cablanic Golf Tournament. He was also an ardent fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Lee will be remembered for his keen ability to make everyone feel welcome, to make you laugh until you cried, and to light up any room he walked into.

Lee was preceded in death by his father, Bishop Clarence I. Lee; mother, Betty Jean Lee; brothers, Benjamin Lee, Clarence I. Lee Jr., and Charles A. Lee; and his great love, Jennifer J. Whiteley.

He is survived by his daughters, Ashley and Rebekah; son, Jacob; three grandchildren; siblings, Kevin, David, Gerald, William, Steven, Jeannine, Patrick, Mary, Jeff, John, Joyce, and Josef; and a large extended family that includes many beloved nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Patrick Brady Neary '13

Patrick Brady Neary, 33, of West Lafayette, IN, formerly of Brookston, IN, died unexpectedly Dec. 19, 2023, at his home. He was born in Lafayette, IN, to Mike



and Dana (Smith) Neary. Neary was a 2009 graduate of Frontier High School, where he excelled in track, football, and basketball.

Neary began his college career at Wabash College running track. Following three years at Wabash, he enrolled at Purdue University, graduating with a degree in agriculture economics in 2014. He was a 10-year 4-H member showing sheep and swine.

Neary was heavily involved and a past board member of Community Cancer Network. He was a season ticket holder for Purdue football and Purdue women's basketball.

Neary was a highly successful real estate agent with Neary Eros Team, Coldwell Banker Shook of Lafayette for several years. He had obtained numerous honors and awards throughout his time in real estate. He was a member of the Lafayette Regional Association of Realtors, the Indiana Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors. He received the 2016 Rookie of the Year Award for the Shook Agency, and he received the Robert Shook Award for his community service.

In his spare time, Neary loved taking numerous fly-fishing trips out west, hunting, and golfing. He enjoyed golfing at Birk Boilermaker Golf Complex, where he was a member. Neary was an excellent cook, and his specialty was preparing meats on his smoker for family and friends.

Neary had a vivacious personality, was bright, and was naturally gifted at athletics. He had a quick laugh and smile, and was a generous, kind, and loyal friend. His family and friends loved him so much. He loved as he was loved. His passing leaves a big hole in many people's hearts.

Surviving, along with his parents, Mike and Dana Neary, are sisters, Catie Neary and Stephanie Gorin. He is also survived by paternal grandparents, several aunts and uncles, cousins, and many lifelong friends. Preceding him in death were his grandparents, Burley and Joy Smith; and grandmother, Frances Neary.

Cyrus Anton '27

Cyrus Zion Anton, 21, of Crawfordsville, died at home on March 22. He was born Jan. 4, 2003, in Anderson, IN, to Olivia Blair and Dewey Anton.

Anton was in a car accident about three years prior to his death that left him paralyzed, but that never slowed him down. He was a student at Wabash College. He was a member of Eagle Scouts and 4-H, where he loved to do shooting sports. He was a member of First United Pentecostal Church, as well as National Honor Society, and served as president of United Spinal Association of Indiana.

Anton loved listening to '70s and '80s rock 'n' roll music, especially Pink Floyd. He was an avid collector of rocks, fossils, and stamps. Anton will be remembered as an excellent student who was always good with computers. In high school he loved playing football and wrestling.

Surviving family includes his parents; sisters, Mia Anton, Bella Sparks, and Citaly Sparks; maternal grandparents, Debra Blair and Edward Blair, who dedicated much of his life to taking care of Anton both before and after his accident; and paternal grandmother, Joan Burke. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Carl Fasbinder.

Richard Jon Ewoldt

Richard Ewoldt, 75, a lifelong resident of Crawfordsville, died Feb. 3 due to complications after open heart surgery. He was born to the late Robert Fredrick and Mary Isabelle Ewoldt.

Ewoldt retired from Wabash College, where he had worked as a maintenance supervisor for many years. On the side, he loved and enjoyed building homes from the ground up.

Ewoldt enjoyed many hobbies in his life—teaching his sons how to play baseball, teaching his daughter softball, taking walks to the pond, taking the boys fishing, teaching his daughter how to safely shoot, going to car shows, spending time with family and loved ones, and building anything and everything with his hands.

Ewoldt is survived by his sons, Chris Ewoldt, Shane Ewoldt, Devin Ewoldt, and Seth Ewoldt; daughter, Megan Ewoldt; sibling, Jan Bayless; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Steven Ewoldt; and sister, Linda Ewoldt.

