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MAGAZINE

CREATE

THE JOURNAL OF WABASH COLLEGE
SPRING 2024



“This is the ‘key art’ or ‘box art’ for Pig Eat Ball, a post-modern remix of the classic video game Pac-Man,” says its creator **Nathan Fouts ’97**. The game was released on Steam, a digital video game distribution service, in 2018 and for consoles in 2019. Princess Bow tries to eat her way through five worlds and hundreds of levels all while avoiding some of the characters here. Also illustrated are the princess’s father, King Cake (top left), and his antagonist, The Dean (upper right). Read more about Fouts’ career in game building and creation on [page 49](#).



Wabash.

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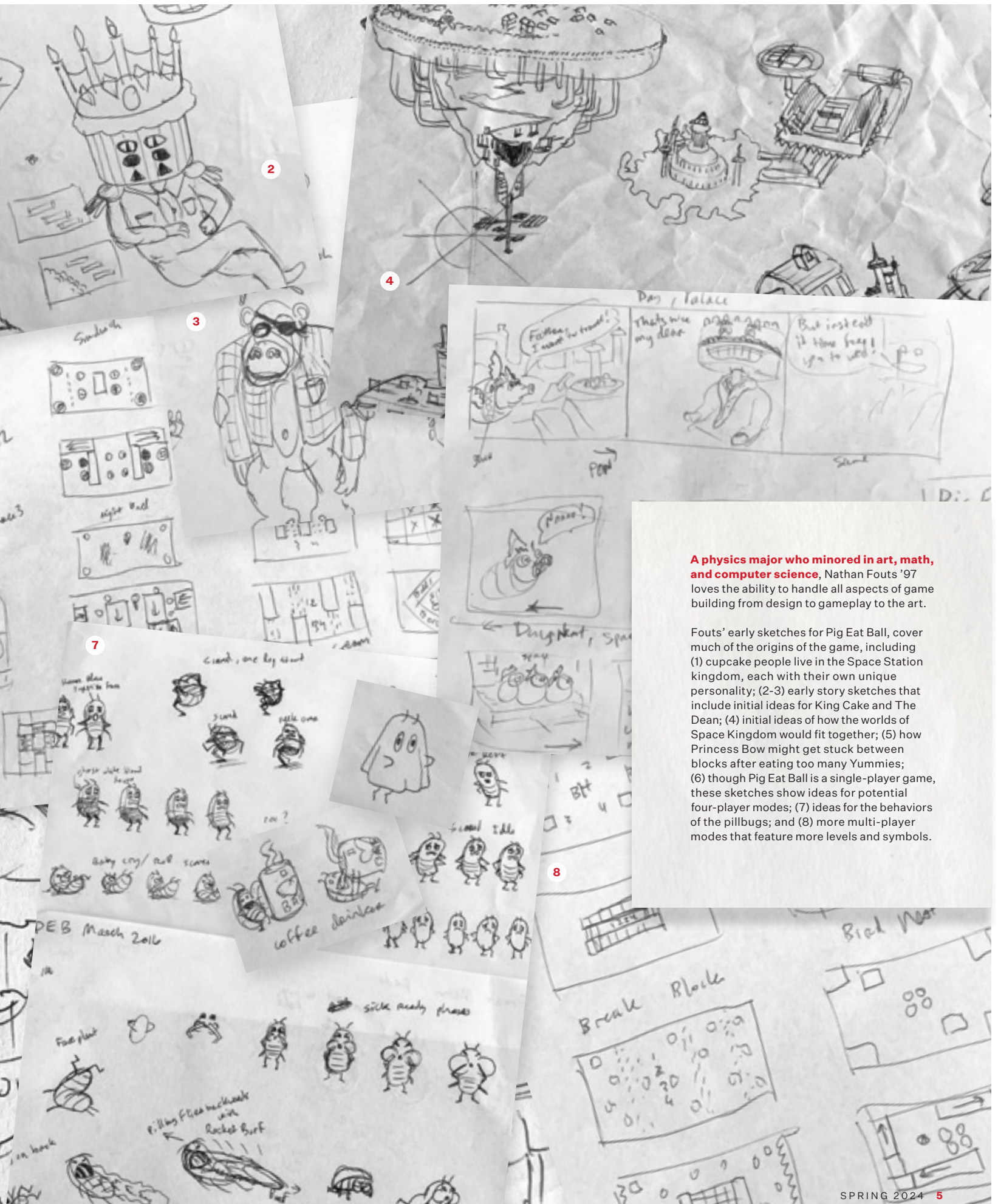
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**Wabash College educates men to
think critically, act responsibly,
lead effectively, and live humanely.**



A physics major who minored in art, math, and computer science, Nathan Fouts '97 loves the ability to handle all aspects of game building from design to gameplay to the art.

Fouts' early sketches for Pig Eat Ball, cover much of the origins of the game, including (1) cupcake people live in the Space Station kingdom, each with their own unique personality; (2-3) early story sketches that include initial ideas for King Cake and The Dean; (4) initial ideas of how the worlds of Space Kingdom would fit together; (5) how Princess Bow might get stuck between blocks after eating too many Yummies; (6) though Pig Eat Ball is a single-player game, these sketches show ideas for potential four-player modes; (7) ideas for the behaviors of the pillbugs; and (8) more multi-player modes that feature more levels and symbols.

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As a child, Brian Sawyer '84 had a passion for collecting plants and other natural elements. It became the bedrock of his career.

by KIM JOHNSON



photo by Joshua McHugh

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Corrections

Professor Edward McLean's name was misspelled in the Fall 2023 issue.

Jeffrey H. Birk, winner of the Fredrick J. Urbaska Distinguished Civic Service Award in 2023, is a graduate of the Class of 1974.



ABOUT THE COVER

Joel Bustamante '11 is a graphic designer for Citizens Energy Group in Indianapolis. He is also a freelance designer and illustrator. While at Wabash, he was the cartoonist for The Bachelor and editor of The Caveman.

"I was an English major. I didn't think I was going to be a professional artist. It was just something I had always been good at," Bustamante says. "I'm grateful to love what I do. It's incredible that I just get to be creative all day."

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The Language of Art

Patrick Alston '13 tells the story of the world around him through his oversized, abstract art in vivid color.

by KIM JOHNSON



photo by Julian Vidro

Create

AT THE ONSET OF COVID-19 in 2020, I started collecting various fabrics to make masks. I figured if we were all going to have to wear masks, we might as well be as comfortable as possible, look good, and have fun. But now, I have a *little bit* of leftover fabric, so I shifted my creative energy to quilting.

I volunteered to make a quilt for an auction supporting the Montgomery County Free Clinic where my husband is the executive director. I chose to mash-up a couple ideas I found on Pinterest using 2 ½" x 1 ½" rectangles to start. I began with 3,600 pieces and worked my way down to one queen-sized quilt in a crazy array of patterns and colors. It's my favorite of anything I have ever made.

What I loved most about the quilt is that while I was cutting, sorting, ironing, pinning, and sewing, I could remember when I had purchased the various fabrics and for whom I bought them. Lots of space patterns for my daughter who had attended Space Camp the year before; Dr. Seuss, soccer balls, stacks of books, and math equations for teachers; and for me, anything bright and playful.

As I pieced all those little rectangles together, sometimes I had to work to get them to fit right, and sometimes it felt like my idea would never work. But when I stepped back and looked at the entire quilt, I saw a beautiful story of the people I love, the people I met through mask making, and the variety of colors and fabrics that make us all unique.

Feels a little bit like Wabash. Our community is made up of alumni, students, faculty, staff, friends, and families who bring all sorts of stories, colors, and varieties of patterns and shapes to the conversation. Sometimes there's a perfect fit. Other times, not so much. But if we stick with it, the end product turns out better than we could have ever imagined.

This issue is full of creation stories—art, architecture, music, games, connection, and more.

Meet Patrick Alston '13 and Roscoe Wilson '97. Both were art majors who studied under Professor Doug Calisch. Both credit him and the other art faculty for inspiring them to pursue their careers—one as a full-time painter and the other as an art professor.

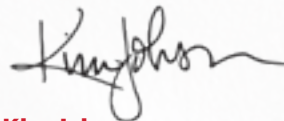
Ever wonder if you have what it takes to create the next greatest game to hit the shelves? Read about the imaginative approaches of game developers Chris Zimmerman, Nathan Fouts '97, Adam '11 and Julia Phipps, and Logan Weilbaker '25.

I am particularly pleased to introduce a new writer to Wabash Magazine. My daughter, Paige, takes us through being part of her first theater production at Wabash. She was one of many cast and crew members to stage the musical "Something Rotten!" Along with Paige, there are glimpses from several of the talented people involved.

These pages also show off some of the amazing work of a few other gifted members of our Wabash family.

It has been a joy to gather these stories and see what some of you are up to. If you are so inspired, please share with us. No matter the pattern, color, or texture of your story, you belong. You are an important part of the fabric of Wabash College, and I would love to showcase you as part of the quilt that makes us who we are.

I look forward to seeing what we can create together.



Kim Johnson
Editor | johnsonk@wabash.edu

Chemically Creative



Scott Feller

President | fellers@wabash.edu

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C

REACTIVITY COMES IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS.

My mind goes immediately to a combination of images, conversations, and mathematical derivations of my late colleague in the chemistry department, Paul McKinney '52.

I suspect few of you would have guessed I would name a scientist as my most creative colleague and I bet the vast majority of readers are surprised that I associated mathematical derivations with creativity.

McKinney was the ultimate student of the liberal arts—on a campus where that means a lot. As both student and faculty member, he immersed himself in all that Wabash had to offer. He was a chemist, an actor, a philosopher, and a musician.

I remember a departmental discussion early in my time as a chemistry professor about a question on the written comprehensive exams. It was complex and more than a little abstract. It was the kind of question that had more than one right answer. There was concern that students could get derailed by its open-ended nature.

I don't recall how the comps question was worded in the end, but I remember McKinney's argument that we needed to give the students "the opportunity to demonstrate creativity."

One of the ways we remember McKinney's contributions to Wabash is a computer lab on the third floor of Hays Hall named in his memory. Consistent with his legacy, the McKinney Computational Chemistry Laboratory immerses students in both technology and art.

One wall of the McKinney Lab features a portrait of Galileo, one of his heroes, and an abstract painting that was a gift from Don McMasters '53. The two were fraternity brothers and fellow chemistry students. McMasters went on to have a successful career as a chemist at Indiana University but is best known at Wabash as an art collector and the many pieces he donated to our collection.

On the other wall in the McKinney Lab are framed copies of McKinney's last scientific papers and a pair of articles from the Journal of Mathematical Chemistry titled "Schrodinger Equation Solutions for the Central Field Power Potential Energy."

The placement of these journal articles—and the derivations contained within them—leave it open to interpretation whether to engage them as works of science or works of creative expression. I think that is exactly the way McKinney would have wanted it.

Scott Feller

Wabash Wrap-up: A Look Back



Students in the Asian American Communities course visited the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu temple complex in Chino Hills, in southwestern San Bernadino County, California. The students toured the facilities and had a question-and-answer session with one of the swamis there. This course, taught by Assistant Professor of Chinese and Asian Studies **Cara Healey**, introduced the history and culture of Asian American communities in California paying particular attention to the political and social forces that have shaped the development of Chinatowns and other ethnic enclaves like Little Tokyo and Koreatown.

Moments



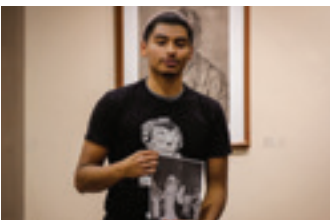
Asian Studies hosted its annual Bubble Tea event in October in Lilly Library. Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed delicious bubble tea and a variety of Taiwanese snacks.



Wabash Family Day gave families a chance to catch up with their Wabash sons at brunch on campus ahead of Little Giant football and soccer games.



Wabash students, staff, and faculty took the opportunity to celebrate Halloween in style.



La Alianza hosted a Día de los Muertos dinner and presentation. The festivity is a Mexican holiday in which families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink, and celebration.



Screenwriter and film producer **Angelo Pizzo** visited campus in November for a special screening of his 1986 basketball film “Hoosiers,” followed by a question-and-answer session. Visit www.wabash.edu/go/pizzo to listen to his podcast.



Boat racing in the Class of 1950 Natatorium was one of many ways prospective students got to witness student life at Wabash during **Scarlet Honors Weekend** in December.



The **Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies** hosted Xtacy, its annual poetry slam. Crawfordsville resident Joseph Harris placed first, Will Lyons '26 came in second, and Jonah Billups '25 took third place.



Wabash student-athletes visited Meredith Nicholson and Laura Hose elementary schools to read, play, and learn with the students.



Cleo Washington '85 delivered the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. keynote address “Accelerating Gradualism in a Post Affirmative Action World.” Washington is the vice president of external affairs for AT&T.



With generous support from the **Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust grant**, Lilly Library staff presented a reading of the first edition of the Fitzgerald translation of “The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.”



Classes were suspended for one afternoon in January in honor of the **Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work**. The event featured 80 students presenting 27 oral projects and 33 posters highlighting their academic research.



In January, Artist-in-Residence **Owen Lowery** opened an interactive exhibit, “Proto/Drift” in the Fine Arts Center. Lowery prioritizes universal design in his work, hoping all people—regardless of age, height, background, or accessibility situation—can engage meaningfully. Lowery has been active in the Crawfordsville community as well, with exhibits and presentations at the Carnegie Museum and Crawfordsville District Public Library.

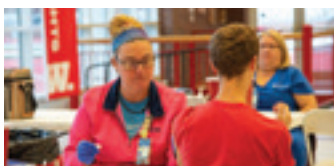
Moments



Wabash College's first fraternity, **Beta Theta Pi**, was founded in 1846 and has been a leader on campus ever since. The fraternity celebrated its 175th anniversary with musical performances, a tailgate, and a dinner.