Robert L. Foote

Robert L. Foote, 70, of Champaign, IL, formerly of Crawfordsville, IN, died unexpectedly from complications of pulmonary fibrosis on Feb. 20.

He was born in Springfield, OH, the son of J. Lindsley (Lin) and Alice (Tanner) Foote. He married Cheryl Hughes on Oct. 15, 1994, in Crawfordsville.

Foote received his B.A. from Kalamazoo College, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1976, and he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Foote started his career and earned tenure at Texas Tech University (1983–89). In 1989, he was hired by Wabash College, where he was a professor of mathematics and computer science and served two terms as department chair, retiring in 2017. His research was primarily in differential geometry, and his work was published in numerous journals, including *American Mathematical Monthly*; the *Journal of Geometric Analysis*; *Mathematical Physics, Analysis and Geometry*; and the *MAA College Mathematics Journal*. At the time of his death, he was working with a colleague to complete a new research paper.

Foote played trumpet starting in fifth grade and continued up until a week before he died. He played with many groups over the years, including the Wabash College Brass Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra and the Montgomery County Civic Band. After moving to Champaign in 2023, he joined the Olde Music Group at the Community Center for the Arts in Urbana and the Parkland College Wind Ensemble.

He was an avid cyclist, with memorable extended trips by bicycle in and around Michigan and the Great Lakes, along the Blue Ridge Parkway, and into the northeast provinces of Canada.

Foote learned to use a lathe from his grandfather and enjoyed wood turning as a hobby; he was a member artist with the Athens Arts Gallery in Crawfordsville for a



Foote talking spherical geometry with Richie Abedin '17 on final day of class: "One my warmest memories of teaching."

number of years, where his wooden bowls, vases, and ornamental wood projects were displayed.

Foote is survived by his wife, Cheryl; son, Jonathan Cohen; two grandchildren; sister, Karen Retzer; and good friends and colleagues near and far. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A remembrance

It is with a heavy heart that I share the sad news that Bob Foote, longtime professor of mathematics at Wabash, passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness. We received the news from his wife, Cheryl Hughes, who was with him when he passed and said some of his final thoughts were about his research and Wabash.

Foote joined the Wabash faculty in 1989 and taught continuously until his retirement in 2017. He was liberally educated at Kalamazoo College and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

In his retirement tribute to Foote, Professor Will Turner said, "Robert Foote has taught over 25 different courses at Wabash running the gamut from pre-calculus and geometry for liberal arts majors to our senior seminar, methods of teaching mathematics, and special topics courses on computational geometry and computer vision.

"Not only has he taught calculus innumerable times, but he wrote

the book. Literally. We have used his book, 'A Brief Introduction to Multivariate Calculus,' to introduce the subject in our second-semester calculus course for decades. Bob has also been a staunch advocate for technology in the classroom. He was a co-principal investigator on the grant that created the first computer classroom at Wabash."

Former student **David Coddens '08** summed up Foote's classroom demeanor perfectly when he said, "Watching his eyes light up and hearing him exclaim, 'Elegant,' and, 'Beautiful,' as he went through a proof was pretty amazing."

With his colleagues, Foote built an incredible department of mathematics and computer science. In 2017, former Department Chair J.D. Phillips said, "The department that Bob is retiring from is an excellent one—one of the best math and computer science departments in the country. And one of the chief reasons for this excellence is its culture of hard work and seriousness of purpose. I know of no one more responsible for this culture than Bob Foote."

Of course, Foote was much more than a mathematics professor and an excellent colleague. He enjoyed a rich family life and was a woodworker, musician, and cyclist, among other pursuits.

—Todd McDorman

In Memory

Fred Ford

Fred Ford died in his Somerset, NJ, home on Feb. 15.



Ford had been a choral conductor and educator, working primarily in the college setting, for more than 30 years.

Ford was born in Woonsocket, RI, the son of Robert S. Ford and Catherine (Hudson) Ford. He graduated from Burrillville High School at the age of 16 and one year later from Mt. Hermon School, MA.

He began at Harvard focusing on engineering; however, he quickly realized that his passion for the Krokodiloes and Harvard Glee Club was seated in his love of choral music, and changed his concentration to music studies, graduating with a bachelor's degree in music. While earning his Master of Arts in education from Harvard School of Education, he was able to join the Harvard Glee Club as their assistant director for their Far Eastern tour in 1961.

When enlisting in the Navy

Reserve, he requested duties in Japan as a result of the love of all things Japanese kindled on that Glee Club tour. He was assigned as a minesweeper officer, based in Sasebo, Japan, for three and a half years.

Upon his return home, Ford enrolled at SUNY Buffalo. It was in Buffalo that he met his wife, Kathleen. They were married in 1968. They raised their daughter, Amy, and son, Geoff, in Crawfordsville, IN, where Ford taught at Wabash College while working toward the completion of his Ph.D. in music history.

Music motivated Ford's career as singer, pianist, conductor, coach, and teacher. He conducted choruses and taught music history and theory at the University of Virginia, SUNY Buffalo, Wabash College, and Rutgers University. After his long years as a college professor, he tied up his career with 15 joyous years of choruses and support for theater productions at Bridgewater

Raritan High School. He earned a Governor's Award for Teaching and a Somerset County Award for Excellence in the Arts, and also conducted Mixed and Women's Honor Choirs and the 2007 New Jersey All-State Chorus. He continued working with the Harvard Glee Club alumni group, acting as director on four separate tours returning to their Far Eastern tour locations, including Tokyo/Kyoto, Nagasaki, and Sendai.

Ford was a long-time member and some-time state president of the American Choral Director's Association, a group he highly valued for the comradery and musicality. He led the efforts to run the 2000 ACDA national convention in Baltimore, an event he was rightfully proud to have organized.

Ford shared his joy and wonder of music not only professionally, but also through his church, the Unitarian Society (of East Brunswick); in his living community, where he enjoyed sharing his glorious piano playing

with his fellow residents in the annual variety show; and with every person lucky enough to strike up a musical conversation with him.

There was not a baby he wouldn't play peek-a-boo with, not a song he wouldn't harmonize to, not a stranger he wasn't ready to make an acquaintance or a friend. It was impossible for him to put down a crossword puzzle or to walk away if a television set was on. His humor, his kindness, his intelligence, and his warmth will be missed by all.

Surviving relatives include Kathy, his cherished wife and companion of 55 years; daughter, Amy; son-in-law, Patrick; son, Geoff; daughter-in-law, Jasmine; brother, Bob; sister, Susan; six grandchildren; and multiple nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews.

photo by Julia Moravec





John R. Blackburn

Faculty Notes

Bend the Trajectory

by Richard Paige

T BEGAN AS SIMPLE CURIOSITY.

Tim Lake wanted to know who was the first Black student admitted to Wabash College.

After hearing the name was likely lost to history, the associate professor of religion and Black studies searched for a decade to find it.

He had heard a story that someone had been admitted in 1857, but that student was asked to leave after just two weeks. Initial research at the Crawfordsville Public Library turned up references to the “Negro at the College” in the town’s two newspapers at the time. However, no name was included.

“Who was this person and what happened to him?” Lake asked. “I was looking for any kind of clue that put more details with the story.”

Lake dove headlong into the College’s history—through newspaper clippings, board of trustee minutes, personal diaries, and published Wabash histories.

During one of many visits to the College’s archives, he discovered “A Catalog of All the Students: 1833-1888,” a complete listing of students who attended Wabash tucked away on a shelf and unnoticed on previous visits. The forward section of that catalog listed graduates, while the back included those who attended but did not graduate.

Lake flipped delicately and quickly to 1857 and discovered 40 potential names. Starting alphabetically, he found that the first two were dead ends. With the third came possibility.

He made a connection from a name to a series of papers housed at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University. The autobiographical sketch that was part of the abstract, stated that the author of these papers was “admitted to the preparatory school of Wabash College in January 1857.”

The name was John R. Blackburn.

“I was excited,” Lake says. “I had put so much energy and time into just finding the



The Blackburn family on the Salter Hall stage. From left: President Scott Feller, Joseph Smith, Jeanne Blackburn Burch (in wheelchair), Mariska Williams, Associate Professor of English and Black Studies Tim Lake, Michael-Alexander Williams, Tiane Jones, Isaiah Williams, Karen Quarles, Christina Smith (with Josiah Smith), and Alex Smith (with Charis Smith).

name, I never thought to ask myself what I would do when I found it.”

Lake spent five more years piecing together the story of the man’s early life and legacy.

Blackburn was born in 1841 on a plantation in Essex County, Virginia, to his owner, William Blackburn, and enslaved mother, Fannie. William freed Fannie and their eight children in 1849 and relocated them to Cincinnati.

One of the youngest children in the family, John was educated in the Cincinnati Public Colored Schools. He also received private tutoring by the city’s leading physician, Israel Stone Dodge. It was a recommendation from Dodge that brought Blackburn to Wabash.