In its 30th year, the Wabash College **Moot Court** competition brought Wabash men together through the support of the Wabash Club of Indianapolis and the rhetoric department. The competition gave students the chance to be lawyers for a day, arguing a case in front of a panel of judges who advance participants based on the strength of their arguments within the law. **Seth Kirkpatrick '24** won this year's argument.



Wabash College **Health Center** staff partnered with Franciscan Health to host multiple flu shot clinics for students, faculty, and staff.



The mathematics and computer science department and the **Math Club** hosted the annual Derivative Bee. This fall 78 students competed for fame and glory (and extra credit).



Associate Professor of Biology **Heidi Walsh**'s organismal physiology students participated in a community-engaged learning project in conjunction with the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County. Wabash students took the lead in planning and executing five unique hands-on activities for "Brains and Bodies Day" in October.



During the Thanksgiving break, Associate Professors of Theater **Jim Cherry** and **Heidi Winters Vogel** led a group of 12 Wabash students to New York City as part of the course New York City on Stage and Screen. Professor of Religion **Derek Nelson** and Professor of Classics **Jeremy Hartnett** took students to Italy as part of a course devoted to early Christianity in ancient Rome.



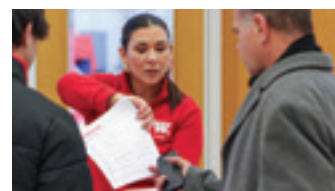
The College hosted the 55th Christmas Festival of Music and Readings. The event, a special collaboration between the music and religion departments, featured student ensembles, as well as soloists and members of the community.



In December, the art department hosted "Zeitgeist 2023," in the Eric Dean Gallery. The exhibition featured works from more than 50 Wabash students enrolled in studio art courses in the fall semester.



The **Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program** hosted its annual cohort reunion. The 55 participants representing all of the prior cohorts gathered for two days of workshops and fellowship.



Members of the enrollment team rolled out the red carpet in December and February for Scarlet Honors Weekend. More than 330 prospective students and their families came to campus to learn about student life in and out of the classroom.



Under the direction of Associate Professor of Theater **Heidi Winters Vogel**, the theater department opened its spring season with "Death and the Maiden." The cast included **Robin Vogel**, a 2023 Albright College graduate, as Paulina; **Alex Schmidt '27** as Gerardo; and **Preston Parker '26** as Roberto.



Wabash celebrated its **first-generation** students, faculty, and staff on National First-Generation College Student Day in November.

Moments



In preparation for the visit of the Frederick Douglass Jazz Works, **Scott Pazera**, director of the Wabash College jazz ensemble, and **Tony Hernandez**, scholar-in-residence and jazz guitarist, held an educational workshop on jazz music and history.



Ryan Tatusko from EPIC Risk Management visited campus for a conversation on the risks of sports gambling.



The Animal Welfare League brought several puppies to campus during finals week to offer students a brain break from studying.



Chamber Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Wamidan, and the **Glee Club** all shared their talents at various concerts throughout the end of the fall semester.



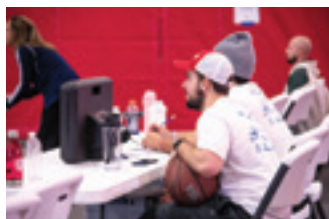
The President's Distinguished Speaker Series hosted **Richard Reeves**. His research focuses on boys and men, inequality, and social mobility. His latest book is "Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male Is Struggling, Why It Matters, and What to Do About It."



Career Services hosted a special Coffee and Careers highlighting seniors and their upcoming first destination selections. Seniors celebrated acceptance to graduate school and professional studies, as well as job offers.



Associate Professor of English and Black Studies **Timothy Lake** shared his research on **John R. Blackburn [WH1861]**, the College's first African American student. Several descendants of Blackburn were in attendance at a series of events, including a rite of return service.



Several Wabash students volunteered for the state Special Olympics basketball tournament held on campus.



The **Asian Culture Club** hosted a Lunar New Year celebration with food, activities, and conversation to welcome in the Year of the Dragon.



The J.B. Bachman '61 Class Agent Forum welcomed generations of class agents for a day of learning and camaraderie. **Andrew Biddle '17** was named the Robert R. Mitchum Award winner for exemplary work as a young class agent.

More Wabash Moments



www.wabash.edu/news

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Wabash On My Mind Podcast

Coming Soon

Big Bash

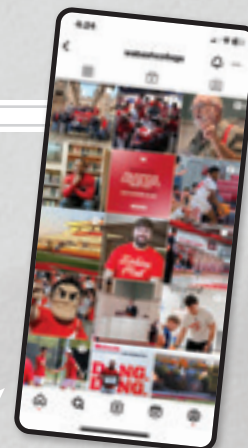
May 31–June 2, 2024

Homecoming

September 14, 2024

130th Monon Bell Classic at DePauw University

November 16, 2024



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Meet the Senior Art Majors

by **Julia Moravec**

JONAS AKERS

Indianapolis, Indiana

Jonas Akers '24 usually works behind a computer, editing every little detail, although on rare occasion he gets behind a camera. He combines photography and text-based media into digital masterpieces.

JONATHAN GONZALEZ

San Juan, Texas

A mixed-media artist by nature, Jonathan Gonzalez '24 employs his skills in his senior show. Not only is his work a mixture of materials, but it takes a multitude of forms ranging from large and small paintings to audio clips.

JACOB RIDDLE

Westfield, Indiana

Long influenced by famous filmmakers such as Steven Spielberg, Jacob Riddle '24 felt his path to becoming a filmmaker was natural, and his time at Wabash only accelerated his motivation. Now that he has several works under his belt, his final project pieces them all together into a montage. Read more about Riddle on page 24.

THANG SATHING

Greenwood, Indiana

Thang Sathing '24 uses ceramics to push the boundaries of his traditional perception of art. He wants his audience to question their own perceptions of art and ask themselves, "What is that?"

BENJAMIN HIGH

Fort Wayne, Indiana

It's hard to pin down an exact style of art that Benjamin High '24 loves most. Regardless of style, High draws inspiration from the environment around him. "I'm most interested in art that captures the human experience in whatever form that may take," he says. "I want the audience to have a window into the natural environment."

DEREK ALLEN JR.

Indianapolis, Indiana

Many people know Derek Allen Jr. '24 for his role on the Wabash football field, leading the Little Giants in receptions during the 2023 season. However, Allen taps into a different part of his identity for his senior art project: his Filipino culture. Using a mixture of abstract and colorful landscape paintings and ceramics, Allen dives into his cultural background for new inspiration.

JULIAN GAY

Indianapolis, Indiana

Julian Gay '24 loves two things: people and art. His love of both is seen in his work with the use of natural paper material to convey the intricacies of the human body. He hopes to put his creative skills to use in a career in marketing.

ALEX NGABA

**Indianapolis/
Central African Republic**

The audio-centric work of Alex Ngaba '24 includes the sounds of footsteps of students, the chirps of native birds, and the murmurs of Kaba (his native language). All of these sounds work in harmony to create an immersive history of Ngaba's life. He says, "I am trying to let my audience feel and put themselves in my story to see who I am and where I am from."

DONOVAN SNYDER

Mishawaka, Indiana

Donovan Snyder '24 combines his love for sports and pop culture in his mixed-media art, which pops off the canvas graffiti-style. His real passion, however, lies in architecture. Following his time at Wabash, Snyder hopes to get his master's in architecture and building design.



Making Every Beat Count

by Allie Northcutt



photo by Kim Johnson

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD CODY BEVELHIMER '24 felt like a rockstar when he unwrapped his first instrument.

"I don't remember why I wanted a guitar so badly for Christmas, but I did," Bevelhimer recalls with a big smile, more than a decade later. "My parents got me the classical little crappy, plywood guitar that was painted and laminated to make it look super shiny. I was so excited."

He took lessons for five years until 2014, when he was diagnosed with T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma. The treatments and medications that eventually beat the cancer caused extreme tightness in the young teen's hands.

"Every time I tried the guitar, my hand would cramp up and I just couldn't play," he says.

So Bevelhimer switched his focus onto a new instrument—the double bass.

"For some reason, that never happened with the double bass," he says. "It just felt natural."

After playing in jazz band and orchestra in high school, Bevelhimer was determined to find a college where he could combine his love for music and performance with his interest in audio and theater production.

Following the guidance of his dad, Joseph '86, and after an engaging meeting with Theater Professor Michael Abbott '85, the Zionsville High School graduate was sold on Wabash.

"Abbott answered all my questions about the music department and explained that even though Wabash doesn't have a dedicated audio program like I wanted, there were ways to supplement that," Bevelhimer says. "I felt like Wabash was the place where I would have the best holistic college experience, where I could pave the path I wanted doing what I love."

Bevelhimer has shined onstage as a member of Wabash's Chamber Orchestra and Pep Band. The music major and film and digital media minor reflects on the past four years and what he hopes to accomplish next.

Cody Bevelhimer '24 is a multi-instrumentalist who plays the piano, ukulele, and guitar, but his greatest love is for the double bass. The music major has played the bowed string instrument since he was 13, and performed in jazz band and orchestra throughout middle and high school. While at Wabash, Bevelhimer has performed as a member of the Pep Band and Chamber Orchestra, and had the opportunity to intern for the STAR Bank Performing Arts Center as an audio engineer. Off campus, he spends his free time playing the electrical bass at local gigs with a small band of family friends.

WM: What do you love about playing the double bass?

What's it like being a part of the orchestra?

You are also involved in various leadership roles with Phi Gamma Delta, Sphinx Club, and Sons of Wabash. How do you balance your busy schedule?

What does it feel like to perform live—whether you're on the Salter Hall stage or among the crowd in Chadwick Court?

What growth have you seen in yourself as a musician at Wabash?

What's next?

CB: Every instrument has its own intricacies. A violin, for example, is small and requires precise movements. The large bass requires a whole different range of motions, using a lot more of your body to play. The low resonating sound of the bass vibrates your whole body.

I had never been part of a big multigenerational orchestra before coming to Wabash. It feels like family. I remember the first practice, the conductor asked all the new members to introduce themselves. Afterward, so many people said, "It's so nice to meet you," and "We're so happy to have you here."

When I first arrived to campus, Wabash didn't have a double bass teacher and all music majors are required to take lessons. I wanted to take lessons on my instrument, so Barb Wilson (one of the orchestra's three bassists) offered to teach me. She's been incredible. She is a veteran musician who was already teaching lessons for other instruments. For her to volunteer her time to help me get better as a musician—I don't think that happens everywhere.

It can be tough, especially at a place like Wabash, where it is easy to fill your time. Semester after semester, I've had to be very diligent in organizing my schedule—figuring out where I have gaps in my day to play. It used to take me an hour to get a really good practice session in. Now I try to get there and dial in immediately. If I only have half an hour, I tell myself to make the most of it. Every beat counts.

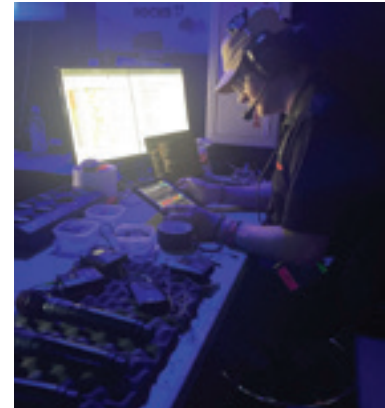
I always feel more at ease once I play the first note. A lot of the anxiety goes away, and I fall into a routine. When it's something I really enjoy playing, I have learned to channel that stress or nervousness into the music in an expressive way that brings out more of what I'm trying to convey. When you play that very last note and then hear the clapping of the crowd, it feels like a breath of fresh air.

I've grown in my appreciation and understanding of different genres. I played classical bass for eight years before coming to Wabash, and I messed around with different genres of music before—rock, pop, country—but never really taken each as it was. Being asked to join the Pep Band was definitely a change. I never thought Pep Band was the place for a double bass. We play music meant for fun, for people to enjoy. I realized I don't need to take music so seriously all the time. I can just have fun when I'm playing.

My goal is to get into audio engineering. Anytime you go to a concert or large event in a venue, there's a guy behind the soundboard. I want to be that guy. That's what I did last summer interning for the STAR Bank Performing Arts Center at my high school. I was primarily the audio guy, but I also worked as a stagehand, event manager, and liaison between the facility and visiting companies.

I would love to get involved in production work, whether it be in theater, music, or the corporate world.

What I love doing the most is being a musician and performing onstage. I hope to find a local orchestra to join. But until then, I plan to keep playing my electric bass for fun in a small band that I'm in with some friends. ■



Scaling Up

by **Kim Johnson**

David Leal '26 sits down at the piano in the center of the Salter Hall stage. Hands shaking, he plays through Johann Sebastian Bach's "Prelude in C Major" from "The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I." At the conclusion, he sighs—relief visible on his face. He stands, bows, and leaves the stage through the stage door. His second student recital is complete.



BORN TO MEXICAN PARENTS near Indianapolis, David Leal '26 is a first-generation citizen of the U.S. The second of five children, he is the first in his family to attend college. As a teen, Leal had multiple surgeries to lengthen his left leg. That process, and the subsequent rehabilitation, drives his desire to attend medical school to pursue orthopedics.

His Spanish-only-speaking parents supported him pursuing college, but could not help him with his search, applications, or financial aid. Fortunately, his manager at the Cicero, Indiana, Dairy Queen went out of his way to encourage and assist him, as did a frequent customer who happened to be a Wabash alum. That Wabash students have a high acceptance rate to medical school was appealing to the aspiring physician.

Leal describes himself as a shy perfectionist. While he excelled in science courses in high school, he quickly learned that the liberal arts curriculum and small class sizes at Wabash would require him to stretch personally and academically.

"I'm one of those people who has the mindset that you are naturally good at something or you're not," Leal says. "The thought of not being good was terrifying. I also get really

stressed and anxious when speaking. It doesn't matter if it's a whole class or two people."

The faculty of two discussion-based courses his first year, Freshman Tutorial and Enduring Questions, helped him open up and talk more.

"Fear of rejection is a real thing and it affects how you interact with people at all different levels," says Associate Professor of Biology Patrick Burton, who had Leal in his



photos by Kim Johnson

Biology 112 and Enduring Questions (EQ) classes the same semester.

"In biology lab he was chatty with his group, but it was very hard for him to talk in EQ, which is a discussion-based class. We spent a lot of time outside of class talking so he would be more confident," Burton continues. "Slowly, he would start making a comment in class. When nothing bad happened he discovered, 'Oh, I can do that.' He went from this quiet kid to one of the guys who helped drive discussion. He credits me, but he should credit himself for figuring out how to find his voice in the classroom."

Leal says an introduction to psychology course also expanded his understanding of how to overcome his fear.

"I fell in love with psychology. It taught me things I didn't know about myself," he says. "Psychology is about more than just mental health. It includes

how the mind works and how it affects our behaviors."

When he received a campus-wide email about piano lessons, he decided to try it.

"I wanted to learn to play the violin when I was in middle and high school, but I just never went for it. Because I was too scared," he says. "But when I saw the email, I thought, 'Why not?' Like psychology, it was something new that was different from everything else I'd been doing. Plus, I thought it could be a cool party trick."

His teacher, Diane Norton, humanities and collection development coordinator at Lilly Library and adjunct instructor of piano, has seen him grow technically and emotionally in a few short semesters.

"David has progressed beautifully," Norton says. "He was thinking about it too much. But I've enjoyed seeing and hearing him open his heart and allowing himself to be expressive."

"I'm a perfectionist so I get frustrated with the pieces, but that isn't the point of playing an instrument," Leal says. "The point is to get your emotions out. Emotions aren't perfect so I shouldn't strive to be perfect. I should

“

I fell in love with psychology. It taught me things I didn't know about myself.”

strive to give what I'm feeling. I'm trying to play with my heart instead of my brain."

Norton usually teaches advanced piano students. She delights in seeing the beginner take big steps.

"I was so proud of him last spring when he played for the first time in public. He was extraordinarily nervous," she continues. "The look on his face when he was finished was like a gift. Not only was he happy, but he was a little bit proud of himself. I was very proud because that's tough."

Leal is taking life one note at a time. The member of Kappa Sigma, the Public Health Organization, and sh'OUT continues to seek ways to get involved and learn more about himself and others.

"We are given these small opportunities. I am trying to put myself out there and be more than just a student," he concludes. "I'm still working through it, but I try my best. I have become better." ■



David Leal '26 with his piano instructor, Diane Norton.

Season in Sports



Xander Straw '26



Quinn Sholar '26



Avery Beaver '24



Evan Burge '24

photo by Kodiak Creative

Swimming and Diving

Wabash finished third out of nine teams at the 2024 North Coast Athletic Conference Men's Swimming and Diving Championships. **Nicholas Plumb '27** picked up all-NCAC honors with a third-place finish in the 200-yard backstroke. He broke his own freshman record and the school record. The Little Giant foursome of **Ethan Johns '25**, **Quinn Sweeney '27**, **John Allen '26**, and **Xander Straw '26** captured all-conference honors with a third-place finish in the 800-yard freestyle relay. The 2023-2024 Wabash College swimming and diving team was recognized by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) as a Scholar All-America Team for the 2023 fall semester.

Indoor Track and Field

The Wabash College track and field team finished second at the 2024 North Coast Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships and had 11 all-NCAC performances, one relay champion, and one individual champion across the two-day competition. **Will Neubauer '25** finished first in the 800-meter, and **David Adesanya '27** finished second in the same event. **Conner Grimes '26** set a new school record in the 60-meter dash and earned two all-NCAC honors claiming second place in both the 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash. **Joe Barnett '24** crossed the line in third place in the 3,000-meter run and the 5,000-meter run. The group of Grimes, **Tanner Brooks '27**, **Owen Smith '26**, and **Howie Steele '24** ran to a third-place finish in the 4x200-meter relay. The quartet of Steele, Adesanya, **Nathan France '24**, and Neubauer captured a second-place finish in the 4x400-meter relay. **Sly Williams '26** set a new school record and finished third in the long jump to earn all-NCAC honors. The quartet of Neubauer, France, Adesanya, and **Brayden Curnutt '26** won the distance medley relay. **Quinn Sholar '26** finished second in the shot put.

Basketball

The Little Giant basketball team (20-9, 13-3 NCAC) won the NCAC regular season conference championship for the second time in three years. The team also won the tournament title for the third consecutive season and earned a trip to the NCAA Division III men's basketball tournament. This marks the second time in school history the Little Giants have made three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. **Ahmoni Jones '24** earned first team all-NCAC honors for the second consecutive season and received the Al Van Wie Award as the tournament most valuable player for the second consecutive year. **Avery Beaver '24** received second team all-NCAC honors, and **Sam Comer '24** was voted to the third team all-NCAC. In addition, **Noah Hupmann '25** was named to the all-tournament team after breaking the NCAC tournament record for blocked shots with 16 in three games. The Wabash coaches Kyle Brumett, Pat Sullivan, Aaron Jacobs, and Ron Henricks were named the NCAC Men's Basketball Staff of the Year. Wabash ended the season in an overtime loss at the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Wrestling

Under the leadership of first-year head coach, Jake Fredricksen, six Wabash College wrestlers qualified for the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament. **James Day '26** (125 pounds) captured a third-place finish to earn all-America honors for the first time in his career. Wabash finished in a tie for 20th place out of 66 teams competing. In addition, **Evan Burge '24** (141 pounds), **Daniel Uribe '25** (149 pounds), **Tim Smith '26** (157 pounds), **Jesse Herrera '26** (165 pounds), and **Chase Baczek '26** (184 pounds) advanced to the national tournament after earning top-three finishes at the NCAA Central Region Tournament. Wabash finished second out of 19 teams competing at the DIII Central Region event.



David Adesanya '27



Joe Barnett '24



Ethan Johns '25



Howie Steele '24 and Aidan Makled '24



James Day '26

photo by Kodiak Creative



Nick Sommers '27



Arlie Benson '26

photo by Kodiak Creative



Pat Sullivan



James Day '26



Sam Comer '24



Daniel Uribe '25

photo by Kodiak Creative



Creating Connections

by Richard Paige

E DREECE REDMOND '24 admits that when he entered Wabash in Fall 2020, he didn't know what lay ahead, but he was ready for it.

"No one really ever knows what to expect going to college. I knew it was going to be challenging," he says. "I was put in a position to find success by the people here at the College."

In his four years, Redmond helped the Little Giant basketball team win 77% of its games since his pandemic-shortened freshman season, capture five NCAC championships, and earn three NCAA tournament appearances, including a berth in the NCAA DIII National Semifinals in 2022. Off the court, the psychology major from Indianapolis has accepted a postgraduation job offer from Eli Lilly and Company.

"Basketball has been a means of helping me navigate different problems and learn how to talk to people in different ways," says the point guard. "I learned how to ask for help, to ask, 'What's my role on this team, and how can I be most effective?'"

With an interest in business, Redmond assumed he would be an economics major, but early on, he found himself more engaged and interested in psychology courses. He liked the idea of learning about how to learn and was able to connect that to his business interests.

"Learning why people make decisions is important in so many areas," he says. "If you are in marketing, you want to know how the brain works and why people are attracted to certain things, or what keeps people's attention. I have learned to apply it to many places."

He joined the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship (CIBE) on campus and gained experience through project and consultancy work. The efforts in the CIBE helped him land an internship during the summer of his sophomore year with Stanton Chase, an executive search firm headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Redmond leaned on some of his basketball skills to help him navigate challenges in the business world, learning how to identify a problem, listen to others, and work together to determine solutions.

"He's industrious, tenacious, and a good relationship builder," says Jeff Perkins '89, managing director at Stanton Chase. "Edreece was good at identifying talent to complete assignments and could communicate effectively with our clients."

Perkins was impressed with Redmond's ability to quickly create a life for himself during that summer experience. He found an evening job, got involved in local sports, and remained a strong contributor at work.

"On top of time management, Wabash has taught me a lot about managing priorities," Redmond says. "Being a collegiate athlete is not always easy. You have to be able to prioritize."

Last summer, Redmond wanted to see how human resources functions at a larger company so he applied for and completed an internship in the human resources department at Eli Lilly.

"There was so much to soak up," he explains. "It's so big, with so many different functions that it's necessary to learn not just what they are doing, but why they are where they are."

Redmond's big project was creating a two-year onboarding experience for H.R. professionals in business-facing roles. He was also expected to find resources and build a professional network.

"They want to see how good you are figuring things out," he continues. "There isn't a lot of hand holding; they expect you to go out and make connections with people. They don't expect you to know everything by yourself, but they do expect you to go out and find the answers."

Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett knows that Redmond thrives in those situations because he has seen that trait in Redmond on and off the court. The coach pushes his players to pursue opportunities and to take advantage of them when they arise. The goal stretches beyond campus and to what is possible following graduation.

"We're pushing them to stretch themselves, to take advantage, to be extraordinary," Brumett says. "Edreece has a persistence about him that allows him to try things and understand the process. He brightens every room, and he always has. Now you see him as a professional more than a student, or even a basketball player. That's a proud moment for a coach."

An easy smile extends across Redmond's face as he talks about his job search being completed well in advance of Commencement.

"Four years just flies by," he says. "The next chapter of your life is going to be a lot different than what it is now. I made the right choice in Wabash, and I'm happy to have arrived at this moment." ■

“I learned how to ask for help, to ask, ‘What’s my role on this team, and how can I be most effective?’ Those questions I asked in practice were the same questions I faced in my internships, so it helped me learn how to have those conversations.”





Speaking of Sports

‘The Next Steven Spielberg’

by Allie Northcutt

photo by Juila Moravec

A **S A HIGH SCHOOLER**, Jacob Riddle '24 realized his passion for watching films was different than that of the average 15-year-old.

“When most of my friends would spend their Friday nights going out with friends, I found comfort in watching classic films at home,” Riddle recalled. “My dad would ask me why I was watching ‘The Godfather Part II.’ I would say something outlandishly technical about the musical score, sound design, or cinematography, and my dad would say, ‘What on earth are you talking about?’”

“It all snowballed into this giant obsession,” he says. “I realized, maybe this is something I can do. I wanted to get behind the camera myself and replicate things that I was seeing.”

Riddle spent the rest of his high school years reediting movie trailers for fun and shooting short films on his phone. Eventually, he saved up enough money to purchase his own professional equipment, including cameras, lenses, and a drone for aerial cinematography.

The Westfield High School wide receiver wanted to find a college where he could combine two of his passions: film and football.

After a phone call with Russ Harbaugh '06, former Little Giants quarterback and a critically acclaimed filmmaker known for his feature film “Love After Love,” Riddle made his decision.

“With the end goal of becoming a film director, I felt like the College was the best place because of the people,” says the art major and film and digital media minor. “I thought Wabash would give me the best chance.”

ART PROFESSOR MATT WEEDMAN says Riddle came to Wabash with experience and a hyperfocused drive he’d never seen before in such a young student.

“The first time I heard about him was when (Spanish professor) Dan Rogers said, ‘There’s this kid who is making all these films,’ and then somebody sent me one,” says Weedman. “I was like, ‘This is nuts,’ but it was also fantastic.”

“The way he works his camera is extraordinarily sophisticated, and how that moves through edits is a hard thing to do,” he says. “He came in at a level that was very striking.”

Riddle’s knowledge of the business side of being an artist also impressed Weedman. Early in his tenure, he knew how to create a budget for his projects; understood the importance of event planning, communicating, and recruiting; and knew how to effectively market his work.

Dill Fund Supports Riddle

During his tenure at Wabash, Jacob Riddle '24 has been able to secure several grants to help fund some of his movie projects, including "One Man Show," which premiered last fall. The 15-minute short film was supported by the Dill Fund.

Established by **G. Michael Dill '71**, the fund supports student internships, independent study, and educational opportunities not available on the Wabash campus. Recipients have used stipends to conduct cancer research at the University of Notre Dame, practice curation at the South Bend Museum of Art, and learn more about the law with the Legal Aid Society, among many other off-campus opportunities. Students apply for funding through Career Services.

"Jacob really used the Dill Fund to push himself creatively and tackle what is easily one of the biggest and hardest films he's done yet," says Art Professor Matt Weedman. "He has set a bar, and not only is it a high bar, but it's one that shows other students what they can do, too."

Drawing inspiration from the Oscar-winning movie musical "La La Land," Riddle's "One Man Show" was a nearly year-long project that involved assembling a large cast and crew, drawing from the Wabash community and Purdue University arts faculty, and several freelance professionals. One of those professionals was Eric Belvin, a composer, sound designer, and pianist who has contributed to a variety of projects, including the 2022 World Cup Draw and MSNBC's four-part documentary series "Model America."

"I am very grateful for the Dill Fund, because the project would not have been possible without it," Riddle says.

IN THE PAST THREE years, Riddle has written, directed, and produced 10 short films. These works range in genre and topic, from pulp horror and science fiction to earnest explorations of love and masculinity.

"I enjoy directing the most," Riddle explains. "For 'One Man Show,' specifically, I shot some stuff, but the majority of the shoot was actually me being a director, looking at a monitor and being able to focus on performances, while having my cinematographer handle the actual shot making."

"Previously, I would have to worry about composing the shot while also making sure the audio is good, the lighting is good, the acting is good," he continues. "That can all be very challenging to juggle."