While for 167 years there were scant details about his experiences, it was widely believed that the citizens of Crawfordsville had chased Blackburn away.

Lake discovered that the trouble that led to Blackburn’s departure from Wabash came from within the student body. Because of racial tensions on campus, Blackburn was asked to return home after only two weeks and two white students were expelled.

Upon his return to Cincinnati, Blackburn resumed his education with tutors and studied Greek and Latin with students from Lane Theological Seminary. In 1859, he was admitted to Dartmouth College. Family circumstances and the start of the Civil War

forced him to leave the school. In 1861, he took the position of principal of colored education in Xenia, Ohio. Dartmouth College awarded him a Master of Arts degree in 1883. Ultimately, Blackburn served in education for 62 years, right up until his death in 1937.

As part of his research, Lake traveled to every place Blackburn had lived, from the Virginia plantation to Dartmouth, and around Ohio. Lake also connected with Blackburn’s descendants, who stretch from coast to coast—from Los Angeles to Clinton, Maryland.

With more information about the man, lingering questions remained for Lake about the College that forced Blackburn out.

“Are we mature enough now to look at this history?” Lake asked. “What does it tell us about who we can be and where we ought to go in the future?”

Lake presented an idea to colleagues—to bring Blackburn’s family to campus to introduce them to today’s Wabash College, to share in the telling of John’s story, and to establish John’s place in the College’s legacy.

Seventeen family members, including Blackburn’s 103-year-old granddaughter, Jeanne Blackburn Burch, visited campus in February. Lake shared his research in a public presentation, John was named an honorary alumnus of the Class of 1861, and a rite of return service was held at the Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church.

“While we are proud of our long tradition of providing access to an excellent liberal arts education to students traditionally underserved by higher education, we must understand that our history is full of stories like John’s,” said Wabash President Scott Feller in introducing Lake at the public presentation. “We also must acknowledge that many students throughout our history—men of color, gay men, and men who came here penniless—struggled during their time at our College. Like John Blackburn, they had difficult paths to and through Wabash. It is by understanding those challenges that we become a stronger, more welcoming institution.”

At the rite of return, Rev. Dr. John Van Nuys ’83 summed up the feelings of many in the community.

“As a Wally, as a townie, as a Presbyterian, and as a Hoosier, my prayer is this: That as inheritors of history we cannot change, we will all do our best to bend the trajectory of that history toward better and more blessed ends,” he said. “Tonight is a blessing for which I am grateful. Tomorrow is an opportunity for which I am responsible. Working with God and each other, I know we can create a brighter future that is more just, loving, and good. May it be so.” ■

Abbott Earns Excellence in Teaching Award

by Logan Weilbaker '25

PROFESSOR OF RHETORIC Jennifer Abbott was the 2024 recipient of McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Excellence in Teaching Award at the College's annual Awards Chapel.

"I've been part of that award ceremony for so many years, and it's always someone else," Abbott says. "You just get used to thinking, 'Who's it going to be this year?' and you forget to imagine it could be you."

The McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Excellence in Teaching Award honors the memories of Reid H. McLain [W1927], Clair McTurnan [W1910], and Kent Arnold [W1929], and has been given annually since 1965 to a member of the faculty who has distinguished themselves by innovative and engaging teaching.

It is the highest teaching honor the College bestows.

"This year's recipient of the McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Teaching Award is an exceptional teacher, dedicated advisor, and trusted mentor," Dean of the College and Professor of Rhetoric Todd McDorman read in his citation.

"She cares deeply about what she does and about the men she educates and prepares for the world," he continued. "She has taught a broad array of courses that bring challenging, sometimes contentious topics into the classroom that include politics, the news media, and, most of all, gender."

In Abbott's 21 years at Wabash, students and faculty alike have taken note of her impact, and this year, her years of effort were recognized.

"It feels affirming," Abbott says. "You can go for a long time in your career working hard and feeling unnoticed. So it feels good to be noticed."

After earning her bachelor's degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in speech communication from Penn State University, she arrived at Wabash to a totally novel environment.

"I had not anticipated coming to Indiana," Abbott says. "I had not anticipated teaching at a college for men, but I really liked Todd McDorman and David Timmerman, who was the chair of the department at that time. I liked that I'd be in a department of three and could make an immediate impact."

Abbott's academic interests in news media rhetoric; the relationships among rhetoric, citizenship, and democracy; and the rhetoric of gender found a fruitful home at Wabash, where unique discussions about gender can take place.