Rogers, who acted in Riddle's short sci-fi film "Lucid," got to experience his student's directing firsthand.

"From the first day of the project, Jacob was exceptionally organized," says Rogers. "He had a very clear vision of what he wanted to happen, and had the whole thing mapped out, shot by shot. The way he communicated with and encouraged everyone throughout the project was impressive."

Rogers was blown away by Riddle's ability to tackle such projects while also being highly involved as a student on campus. In addition to independent filmmaking and football, he is president of film club and a member of Sons of Wabash, and has served in a variety of leadership roles in Sigma Chi fraternity.

"Division III athletics allows for students like Jacob to thrive, to be able to be a football player, filmmaker, and whatever else," says Rogers. "But it's ultimately up to the students to take advantage of opportunities and advocate for what they are passionate about. He's done just that."

RIDDLE'S GOAL IS TO CONTINUE film studies after graduation and to keep making movies. He understands it will take some time, more experience, and maybe moving out of his home state, but his ultimate dream is to become "an established name that people know."

"I want to be the greatest filmmaker to ever come out of Wabash," Riddle says with a smile, "the next Steven Spielberg."

His professors are confident he'll one day make a name for himself in Hollywood.

"There's a lifetime of frustration and trial ahead, and Jacob doesn't have any illusions about what he is getting himself into," Weedman concludes. "I'm excited to see him make it big and can't wait for him to come back to Wabash one day to share his experiences and wisdom with the students who dream to follow in his footsteps." ■

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To learn more about and watch Jacob Riddle's short films, visit his portfolio at www.filmfreeway.com/JacobRiddle.





CREATING THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT

by **Kim Johnson**



The grandson of Dutch American farmers from Iowa, Brian Sawyer '84 grew up with an appreciation for history, the natural world, and traditional architecture and gardens. He was drawn to Wabash for its simplicity, beauty, and charm. For 25 years, he and his business partner, John Berson, have led an architecture, landscape architecture, and interior design firm in New York City.



B



BRIAN SAWYER '84 spent many happy moments of his childhood alongside his mother exploring Conner Prairie, small museums around Indiana, and the vast woodlands next to his home in Indianapolis.

"I was fascinated with everything," Sawyer says. "I was always collecting plants, rocks, and objects found in the woods and bringing things back to the house—minerals, mosses, sapling trees, ferns, bulbs, amphibians, leaves, and odd fungi."

He was particularly interested in the collection of orchids at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (now Newfields) greenhouse. As a result, 13-year-old Sawyer started his own collection of orchids.

"My amazing father partitioned our basement so that my brothers and I had our own hobby spaces and workshops" he continues. "Mine included a rock polishing station, a printing press, and racks of plants under artificial lights. There were so many plants that eventually, my father built a greenhouse for me."

As a music major and biology minor at Wabash, Sawyer was given the unique opportunity to oversee the College's greenhouse.

"Because of the grace of (Professor of Biology) David Polley, I was given management responsibility of the greenhouse. It was this special refuge for me," says Sawyer. "I moved my orchid collection to campus and overran it with all my plants."

Polley viewed the relationship as less about grace and more about what Sawyer brought to the place.

"It was a pretty sad greenhouse," says Polley. "He brought his orchids, and it became this vibrant place of color. You could see by the way he set up his collection that he was artistic. It became a place people could visit to get a break from the gray winter skies."

Sawyer's favorite classes at Wabash included Polley's botany course, ecology, Classics, and Professor of Music David Greene's philosophy and music course, which Sawyer describes as "the link between it all."

It was Greene who helped Sawyer unearth his calling when he suggested Sawyer consider graduate work in design. That led to Sawyer getting a master's in landscape architecture at University of Virginia. He then spent several years working for the major New York City architecture firm Robert A.M. Stern Architects.

"I was immersed in landscape design and eventually ran the Landscape Architecture Department," he says. "I started my (Sawyer|Berson) firm because I wanted to design the houses as well.



Southampton Contemporary | photos by William Waldron

“There are not many people doing what we are doing,” Sawyer continues. “Architecture, landscape architecture, and interiors—I am responsible for creating the initial designs for most everything. I can see the entire house, its style, its plan, and then the landscapes surrounding it.”

Sawyer, his partner, John Berson, and their team of 36 architects, landscape architects, and interior designers view the holistic design approach as the most important part of their process.

“What we care about are beautiful and appropriate environments; it’s that simple,” says Sawyer. “For a house that means comfortable, beautiful, but

highly functional. And for gardens it’s not just function and beauty, but layers of meaning and purpose both aesthetic and ecological. This is our firm’s philosophy and our clients expect us to provide this uniquely to every project.”

A typical day at the office might include client and consultant meetings, as well as team staff meetings for design or project strategies on various houses, apartments, gardens, and interiors. Some days there will be a *charrette*—an intense design session which may go into the wee hours with team members drawing and rendering until it is perfect.



Colonial Revival | top photo by Joshua McHugh | bottom photo by Nikolas Koenig



The open-concept design of the firm's studio on 19th and Park Avenue South in Manhattan allows for easy networking and cross-dialogue among departments and coworkers.

"What I like most is collaboration and working with John and our various teams," Sawyer says. "The process and working with people who I respect and admire is what gets me to work every day."

The task of bringing different ideas to the table every time comes with each new project.

"The bad thing is we didn't design a widget, because we could be retired at this point," he says with a laugh. "The good thing is that we didn't design a widget because every project is a new

start. But, you can get caught up in applying the same methods to new problems. The challenge is creating new approaches and ideas so that every project is unique.

"You have to push yourself and push yourself," he concludes. "And if you don't second-guess yourself, nobody else will, and you will never advance things that way. You have to constantly think about how you can do it better." ■

To honor his former music professors **Fred Enenbach** and **David Greene**, Sawyer has created the Enenbach-Greene Fine Arts Internship. It provides a summer internship opportunity in the fine arts or in the College's humanities and fine arts departments.



Water Mill | all photos by Joshua McHugh



THE MAKING OF 'SOMETHING ROTTEN!'

by Allie Northcutt

CRAFTING ONE OF THE BIGGEST theater productions in the College's history started with a phone call that Director, Professor of Theater, and Music Department Chair Michael Abbott '85 called a "make-or-break moment."

After the department decided to include a musical in the 2023–24 season—the first to hit the Ball Theater stage in nearly a decade—Abbott knew he needed just the right person to help him pull it off.

"In February 2023, Choreography Director Kathleen 'Kat' Hickey was the first person I contacted," Abbott recalls. "I knew I had to get her first. It's a huge dance show and she's the pivotal firecracker that could make it all happen. She gets us, she knows Wabash. If she said no, we wouldn't have a show."

Thankfully, Hickey agreed to join Abbott in bringing "Something Rotten!" to campus. The dance lecturer from Purdue University also choreographed Wabash's last musical in 2014, the Tony Award-winning "Guys and Dolls."

Written by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell, "Something Rotten!" is set in the 1590s and follows brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom as they desperately attempt to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of the Renaissance rock star known as The Bard. When a local soothsayer foretells the future of theater involving singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, the duo sets out to write the world's very first musical.

Leading up to the show's run in November, Abbott spent nine months securing support and funding, hosting

auditions and callbacks, arranging an ever-changing rehearsal schedule, and uniting a large cast, orchestra, and stage crew.

"It was a journey, easily one of the hardest things I've done," Abbott says. "But I felt tremendous gratitude knowing every night when I came to rehearsal that this company—Kat, Colleen Pingel (vocal director), the cast and crew—was willing to give me everything they had, week after week.

"I'm very grateful to Wabash too," he concludes. "Putting on a musical like this is expensive and hard, and everyone from the top down just kept saying, 'Yes, we want to support this.' It's thanks to them that we were able to put on such a fantastic show, one that audiences will not soon forget."

Photos by: Andrew Day, Kim Johnson, and Allie Northcutt

CAST

Nick Bottom	Logan Weilbaker '25
Nigel Bottom	Luke Fincher '24
Shakespeare	Tom Oppman '25
Nostradamus	Alex Schmidt '27
Bea	Julia Phipps (Academic Administrative Coordinator to the Fine Arts Center)
Brother Jeremiah	Jim Cherry (Associate Professor of Theater)
Portia	Elizabeth Hutson (Crawfordsville native)
Minstrel	Thomas Bowling (Crawfordsville High School)
Lord Clapham	Hayden Kammer '24
Shylock	Max Hsu (Language Intern)
The male ensemble	Thomas Bowling, Nathan Felix '24, Alex Kindig '26, Bennett Strain '26, and Carl Suba '25
The female ensemble	Crawfordsville High School students Zoe Abbott, Paige Johnson, Katherine Novak, and Lisa Miellet (Language Intern)

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Director	Michael Abbott '85
Vocal Director	Colleen Pingel
Choreography Director	Kathleen Hickey
Scenic and Technical Director	David Vogel
Costume Designer	Andrea Bear
Lighting Designer	Scott Olinger
Rehearsal Accompanist	Cheryl Everett
Stage Manager	Drew Johannes '23
Assistant Stage Managers	Drew DeLor '24 and Jacob Graden '25
Sound Design	AKD Audio Solutions
Sound Technician	Kenny Max and David Stanton
Assistant Technical Director	Todd Handlogten
Scenic Charge Artist	Benjamin High '24
Stitchers	Allison Jones and Stithers
Lighting Board Operator	Benjamin High '24
Spotlight Operators	Xavier Cienfuegos '27 and Edsel Reyna '26
Stage Crew	Jackson Bougher '26 and Isaac Morrison '26
Wardrobe Supervisor	K'tren Wilson '24
Wardrobe	Precious Ainabor '26, Kade Irwin '25, Joshua Massaquoi '26, Maria Jose Oviedo Pruano (Language Intern), and K'tren Wilson '24
Set Construction	Ryan Frazier '26, Benjamin High '24, Jacob Irick '25, Mike Kopecky '27, Jesus Monroy Mazcorro '24, William Morris '25, Tanner Quackenbush '26, Edsel Reyna '26, and Wade Wisler '17
Costumers	Allison Jones, Anthony Sirk, K'tren Wilson '24, Precious Ainabor '26, Oscar Jacome Huesca '25, Kade Irwin '25, Rylan Perkins '17, Gwyn Redding, and Evie Redding

ORCHESTRA

Conductor	Scott Pazera (Director of Wabash's Jazz Ensemble)
Violin	Alex Thomas
Bass	Thomas Brinkley
Drums	Greg Carey and Dane Market '26
Guitar	Quintin Danzi and Scott Pazera
Keyboard	Cheryl Everett, Tom Lowe, and Benjamin Casica-Patton '25
Reed	Patrick Burnette, John Holt, and Jim Swift
Trumpet	Bruce Knepper and Steve Parke
Trombone	Brian Pattison

FAVORITE 'SOMETHING ROTTEN!' MOMENT



Tom Oppman '25

"I channeled different musicians and characters like Robert Plant from Led Zepplin, Johnny Depp as Captain Jack Sparrow, and Mike Myers as Austin Powers to influence my stage presence playing the role of Shakespeare. My favorite moment was performing my first song, 'Will Power,' where I got to channel a lot of that exaggerated, sexy rock star energy this character is infused with."



Logan Weilbaker '25

"Figuring out Nick's motivations was challenging. He's a guy who loves his wife, loves his brother, and wants what all of us want, just a simple life and a cottage in the country. I've never been married, I don't have any siblings, but I do know what it's like to care about someone and to feel the pressure of having to deliver. Michael encouraged me to dive into those experiences with this character. I usually hate playing the leading role, but I felt very honored that he trusted in me to pull it off."



AUDITIONS

August 22 and 23

Both nights of auditions consisted of dancing and singing. Choreography Director Kat Hickey led walking patterns and stretches to warm up the body. Then auditioners got a small taste of what it will feel like to participate in the 15 different full ensemble dances featured in “Something Rotten!” Director Michael Abbott and Vocal Director Colleen Pingel then asked each actor to sing a show tune-style song of their choice. Auditioners showed off their vocal talents with songs like “Be Our Guest” from “Beauty and the Beast,” “You’ll Be Back” from “Hamilton,” and “When Words Fail” from “Shrek the Musical.”



Thomas Bowling



Katherine Novak
and Alex Kindig '26



Director **Michael Abbott '85** with Stage Manager **Drew Johannes '23**

TABLE READ

August 27



Hayden Kammer '24 and Max Hsu



Costume Designer **Andrea Bear**



Scenic Director **David Vogel**

All actors got together for the very first time to read their lines and sing along (if they could) to Broadway recordings of each song, while Stage Manager Drew Johannes '23 reviewed stage directions. Costume Designer Andrea Bear and Scenic and Technical Director David Vogel also shared their visions of the overall look and staging concept for “Something Rotten!” The night gave actors a general awareness of the plot and tone, so that when rehearsals officially started, they had some idea of how each scene and their own characters fit into the show.

CHOREOGRAPHY REHEARSALS

Many actors described choreography rehearsals as being both exhilarating and grueling. Those mixed emotions were felt by Hickey, too, who admits to initially being both excited and nervous about directing the tap dance numbers in the musical. She says, "I was very upfront with the fact that I have not tapped since I was a child, but Michael had faith that I could somehow pull it off. I managed to teach myself the basic tap steps in nine weeks in order to put together some semblance of choreography that was both challenging and doable for the performers."



"One of my favorite moments during the rehearsal process was when the cast finally felt like they were dancing after 'A Musical.' I can't remember exactly when it happened but after drilling this choreography for weeks, they danced it, and it was simply electric!"

—Choreography Director
Kathleen Hickey

VOCAL REHEARSALS



Vocal Director
Colleen Pingel



Elizabeth Hutson

Like the choreography, **vocal rehearsals presented challenges** as some actors were initially unsure of their vocal range or didn't have experience reading sheet music. Vocal Director Pingel was patient and encouraged lead and ensemble performers to push themselves week after week. Before diving into songs as a group or individually in practice rooms with Rehearsal Accompanist Cheryl Everett, the cast participated in breathing and vocal warm-ups and exercises.

SET DESIGN



"**'Something Rotten!'** was David Vogel's first big project leading student workers as the scenic and technical director. When it all came together, the small, yet efficient, structural pieces constructed by Vogel and crew allowed for quick and seamless switches from scene to scene.



Jesus Monrroy Mazcorro '24
and Jacob Irick '25



COSTUME DESIGN



Oscar Jacome Huesca '25



Precious Ainabor '26

Costume Designer Bear, stitchers Allison Jones and Anthony Sirk, and student costumers were tasked with creating a laundry-list of outfits that featured a heavy Shakespearean look while also staying light enough for the actors to comfortably dance, sing, and navigate numerous quick changes throughout the show. "There were just so many ridiculous elements to the script that really let me play with how the characters should be costumed," says Bear. "With Elizabethan characters, dancing eggs, and grim reapers, there were a lot of elements to have fun with."

FIRST RUN-THROUGH



Exactly as it sounds, the first run-through was the first time the cast ran through the entire musical without interruption. At the end of it all, the stage manager and directors shared notes with actors on what scenes and lines need tweaked and strengthened.



October 5

TECH REHEARSAL

This is the first time light and sound levels are tested and prepared for opening of the show. Actors stand in certain areas on stage to ensure they are properly lit and delivering lines in a way that ensures any background noises don't overpower their voices. Paige Johnson, a member of the ensemble, says "Tech rehearsals are long days of standing around on stage, skipping through scenes, singing songs multiple times, dancing, and lots and lots of stopping and saying, 'Can we do that again?'"



October 28



Also known as a “cue-to-cue,” shift is the first rehearsal where actors participate in full costume changes with costumers and wardrobe. Taking place three days ahead of opening night, the crew also spent the night adding final touches to the construction of the set and art featured on stage.



“Serving as head of wardrobe was so much fun, especially as someone who has experience acting. I really enjoyed being there to support the actors, keeping them calm if they couldn’t get a zipper up or find the head hole. There were many times where I had to be like, ‘We’ll get it. It’s OK, just breathe. We still have six seconds, that’s like a minute in theater time!’”

—K’tren Wilson ’24



Conductor Scott Pazera

“I feel like I had the best seat in the house every night because I could see everything from where I was sitting to the point where on the third night, Cheryl (Everett) had to poke me to stop watching and said, ‘Hey, we’re supposed to go on!’”



Vocal Director Colleen Pingel

“I loved working with Michael, Kat, and Cheryl. It was the best collaborative experience I have ever had. I remember sitting in the audience opening night with an immense sense of pride, gratitude, and awe of how beautiful the cast sounded.”

SHIFT REHEARSAL

October 29



SITZPROBE



Elizabeth Hutson, who played Portia, perfectly sums up the vibe of sitzprobe. She says, “It’s the first time when all the pieces of the puzzle come together: the cast, the costumes, the lights, the set, the sound, and the orchestra. It’s exhausting, and it’s THE BEST!”



FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL

October 30

OPENING NIGHT

November 1

Director Abbott reflected on all that went into the musical ahead of its opening night. From having the opportunity to collaborate with brilliant directors and crew members to directing a talented pool of actors—one of whom was his daughter, Zoe—Abbott had a lot to be proud of with the making of “Something Rotten!” “I just want my team to know that I love them,” says Abbott. “Theater tends to make families, and that’s exactly what happened here.”



'IT'S A MUSICAL'

by Paige Johnson

AUDITIONS MAKE ME NERVOUS, and "Something Rotten!" was no exception.

After dancing 13 years, last July I made the difficult decision to step away. Studying four disciplines, demonstrating, and dancing in the company meant 10–15 hours a week in the studio. Knowing I was starting high school, I wanted the opportunity to try things I had never done before.

I wasn't quite sure what would fill my time until my friend Zoe Abbott mentioned Wabash was planning a musical and encouraged me to audition with her.

Walking into Ball Theater for the first time was nerve-racking. I knew there were people older and more experienced than me trying out. But it immediately felt different than most other auditions I'd experienced. Everyone—the directors, the stage manager, and the fellow actors—built each other up. They smiled, joked around, and applauded after each audition, making me feel more at ease.

Five days later, I was walking into the theater for our table read as a member of the ensemble. I knew just by being around these other actors that I would become better. I was even more excited for rehearsals to start.

Singing rehearsals were my favorite. Our vocal director, Colleen Pingel, taught us techniques to keep our voices healthy, to massage our vocal cords, and to read music better. In nine weeks, I grew vocally stronger, was able to pick up music faster, and could hit high notes easier. She took us from a group that had never sung together to an ensemble that sounded professional.

Choreography rehearsals were tiring, but I loved dancing on the Ball Theater stage and in the Experimental Theater. While we were learning the kick line in the biggest musical number, "It's a Musical," Choreography Director Kat Hickey made us restart over and over again until it was right. She was tough on us during rehearsals, but she let us laugh—a lot.

It felt like a safe space for me. Kat had stepped into a mentor role that I desperately needed after leaving the studio. She gave me corrections and helped me with anything I needed and had faith in me as a leader—she even asked me to help the college guys with tap.

On closing night, Kat cried during her preshow speech, because she said we had made her proud. "Something Rotten!" would not have been as good as it was without Kat's help.

"My favorite memory from the show was one night after rehearsal had ended. As everyone was putting their shoes and costumes away, Lisa Miellet and I started singing. Everyone joined in and eventually the tiny dressing room was filled with the sound of the entire cast. As the song ended, we all laughed and cheered. At that moment, I knew these were my people."



At our last run-through before adding tech and the orchestra, Director Michael Abbott asked us to honor our rehearsal accompanist, Cheryl Everett, in whatever way we could: replace names with "Cheryl," put it at the end of songs, drop it in our lines, just to make her laugh. Seeing how happy the show made Cheryl reminded me of how much fun the audience would have, too, and helped get me through the extra-long nights the last week.

Opening nights are always a mix of excitement, dread, and nerves. As it got closer to our first curtain, I got more and more anxious. The lights came on, the orchestra played, and Thomas Bowling started "Welcome to the Renaissance." I took a deep breath and got in position.

Once I started singing, I was so preoccupied with making sure I was doing everything correctly with a smile on my face that I no longer had time to be nervous. The theater was full of people who erupted into applause after our opening number.

Being able to finally perform for a crowd and shine onstage with my castmates was exciting, and we fed off each other's energy all night.

I was not ready for it to end.

I knew it was the last time I was going to see most of the cast and crew, which broke my heart the most. I did not want to let go of these amazing people. We came together as a diverse group of individuals with only one thing in common: "Something Rotten!" And they quickly became family.

But all good things must come to an end. When the curtain closed Nov. 4, we all left Ball Theater as the cast of "Something Rotten!" for the last time.

Paige Johnson is a freshman at Crawfordsville High School. She is a member of Dynamic Expressions Show Choir and was recently in "Footloose." "Something Rotten!" was her Ball Theater debut.

THE LANGUAGE OF ART

by Kim Johnson





"In Color We Trust" at the Bode Gallery in Berlin, Germany, 2022.



"Forged in the Crucibles of Freedom," in "In Medias Res," at Ross + Kramer Gallery, New York, 2023.

ART HAS ALWAYS BEEN A WAY FOR PATRICK ALSTON '13 TO MAKE SENSE OF THE WORLD. THE RANDOM DECAY OF BUILDINGS IN NEW YORK CITY, THE DISORDER AND TRAUMA AROUND HIM, AND THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ART HE LEARNED AT WABASH HAVE CREATED THE FOUNDATION FOR THE BLOOMING CAREER OF A YOUNG ARTIST.





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ATRICK ALSTON '13 SPEAKS IN ABSTRACT.

"I appreciate the cross-cultural ties of abstraction and influences from around the world," Alston says. "It was something that felt like a universal connector between generations, between cultures, it felt like something where my voice was most comfortable."

"I needed the experience at Wabash to learn the traditional focuses of painting," he says. "But it gets really exciting when you break that mold and break into this language that has no bounds and is not necessarily tied to anything visually in our world."

If size is volume, Alston's giant works are loud.

"It is appropriate for the works to be in these grandiose scales. It makes it all encompassing," he says. "I don't know if smaller works of mine have the same impact as larger works. I scaled up as I moved along in my art career, and it has felt great."

Alston wants his art to start conversations.

"The most important thing for me is dialogue," he says. "I don't want people to view the works as dictating any message or beating across the heads of the viewer. I want the dialog to begin with either their appreciation or disdain for the work. I just want to start a conversation and have the works sort of live on their own."

"In many ways, the works are having conversations with audiences without me," Alston continues. "Right now, I have a number of paintings in the world that are continuously having conversations with people. It's just important to begin that conversation and contribute."

"Lighted Path, Break Free the Door That Illuminates Us," in "Post-Traumatism: In Search of Freedom," at The Harvey Gantt Center for African American Studies in Charlotte, North Carolina, 2023.



GROWING UP IN THE BRONX, Alston spent hours in his room looking out the window and sketching what he saw.

“It was one of the ways I was able to understand the world around me and process thoughts,” he says. “I had a fascination for the environment. It was a challenge as well—something I wanted to perfect, call my own.”

Alston was recruited to Wabash from the Eagle Academy for Young Men. Crawfordsville was different than anything he had experienced to that point.

“I appreciated the culture shock. Being at Wabash helped to diversify my experiences,” he says. “I only took one art class in high school. Wabash was the first time I was in the presence of a working artist like (Emeritus) Professor of Art Doug Calisch. It was my first experience with stretching canvas, and I had my first easel. It was the introduction to what it means to be a fine artist. It was my introduction to the study of art, but also the rigors of the practice of being an artist.”

Calisch isn’t surprised by Alston’s success even though he came to Wabash with little artistic foundation.

“Patrick had an emotional need to paint. It was inside him,” Calisch says. “He came about knowing what he wanted to do by not doing what people told him to do. Every step of the way, he was defending his work, because it was different than what people had expected.”

ALSTON’S ART HAS BEEN part of group and solo exhibitions in galleries and museums around the world. Currently, the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts+Culture, in Charlotte, North Carolina, is hosting Alston’s first solo museum exhibition in the U.S. titled, “Post-Traumatism: In Search of Freedom.”

“I understand my position in the relay race of life—even if it’s me just passing this baton of an idea on, I’m continuing that race forward,” Alston says.

“My practice isn’t the same without an audience,” he continues. “Being able to present it in a museum feels full circle from when I was trying to figure everything out to finally getting an institution to open up the doors and say, ‘We would love to have a show with you.’ A lot of people call me young, but it feels like a long time coming. It also feels like it’s just the beginning.” ■



Top: “In Medias Res” at Ross + Kramer Gallery, New York, 2023.

Bottom: “A Few Stars, A Lot of Stripes,” displayed in “In Our Time: Selections from the Singer Collection,” at Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA), Scottsdale, Arizona, 2023.

“PATRICK ALSTON IS A VERY STRONG ABSTRACT PAINTER. WHAT I FIND MOST IMPRESSIVE ABOUT HIS PRACTICE IS HIS KEEN ABILITY TO BRING ABOUT THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN DIFFERENT TEXTURES AND COLORS. HE FIGURES OUT A WAY TO CREATE THESE BEAUTIFUL COMPOSITIONS IN HIS PAINTINGS.”

Nathaniel Mary Quinn '00

Patrick Alston '13 in studio
for Zoo Magazine, Issue 76.



photo by Julian Vidro

CREATING PLAY

by Richard Paige

SUCKER PUNCH

IN THE EARLY 1980s, at the dawn of the microcomputing age, Chris Zimmerman, son of Emeritus Professor of Chemistry John Zimmerman, could usually be found in the Wabash computer lab on the College's Apple II. He was a teenager at the time, but like the college students around him, he was largely learning how to program on his own.



Chris Zimmerman on the College's Apple II computer in the Goodrich Hall computer lab in the early 1980s, featuring a television as a monitor and a dot-matrix printer. "I felt right at home there," he says. (Photo by John Zimmerman)

"I grew up on campus," Zimmerman says. "Dad was there all the time, so it was a comfortable place for me to be. I felt at home there."

As his interest and skills developed, he progressed from simple programming to assembly language, and he teamed up with his father to produce educational software to help chemistry students understand

ideal gas law and chromatography.

"These were pedagogical aids for Chem 1," Zimmerman explains. "It was an animation of gases moving around. You could play with factors like volume and temperature and see how those play together."

Zimmerman went on to Princeton University, earning a degree in computer science in 1988. He worked at Microsoft for nine years before he and his business partner,

Brian Fleming, founded Sucker Punch Productions in 1997.

They used their technical expertise to carve a niche in a very competitive field. Like so many others, they largely learned to program by making games, but they had limited experience in that space. They knew how to engineer big, technical projects.

"A lot of the companies making games had grown out of a garage culture," says Zimmerman. "We felt like our project experience could be useful. We started up a game company and hired people who had the experience in modeling, animation, and textures."

Video games have an average play time of somewhere between 30 and 50 hours. That's a lot of content. For example, in developing *Ghost of Tsushima*, 150 people worked on the game for six years.

"We have to create all of it," Zimmerman says. "It's like making a movie if you were making 25 of them. It's a lot of work to create the content that provides 50 hours of fun for the player. There is nothing in the game that doesn't have three or four of our developers touching it."



“We have to create all of it. It’s like making a movie if you were making 25 of them.”