Students often come to her classes new to such ideas, or simply unfamiliar with how to have open dialogue about them, but Abbott enjoys encouraging the students to jump into difficult discussions.

"It's so ubiquitous," Abbott says. "It's so much a part of how we behave and perform moment-to-moment, often without reflection. And once you give the students the ability to see it and the vocabulary to talk about it, it's exciting."

"I had a really rewarding experience this semester in a course that addressed gender with a great group of students who were fairly new to the ideas," she says. "It was exciting, by the end, to hear them using the theories and the concepts with accuracy and conviction. They saw it, they understood it, and they could apply it to their lives."

Abbott wrote her dissertation on Promise Keepers, a Christian men's organization popular in the 1990s, and "their version of Christian masculinity," but living and working in a setting where masculinity is so central to the culture was a big change.

"It was a learning curve," Abbott says. "It was weird for a while to walk around, particularly as a younger woman and a single woman on this campus."

Abbott's initial discomfort led to a fascination with topics of masculinity, which led her to believe that she could leverage the environment to have a positive impact on her students.

"I didn't have a lot of experience around a lot of men, but I navigated all that and found my footing in the classroom and among my peers," she says. "Teaching here, if you're going to teach gender, you've got to lean hard into masculinity. It's my advantage as the woman in the room, because I can ask my students, 'Is this adding up to your experience or not?'"

Abbott is proud of her personal development that has formed her into the award-winning professor she is today, and she credits her colleagues in rhetoric and across campus for their mentorship and collaboration. Most of all, she is grateful for her husband of 20 years, Professor of Theater Michael Abbott '85, whom she met at Wabash.

"He's a master teacher," she says. "I yearn to teach as well as him."

Abbott continues to strive to better herself for her students and provide a classroom setting where they feel they can openly explore new concepts.

"I've seen Professor Abbott develop an authentic way of listening and manner of response to students that treats ideas openly and graciously," McDorman says. "She is an expert at engaging students in ways that give genuine consideration and reconsideration of ideas that enrich class discussion. She inspires trust and builds confidence because she shows she is listening and carefully considering what people have to say."

The McLain-McTurnan-Arnold Award is the most recent in a long list of accolades for Abbott, including being named co-recipient of the Top Paper Award from the National Communication Association Annual Convention, recipient of a Research Exchange grant from the Kettering Foundation focused on researching and analyzing public journalism practices, and co-recipient of a Great Lakes Colleges Association New Directions Initiative grant focused on hosting an annual public lecture or debate at Wabash.



photo by Kim Johnson

“I’ve learned over time how to help convince students to try out tricky ideas, especially when it comes to things like gender, race, sexuality, or class. I’m doing better at helping students not worry about saying ‘the wrong thing.’”

She has published eight books and papers since coming to Wabash, including “Speaking and Democratic Participation: Speech, Deliberation, and Analysis in the Civic Realm,” a book hundreds of Wabash students have used in their rhetoric courses.

Despite her long list of achievements, Abbott says her proudest moments are when she can inspire a student to change or adapt his thinking on difficult topics.

“I’ve learned over time how to help convince students to try out tricky ideas,

especially when it comes to things like gender, race, sexuality, or class,” she says. “I’m doing better at helping students not worry about saying ‘the wrong thing.’” ■

2023–24 Retirees



Beverly Cunningham

joined the president's office in the summer of 2015 as the executive administrative

assistant to the president. Jim Amidon, president's chief of staff and director of strategic communications, says: "She professionalized the office in a way that was needed, creating systems and best practices never imagined and communicating effectively with senior staff, their assistants, trustees, and other VIPs who do business with the president. She is perhaps best known, though, for her enormous and unwavering commitment to gracious hospitality. She can see around corners to know when someone needs a note or a plate of brownies, and she spreads her love and joy so freely and frequently. We will miss her professionalism, for sure. But most of all, we will miss her warm smile."



Jamie Douglas began serving Wabash students as a mental health counselor in 2011 and went on to become the director of counseling. Chris Amidon, the College's

nurse practitioner, says: "Through her tireless work and dedication to Wabash students for 13 years, Jamie has transformed the approach to mental health at Wabash, bringing the campus conversation about mental health—particularly young men's mental health—out of the shadows and into the light. Mental health care is now seen as an essential and normal part of professional development among Wabash students thanks to Jamie's deep investment in educating and caring for our community."