Beyond putting smiles on people’s faces, Zimmerman enjoys the immersive action of playing a game. It’s not passive. The player isn’t simply watching, but making things happen. From the production side, he loves the creativity that is built into the process.

“You can see something real,” says Zimmerman, who resides in Bellevue, Washington. “What we’ve been able to do with technology is super crazy. One of the things that drew me to computer science is that it’s infinitely creative. Every second of your work day, you’re creating things from scratch.”

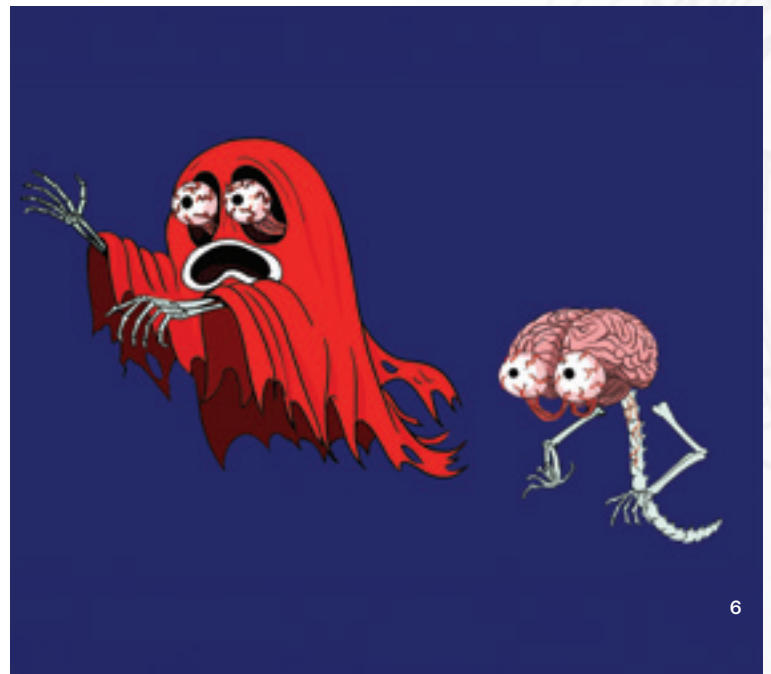
Zimmerman isn’t shy about how his time at Wabash as a professor’s kid was special.

“It’s not until you get a little older that you get the perspective of ‘Oh, wait, that was a bit out of the ordinary,’” he says. “Of course, it was special. It absolutely gave me a head start. As soon as I touched a computer, I had a connection.” ■

♦ At the Sucker Punch Productions studio in Bellevue, Washington, Chris Zimmerman (right) poses with a statue of Jin Sakai, the main character in “Ghost of Tsushima.”

Sucker Punch Productions has found success by telling stories. In *Ghost of Tsushima*, you are one of the last surviving samurai following a Mongol Empire invasion of the island of Tsushima. In the *inFAMOUS* series of games, you are left to deal with the aftermath of an explosion in Empire City, and control of the extensive powers you’ve been granted.





MOMMY'S BEST GAMES

HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR David Maharry's required class in computer science, Nathan Fouts '97 might never have carved out a 25-year career in game design. He nearly failed it.

"I just wasn't getting it," Fouts says. "When Dr. Maharry asked what was happening, all I could say is 'I don't know. I'm trying.' He said, 'Let's see how the labs go.'"

"I don't want to spoil the ending, but I pulled that grade to a C."

Fouts aced the labs because, as he says, they finally got to actual programming. It was something he'd never done before, but he found himself really interested.

The first assignment was to write a text-based spell-checking program from scratch in Pascal. The second, a box-moving assignment, introduced him to graphics. The object was to draw the box and move it without hitting a line segment, similar to the Operation board game.

"This was very cool," he says. "I worked on that assignment for a week. I told my roommate, 'I think I'm making a video game.' I went nuts with that program, constantly in the computer lab for that one tiny project. After that, I was obsessed."

What he remembers was the sense of possibilities.

"It was the exploration of unknown worlds," he says. "When I'm playing a game in the digital world, there are infinite possibilities in this little box with the screen. It felt almost like access to a human mind. There was competition and exploration, and that felt really good."

Even before graduating, Fouts was building his own games and selling them via shareware. After Wabash, he spent six months in a programming job with a chemical company.

Then he got his break into the gaming business—Running With Scissors, a video game company in Tucson, Arizona. The shareware games he designed at Wabash sealed the deal at the interview. When he showed off his work and was asked what part of it he designed, Fouts answered, "All of it."

He later landed a gig with Insomniac Games, the company responsible for Spider-Man for PlayStation 4 and 5. Fouts worked on a number of noteworthy games, including Resistance: Fall of Man for Sony and PS3, and developed expertise in gameplay mechanics and player controls.

"I specialize in action games," he says. "I make specifically unique experiences."

In the mid-2000s, Fouts decided to go on his own, and founded Mommy's Best Games. Don't be fooled by the name; he designs a very specific type of game: classically driven first-player shooter games.

Fouts designs the games and handles all of the art—sketches, animations, scale, and colors. The business side is his responsibility, too. He manages cash flow, while identifying industry trends and receptive publishers.

"It's gratifying, for sure," he says. "Honestly, it's just fantastic. Think how much easier it is to acknowledge that games are worthwhile than it was 30 years ago."

Fouts' next game, one he has been developing for four years, will be released in June. ■



"It was the exploration of unknown worlds. When I'm playing a game in the digital world, there are infinite possibilities in this little box with the screen."



The Playstation 4 game box for Pig Eat Ball (left). Microsoft's Pig Eat Ball display at its Game Developers Convention booth in March of 2018 (below).

- ◀ 1. The Dean
- 2. Princess Bow
- 3. Pillbug
- 4. The Glutton
- 5. Nacho Friend
- 6. The Ghosts



XBOX ONE

PEACH GOOSE GAMES

THE IDEA THAT ADAM PHIPPS '11 would ever attempt to design games was not on his road map, but in 2021, while in the throes of caring for his newborn son, he woke in the middle of the night remembering a dream in which he and his brothers were playing a game with alchemists, potions, and tokens. As he wiped the sleep from his eyes, he realized that wasn't a game he had ever played before.

"It was a cool idea," Adam says. "I stumbled to my computer. I knew I needed to write it all down or I'd forget it."

When he woke up the next morning, 80% of the structure of the game—Alchemist's Gambit—was there. He just needed to refine it—to take the time to figure out how the game was going to work.

That's how Peach Goose Games came to life—the game-building partnership of Phipps and his wife, Julia. Both work full-time at Wabash. He is the website editor and broadcast engineer. She is the academic administrative coordinator to the Fine Arts Center.

Long before these high school sweethearts connected, Adam and Julia had been into games. Julia's family played a lot of board games and card

games. Adam's immersion into games was similar with his family. Then in high school, friends introduced him to Settlers of Catan, the multiperson board game that inspires players to trade, build, and settle.

"It became one of my favorite games," Adam says. "That's really where it kicked off for me."

The enjoyment continues to this day for both as they work together to build and play games of their own ideas.

Adam leans into the rules and how players build something together.



Adam '11 and Julia Phipps play a round of Festival of Favors



"I love to
percolate on
an idea. It's fun
to identify the
problem and
figure out how
to solve it."

Julia Phipps



"I love that when you play a game, you essentially engage in a new world," he says. "You establish a set of rules, by which you all abide, and for whatever timeframe, these rules give you a sense of friendly competition."

Julia appreciates the sense of community and the idea of collaboration.

"I love games because they bring people together," she says. "You come in prepared for the moment, play the game, and then you're done. It's a block of sacred time to spend with your friends or family."

The Peach Goose Games partnership is a perfect match. Julia is the tactician, playing the game for feel and theme. Adam is the strategist, analyzing the mechanics.

"I play quickly and creatively," she says, "as opposed to Adam, who will sometimes spend three minutes on a turn making sure he's crunched all the numbers in his head."

That creative push and pull has led to something they enjoy doing together.

"For me, it's a hook," Julia says. "I will play a game multiple times because I'm interested. But the rules have to be easily digestible. It can't take 20 minutes to explain, and then you play for 20 minutes. That's not fun."

"The gameplay has to have multiple paths to victory," Adam says. "Present players with options that make them feel like they can choose path A, B, or C and have an actual shot at winning."

The goal is to create a game that keeps players coming back. It may take hundreds of hours to get it ready to be shared with others. Aside from the craft of the game or the player experience, the baseline question becomes, "Is it fun?"

"I have three solid designs that I've poured a lot of time into developing," he says. "There are also nine other ideas on the table, but none of them have excited me enough yet. As soon as we start to test, we're going to find out, is it fun enough? Because if it is, that's when the hard work really begins."

The process starts with building a prototype, writing a rule book, and sharing the game with friends. If the feedback is good, there are game conventions to share ideas and play with other designers, like Protospiel and Unpub. Regular meetups with other designers can also aid development.

If things progress positively, maybe the game gets pitched at a large conference like Origins Game Fair, PAX Unplugged, or Gen Con, but not before the design is strong, the graphics are on point, and the sell-sheet is eye catching. Then the elevator pitch is sharpened in preparation for publishers.

Peach Goose Games has pitched three games to date: Alchemist's Gambit, a cooperative, "pay-it-forward" engine builder for two to four players set in Renaissance Italy; Boil Over, a fast-paced, family-friendly card game in which prep cooks try to impress the head chef; and Festival of Favors, a worker placement game for two to five players who compete as lords and ladies hosting a festival while the king passes through the region.

"Last year, I found that Alchemist's Gambit was about 30 minutes longer than publishers were looking for," Adam explains. "That's kind of a bummer, but it means that my game is ready; it's just waiting for that right spot to rotate around."



▼ The Phippses with son, Isaac.



Julia had a similar experience with Boil Over. She pitched it to four companies last year at Gen Con. All four declined, but two told her that the game was close, that a few tweaks were needed.

"I love to percolate on an idea," Julia says. "It's fun to identify the problem and figure out how to solve it."

Game designers call this process polishing. It takes time to get those final elements in line so the pitch is perfect.

"The first 90% is easy," Adam says, "but you spend a lot of time getting that other 10% done to pitch it. For so many of my ideas, the other 10% isn't completed, because I haven't figured out how to polish it off just right."

"I have found a lot of energy to continue designing and pushing through changes to get in front of publishers," he continues. "I know the idea I'm working on is worthwhile and it is going to be published when the time is right. It will deliver something no one has ever seen before." ■



The Art of the Crossword

by Allie Northcutt

WHAT STARTED AS A FUN little routine with his mom blossomed into a full-time, creative obsession for Logan Weilbaker '25.

"My earliest memories of doing crosswords were on airplanes," says Weilbaker, a theater and Classics double major. "The Delta Sky Magazine always included a crossword in the back. As a kid, I would maybe know one or two answers, but I just enjoyed sitting there and watching my mom figure it out.

"As I got older, my love for puzzles—specifically word puzzles—grew," he continues. "When I got to Wabash, I was able to get a discounted edition of the New York Times Games, which I had never had before. From there, I logged on every day, eager to complete the daily puzzle."

Weilbaker wanted to share his affection for the craft with the rest of the campus community. During the spring semester of his freshman year, he approached the editor in chief of The Bachelor with the idea of creating a weekly crossword for the newspaper.

Since then, Weilbaker has set aside a handful of hours each week to craft the perfect 15x15 crossword for the newspaper's Games page.

WM: How do you make a crossword puzzle?

LW: When I started with The Bachelor, I was creating mini 5x5 crossword puzzles by hand. As time went on, I wanted to challenge myself with larger puzzles, which I knew would take even more time if I continued to work by hand. There are many different software systems people use as tools that utilize an algorithm to check word patterns and help you fill in the grid. I asked

the staff if they could spare some money for a subscription. They got me set up with Crossfire. I watched YouTube how-to videos, read articles, joined r/crossword on Reddit—basically figured out how to inject myself into this very niche community.

Where do you go for inspiration?

If you're familiar with The New York Times, Sunday through Thursday, all the puzzles have a theme, and it is usually some sort of wordplay—almost like a puzzle within a puzzle. And a majority of the time, there's some sort of gimmick or something that solving the theme helps you solve

the rest of the puzzle. I create a fair amount of those kinds of puzzles. It takes your crossword to another level, as opposed to just being ununified clues.

Another thing I really try to do is take advantage of my audience. I make my crosswords for a relatively limited number of people. I try to play into that more as a resource rather than a restriction. I've created a lot of puzzles that are Wabash-related as far as themes go, drawing from different current events or issues on campus. For example, I did two last semester about "Something Rotten!"

What do you find challenging about making crosswords?

Sometimes a crossword wants to be made and sometimes it doesn't. One week it will take me two hours to complete, and the next it can take more than six. It's a pretty drastic difference. The way (Crossfire) works is you put in your theme words, the ones that are going to be connected and are the longest four or five in the puzzle. You then fill in the black squares, and the program runs. Sometimes it's like, "Boom, we got a match, we can do this, no problem." There are other times when it's brutal and nothing is connecting correctly.

When a lot of people hear that I use software, they think, "Oh, so you're not actually making it," and that's just not the case. It's like trying to do advanced calculus without a calculator—you can't just plug in the equation. You have to know how to use the tool.

What do you find most rewarding?

There was one time last semester when (Religion Professor) David Blix '70 got on a guy in a class I was in for doing the crossword puzzle while he was lecturing. That was like the greatest compliment I've ever received—that my puzzle was more interesting than a Blix lecture.

But really, there are times where I wonder if I'm sending these out into the ether, never to be seen again. Once in a while, you'll see somebody working on one or a completed game is left on a Sparks table or the counter in Lilly Library. That's a reminder that people do care, that there is a demand. Close friends of mine also text me every Friday morning (when The Bachelor is published) and say, "Great puzzle!" That's always a great feeling and makes the work well worth it.

Now that you're an avid creator, do you still enjoy completing crosswords in your free time?

I'm on a 250-day streak right now and counting. I love to check my stats and try for new personal record times. It's like a two-way relationship. Solving crossword puzzles led to this interest in making them, and then making them has helped me tremendously in solving them.

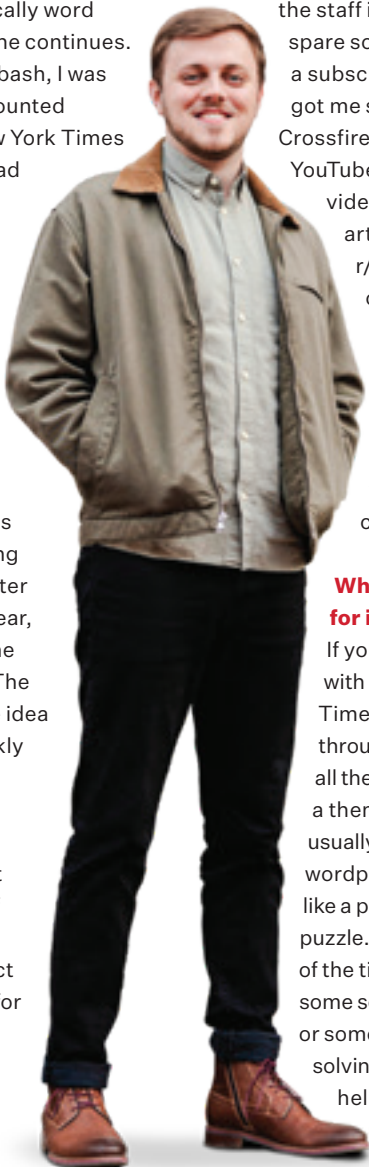


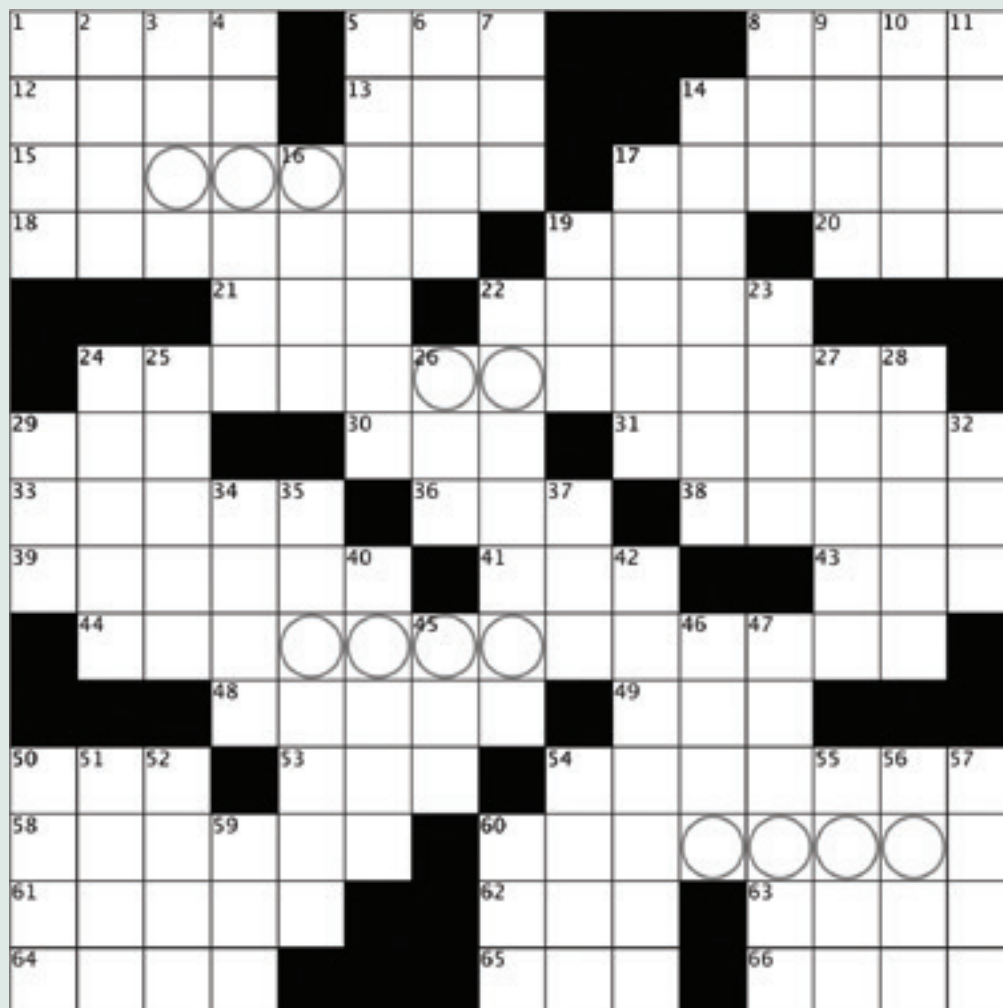
photo by Julia Moravec



Scan the QR code or visit www.wabash.edu/go/wm24spring-crossword to find the crossword answer key.

ACROSS

1. Birmingham baby buggy
5. Scratch (at)
8. Oodles
12. Ripped
13. ORD listing
14. Pizzazz
15. Brewing revolutionary, for short?
17. Feasible
18. Wine quality
19. Band booking
20. Chicago-to-Louisville dir.
21. She, in Sao Paolo
22. Follow, as chaos
24. Ensemble that often plays in four movements, aptly
29. Musical aptitude, so to speak
30. τ
31. Sperm whalers, perhaps
33. Word with mouth or shack
36. The space between
38. Colloquialism
39. Repugnant
41. Indeed, archaically
43. Altar affirmation
44. Academic types
48. Casino fixtures
49. B&B
50. Pampering place
53. Ending with Wisconsin or mason
54. Group of battalions
58. *Magazine containing this puzzle, and one of five magazines found throughout this puzzle
60. *Mickey, before Lillian Disney (fortunately) suggested otherwise
61. James Bond, or Jake from State Farm
62. Index finger, numerically
63. First in a Columbian trio
64. Decompose, as a snowman
65. ____ school
66. "Liberal" studies



DOWN

1. Vet's diagnosis
2. Sonic logo for MGM
3. Group that "goes rolling along"
4. Not as nice
5. Serf
6. After-hours money sources, for short
7. Used to be
8. Chicken ____ king
9. Bio course components
10. The essentials?
11. Oak, e.g.
14. Counterpart of facts
16. Grocery section
17. Some travel documents
19. Bearded grazer
22. Likens
23. List-ending abbr.
24. Mecca resident
25. Wedding dress part
26. "Blech!"
27. Inbox filler
28. Sees (to)
29. Second of a Freudian trio
32. Assn. like Oxfam or Doctors Without Borders
34. Goes bad
35. Aaron Burr, famously
37. Insta post
40. Animal named after a sin
42. Used a swizzle stick
45. 4G ____
46. Gram or dram
47. Heart-felt message?
50. Freestyled, e.g.
51. Senate staffer
52. Biblical victim
54. Broth base
55. Arabian prince
56. Fender bend
57. Taylor Swift's "The ____ Tour"
59. Picnic pest
60. May honoree

Building on Art

Roscoe Wilson '97 doesn't remember a time in his life that did not include art. When he was in middle school and high school, he took all the art classes he could. Now at Miami University in Ohio, he teaches all the art classes he can.

by **Kim Johnson**







P

PROFESSOR OF ART ROSCOE WILSON '97

has spent more than 20 years teaching painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and art appreciation.

Wilson, originally from northern Indiana, applied to large state schools but ultimately chose to follow in his father's footsteps and play soccer at Wabash. The art major was inspired by Emeritus Professors of Art Greg Huebner and Doug Calisch to pursue a career in academia.

"I saw their lives, what they did every day, where they lived, their studios—and they were making artwork, thinking about art every day," Wilson says. "I wanted to be them. I decided I was going to be a professor and lined up all my choices to be that professor."

Calisch never doubted Wilson would find success as an artist.

"From the beginning, Roscoe was a very disciplined, very straightforward, a push-hard, intense guy," Calisch says. "When he came to Wabash as a soccer player, he carried that kind of athletic discipline through everything. I knew he was going to find a way to make a living being an artist, making art, and being creative. He had the discipline, the focus, and the attitude to do it."



"I saw their lives, what they did every day, where they lived, their studios—and they were making artwork, thinking about art every day. I wanted to be them."

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"PCU-15" consists of found wood, found plastic objects, and paint. photo by Jeff Sabo (Miami University)

Page 55

"Backyard Superfund" is a 38" x 24" woodcut print, printed at Tom Huck's Evil Prints, St. Louis, Missouri.

Left and on page 58 top

"Heavy on My Home" is composed of paperboard boxes, cardboard, wood, paint, plastic container caps, and electrical outlets. Here is the installation view of Natural Expressions, Juried Group Exhibition, Riffe Gallery, Columbus, Ohio.

Above

Roscoe Wilson '97 at the closing of a recent solo exhibition.



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Oil and graphite on panel, "Nothing to See Here."

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"PCU-6" is found wood, blue plastic container caps, orange plastic Skid-Mates.

photo by Jeff Sabo
(Miami University)

When Wilson was a child, his art consisted of drawings with pencils and markers. As his technique improved, he gravitated toward graphite pencils for the flexibility to add detail and shading. During his time at Wabash, he was a painter. Now, his focus is sculpture and installation sculpture.

"You don't have to silo yourself into being good at one thing only," he says. "You can diversify and do many things."

Wilson's various interests and capabilities as an artist allow him to let the message he wants to express dictate the media he chooses.

"Eventually, you get to a point where you're asking, 'Why are you making art? What's important to you?'" says Wilson. "I really love the content aspect of the arts. It's another form of communication—a unique way to communicate with the world that's not verbal or written. It's different. We need to embrace that difference and learn how to really connect to people with our imagery."

"I tell all my students, 'We're going to address large issues, small issues, personal issues,

universal issues. We're going to say something with our art, not just going to make things that are pretty. If they happen to be pretty, great! But we're going say something.'"

Wilson intended to major in biology when he first started at Wabash. Even though he ended up pursuing art, his minor in biology still motivates much of the content of his work and what he wants to communicate.

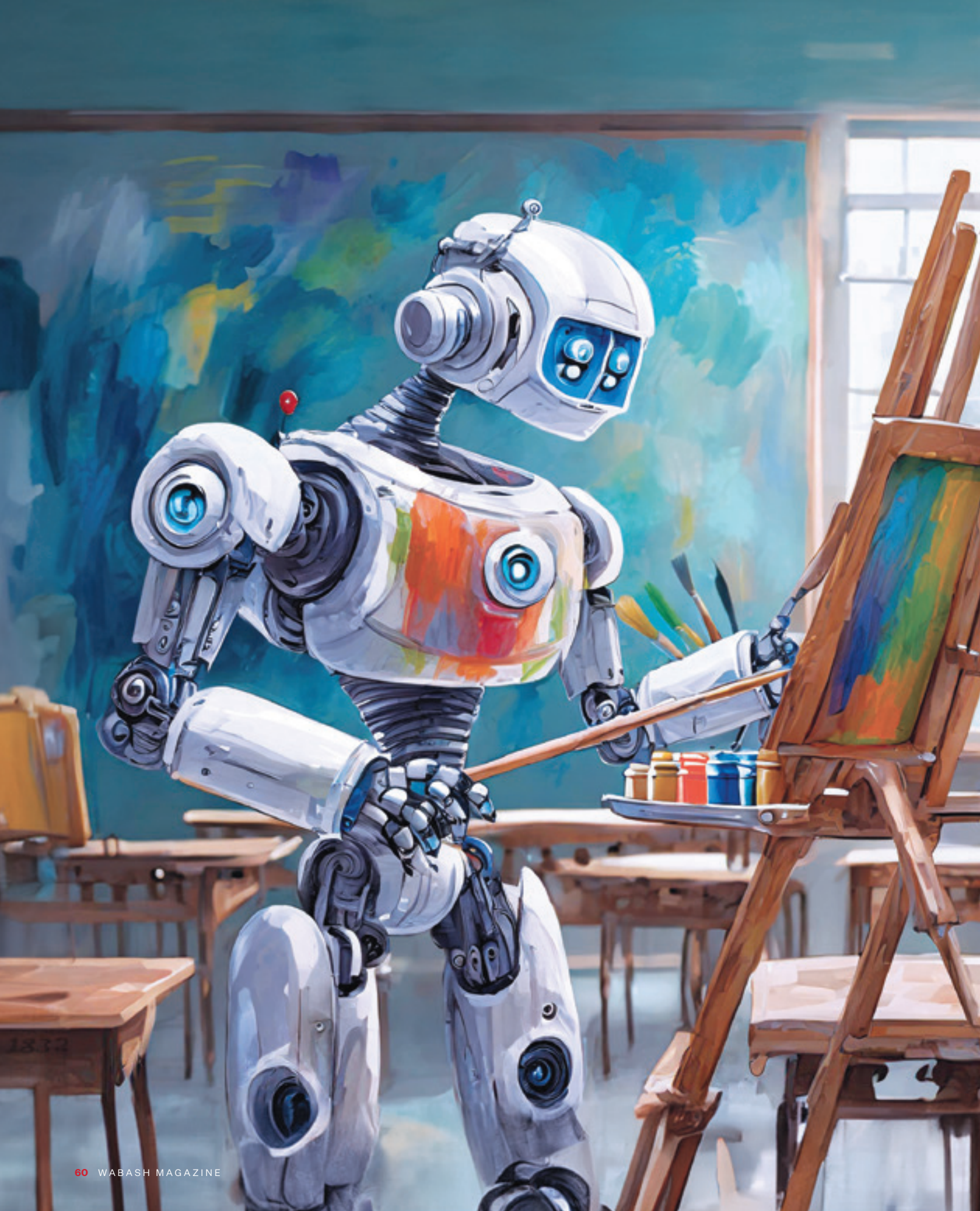
"I had a deep respect for other creatures, other objects, and other materials," he says. "Material can speak for itself. Every different surface, every different material has a story of who built it, who made it, where it came from, and where it is going."