Scott Douglas '84 has provided care for students as a physician since 2000. Chris Amidon, the College's nurse practitioner, says:

"His respectful listening and skillful use of motivational interviewing techniques helped convince students to get treatment for their depression or their high blood pressure or to retire from their sport after a series of concussions. His quiet but meaningful leadership proved to be effective in many ways. As one student told me recently, 'I've had these problems for years, but no one really listened to me and took the time to figure out what was going on until Dr. Douglas did.'"



Gary Leonard came to work for Wabash College in 1987 as carpenter and locksmith. Director of Campus Services David Morgan says: "We are

tremendously grateful for all of the hours he spent keeping keys turning and doors swinging. But even more, we're grateful for the care and commitment he has given to our team and to our community."



James Makubuya, associate professor of music, came to Wabash in 2000. Michael Abbott, professor of theater and chair of the music

department, says: "James arrived here a veteran ethnomusicologist, having previously taught and studied at MIT, UCLA, and Catholic University. James' special gift has always been welcoming all curious souls to his world and his experience and his music. He's enabled us to cross arbitrary musical and cultural boundaries to make sounds we have never heard on instruments we have never seen."

Jolene Pickett started at Wabash in 2017 as a gift processing and Advancement assistant. Dean for College Advancement Michelle Janssen says: "After a long and successful career with the Indiana-based Marsh Supermarket chain, Jolene leveraged her people-centered approach and accounting background to make an impact on Wabash donors, alumni, and her College Advancement colleagues. She possesses a ready wit, a welcoming smile, and a positive attitude: all hallmarks of a great colleague."



Esteban Poffald, associate professor of mathematics, served at Wabash College for 39 years. Professor and Department Chair of Mathematics and Computer

Science Chad Westphal says: "Esteban has engaged with generations of Wabash students and has taught nearly every math class on the books, as well as many special topics and independent studies. Esteban has always been an excellent and patient teacher, whether it was with a first-gen freshman struggling with the basic skills exam or working with ambitious math majors wanting to study advanced topics in preparation for graduate school. Esteban was the first in the math department and among the first at the College to mentor undergraduates in open-ended research projects, an idea more common today than it was 30 years ago."



John Roberts '83 has served as a physician at Wabash since 2000. Chris Amidon, the College's nurse practitioner, says: "Dr.

Roberts provided more than medical care for the students. He looked after their mental health and their personal development. Students knew he could relate to their experience of being a student and fraternity member, and that instilled a sense of trust that created a more therapeutic doctor-patient relationship. Wabash has benefited from his expertise, dedication, and most of all from those relationships."



Douglas Smith came to the Wabash community as controller in 2018. Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Kendra Cooks says: "Doug is wrapping up

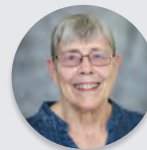
35 years of work in higher education finance administration, and we have really been able to leverage his high understanding of higher ed finance, operational accounting, and data analysis. He has been instrumental in moving our financial analysis and reporting forward."



Suzanne Zadai, business auxiliaries assistant, joined the bookstore team at Wabash College in 2011. Juliann Smith, director

of auxiliary and insurance services, says: "Suzanne has an amazing eye for detail and fashion. She epitomizes customer service, greets everyone with a smile, and is a pro at problem solving. She absolutely lights up when the doors open. The busier the better for Suzanne."

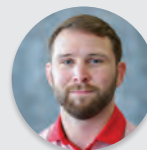
Quick Notes



Emeritus Professor of Classics **Leslie Day** celebrated the release of a two-volume set, "The Early Iron Age Cemeteries at Vronda." These texts are the continuation of work detailing the findings of excavations in and around the sites of Kavousi and Vronda on Crete.



Julio Enriquez-Ornelas '08 has been named the inaugural director of Latino partnerships at Wabash. Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller was named the assistant director.



Head Wrestling Coach **Jake Fredricksen** was named the DIII Rookie Wrestling Coach of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association.



Erika Sorensen-Kamakian was named an Indiana Academy of Sciences Fellow. A fellow is a member of the Academy for a minimum of five years who has demonstrated service to the Academy and to the advancement of science in Indiana, service to education in science, and achievements in scientific research.

Wabash students celebrate the fall semester's first day of classes.





Wabash.

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photo by Julia Moravec

LAST GLANCE

New students spent a half day doing community service in one of several locations in Crawfordsville.

In addition to assisting organizations with much-needed help, the students learned about the nonprofits' missions and histories. One student at the Community Garden said, "I'm learning more from the Community Garden staff than from National Geographic!"