It may be trash to one person, but to Wilson it's how he builds his art.

"I grind plastic and melt stuff, and I put things together that are everyone else's refuse," says Wilson. "Once I inherit a material, I have a responsibility for it. I can't say, 'I'm done with it; I'll just throw it away,' because it wasn't mine in the first place." ■

“I tell all my students, ‘We’re going to address large issues, small issues, personal issues, universal issues. We’re going to say something with our art, not just going to make things that are pretty. If they happen to be pretty, great! But we’re going say something.’”







BLURRED LINES: HOW AI IS CHANGING ART

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly made its mark on nearly every industry in the past decade, and the arts are no exception. As the technology becomes more widely available to the public, questions grow about the impact it will have on the future of creative work.

By: Allie Northcutt



WHEN HE'S NOT IN THE CLASSROOM

helping creative minds work on their next big project, Damon Mohl stays busy crafting his own works. From filmmaking and set design to painting and drawing, the Wabash art professor likes to keep his hands and mind busy.

During semester break while working on a short film, Mohl thought he'd try experimenting with something new: artificial intelligence (AI).

He opened Adobe Firefly, a suite of generative AI tools trained to recognize connections between text and images to allow users to generate imagery using text prompts.

"I was interested in the distortion and strangeness that a computer algorithm could come up with images using a simple prompt written by the user," Mohl explains. "I could see all of that working as a tool.

"If I am working on an animation and I want to duplicate an object 300 times, I could take the time and do that by hand or I could use AI to fill in that space," he says. "I wouldn't have any problem with that—it's the same thing as using Adobe's clone stamp or all these other utilities that allow you to create images."

Like many other artists exploring the technology, Mohl did have some initial hesitations using AI in his work.

"One of the dangers for a visual artist would be if you're taking out the actual creative process of an idea. If there's no longer this sort of human struggle to create or explore something, then there's no real point in doing it," says Mohl. "It's a complicated topic for sure because every artist will have a different line as far as how they would interact or incorporate the technology into their practice.

"Some might not have any need or use for it. Some might be able to use it in an interesting way specifically as a supplemental tool. And others will use it in probably the worst way where they're letting the system make all the choices and do all the work for them."

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND the impacts of AI on art, it's important to first understand what exactly the technology is.

"AI has a funny history because there have been blips of activity and then things die off and go out of vogue. What we're seeing is more than a blip," says Colin McKinney, a Wabash mathematics and computer science professor, whose first introduction to AI came when he was in middle school. He found a book on the subject and was eager to learn more.

"In some sense, it's not new, but certain technological advancements that have happened in the last 10 to 20 years have really accelerated the scope of AI and the extent to which we can actually implement it."

"One of the dangers of AI for a visual artist would be if you're taking out the actual creative process of an idea. If there's no longer this sort of human struggle to create or explore something, then there's no real point in doing it."

Associate Professor of Art **Damon Mohl**

AI image generators, like DALL-E 2, Midjourney, and Stable Diffusion, are "trained" on an extensive amount of data, such as large databases of images, videos, or writing. The generators learn, for example, what a cat is, or a guitar, or Vincent van Gogh's style of art. Then, when a user asks for an image of a guitar-playing cat by van Gogh, a new image is created based on the relevant information in the generator's dataset.

IN SOME CASES, it can be relatively easy to detect when something was created using AI.

McKinney referenced ChatGPT, a free-to-use AI system that is trained to follow an instruction in a prompt and provide a detailed response. The application is often used as a tool or sounding board to help users write speeches or essays.

"I played with it maybe a year and a half ago when ChatGPT entered the common vocabulary and within five minutes I could figure out its extreme limitations in terms of making things up that don't exist, called hallucinations, and wrong facts," says McKinney.

"There have been high-profile cases of people misusing it recently. Michael Cohen, who was an attorney for President Donald Trump, and his team submitted some court documents that referenced nonexistent court cases, which is pretty clear evidence that they were using some sort of ChatGPT or other generative system to produce their work," he says. "That tends to be what busts people. The text itself might be fine, but the references are bogus.

"There are other instances, specifically within the art world, where it can be more challenging to catch whether content was human-computer generated or machine-computer generated," says McKinney.

Research from Bowling Green State University published in the journal *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts* in 2023 found that when shown a mix of AI and human visual art, participants correctly identified the source a little more than half of the time and their guesses also exhibited a low level of confidence.

AT FIRST, AI ART-GENERATING programs struggled to create images, especially of people. They had eyes looking in different directions or had hands with extra fingers.

But as these applications advanced, the tools have become better, making it easier to create hyperrealistic faces, which has led to the rapid increase in deepfakes. The term "deepfake" refers to an image, a video, or an audio recording that has been digitally altered to mimic a realistic human

experience. This includes superimposing human features on another person's body, manipulating sounds, and creating videos that did not occur, but seem authentic.

The term came about in 2017 when a Reddit moderator created a subreddit called “deepfakes” and began posting videos that used AI to insert celebrities’ likenesses into existing pornographic videos. Pop superstar Taylor Swift is one of the latest victims of deepfakes after AI-generated nude images of her were produced and distributed on social media without her consent.

Other examples of deepfakes include a video showing soccer star David Beckham speaking fluently in nine languages and an image of Pope Francis wearing a stylish white puffer jacket. Neither of these events happened.

“There are two sides to this,” says McKinney. “(As an example) think of images of the American Confederacy. Those images could be used essentially for educational purposes in a historical movie or artist’s reconception of the surrender at Appomattox. Or those images could be used for really terrible hate speech purposes.

“The courts have long held that there are reasonable exceptions to First Amendment privilege, and maybe this needs to be a new

exception,” he continues. “But these are really, really tricky issues that are going to take decades to work through courts, legislation, or both because any law that gets passed is immediately going to get challenged by somebody.”

AS THE TECHNOLOGY continues to evolve, Chris Rozzi ’90 believes it’s important for artists to educate themselves on AI and the potential impacts it could have on their personal and professional livelihoods.

Rozzi is the lead experience designer at Körber Supply Chain, a software consulting company, with 30 years in visual design and 14 years in user experience design. The Wabash art major says he depends on generative AI daily in his role with Körber. The technology helps him in his research by taking large amounts of data and turning it into proactive optimizations for customers.

In his free time, he also uses AI art generators like Firefly as an inspirational tool to help spark new ideas for drawings.

“AI will continue to be such a transformational tool that you can’t just not pay attention to it,” says Rozzi. “No matter what field you pursue—whether you want to be a traditional painter or an illustrator—

you cannot escape technology. You need to embrace it. It will only be to your detriment if you don’t at least become aware of it, step into it, and learn how it can help in regard to your art or the work you are doing.”

Mohl says he wants his students, especially those who hope to continue pursuing the arts after Wabash, to be aware of AI’s possibilities.

“This concept is not anything new. The invention of the camera changed painting,” says Mohl. “There’s always going to be new technology that artists will work with and adapt to, find interesting ways to use, or reject all together.

“As an artist, you discover what you like and what you don’t like through making,” he says. “Whether or not AI is a part of that process for you, everyone has to decide that for themselves. My hope is that creativity never dies. The whole point of art is the struggle in exploration of something. If you reach a point in your art where you’re no longer in control of your ideas or what you’re doing, there’s no real reason to do it.”

ANOTHER CONCERN AMONG ARTISTS is that AI generators infringe on copyrighted materials and could ultimately undercut the market for their work.

AI art generators rely on human-made images for training data, Rozzi says, and these “scrape” billions of images from the internet, which can include countless works by digital artists who never gave their consent.

Rozzi encourages artists to practice the lessons that a liberal arts education teaches when working with AI.

“Be a critical thinker, never stop asking better questions, and keep learning,” says Rozzi. “There’s so much happening with AI—ethically, legally, creatively—that we don’t have clear answers to and probably won’t anytime soon. That doesn’t mean we should be afraid of it. How we choose to respond and interact with the technology is ultimately up to us.” ■



The image to the left was created in Adobe Firefly by entering “Cat playing guitar in the style of Vincent van Gogh.”

What do you create?

MATHEW BOUDREAUX '98

GAMAS, WA

I am a professional crafter and sewist best known as Mx Domestic on most social media platforms and in sewing and crafting circles. I started sewing seriously when my daughter was born in 2013, started posting my projects on Instagram in 2015, and discovered a quilting community of like-minded creatives.

I've headlined quilting shows, been featured in dozens of quilting magazines, designed eight fabric collections, opened an online sewing school, put out multiple crochet and sewing patterns, and partnered with more than 50 brands. Never did I envision creating a sewing and crafting business, let alone becoming popular at it. I needed to recalibrate my business objectives to accommodate the growth and reconnect with my "why" behind creating and sharing.

I'm always going to gravitate toward next-level projects, learning something new, and bold color choices, but I've found the most gratification creating something deeply personal. All I want to do is sew and craft. As a highly visible, outspoken, nonbinary, queer, neurodivergent human in an interracial marriage who has a kid, I have a responsibility to make sure those sewists and crafters who, like

me, have often felt othered and excluded, feel safe, seen, and comfortable. So, I like to create and make things that espouse a larger conversation or for the purity of visibility and representation.

< [READ MORE](#)



TIM CONLON '61

BEND, OR



In 1956, I was a student reporter for The Riparian, a weekly newspaper for Broad Ripple High School in Indianapolis. I knew then I wanted to be a journalist.

At Wabash, I was awarded a Wall Street Journal internship. With graduation approaching they offered me a job in Chicago, but I opted to go to Stanford University's School of Communications and Journalism for a master's degree.

Following my service in the U.S. Navy, Business Week magazine hired me as an assistant editor in its San Francisco bureau. I couldn't ask for a more fascinating and enveloping job. The NYC-based periodical published my articles, ranging from a profile of Charles Schultz, creator of Peanuts, to

San Francisco Mayor Joe Alioto to Bill Graham, pioneer impresario for rock music groups.

I took a job elsewhere and established a career in public affairs management followed by entrepreneur-business management, and finally business, management, and public affairs consulting.

I enrolled in a community college course 16 years ago in Bend, Oregon, so a professor could steer me away from business/government writing to more creative writing. My professor beautifully guided me to essay writing; and since 2008 our local daily newspaper, The Bulletin, has published numerous essays I've written.

Wabash awakened me to be a liberal arts citizen throughout life.

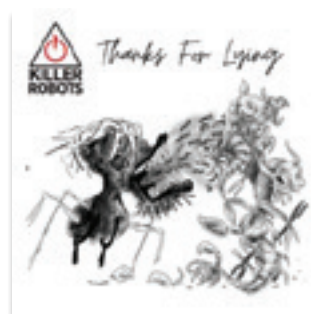
BRETT MILLER '91 »»

OAK PARK, IL

After graduating from Wabash, I spent the first half of my career in advertising and the second half as a creative problem-solving and innovation consultant and facilitator. My day job was very fulfilling, but I still needed more creativity.

In 2003, I bought a canvas, paint, and brushes and started creating outside of my day job. Since then, I have created about 100 pieces. I have explored many media and subject matter. Much of my work has been abstract or literal social commentary.

In 2016, I was asked to create an album cover for the band Trickshooter Social



Club. This relationship blossomed and I did another album cover for them, as well as posters and merchandise.

This work sparked in me the need to create music of my own. In 2018, my band KILLER ROBOTS was born. We have

released three singles and one music video. We are editing our latest video, preparing for the release of another single, and mixing our fifth single.

AARON NICELY '06 »»

NOBLESVILLE, IN

Most of my creative output for the past 12 years has been as a songwriter. I am a founding member of The Stampede String Band, where I play bass, guitar, and harmonica.

Five albums and hundreds of performances later, we're still going strong. We play folk/blues/bluegrass music. With kids, a "real job," and the time constraints of everyday life, the short form of a song is a constraint that works well for

me to tell the stories that always seem to find me.

Inspiration can strike from anywhere: a scene in a movie, a line in an ad, something overheard walking down the street, some little thing that strikes me as funny. I'll get a line for a song in my head and work it over and over until

it starts to take shape. The cadence of the phrases will start to suggest a melody, and then I'll work out the music with my guitar. Sometimes it takes minutes, sometimes it takes years.

I have wonderful collaborators in my bandmates, who often

help the song reach its final form. But a song is never really done. My favorite part of performing is that we never play anything the same way twice. It is always growing, changing, and striving to be just a little bit better.



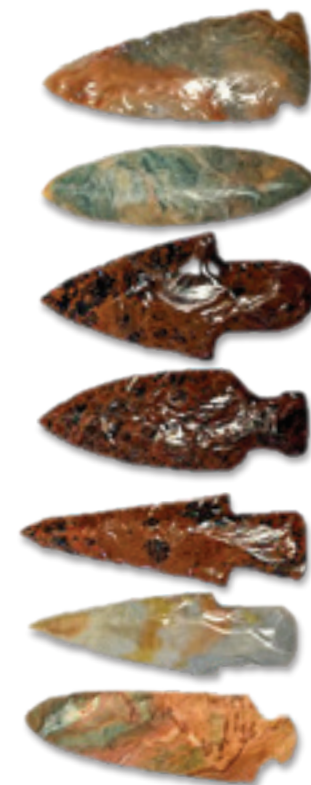
LISTEN AT:
[songwhip.com/
thestampede
stringband](http://songwhip.com/thestampede-stringband)



JERRY SMITH '64

CORSICANA, TX

I had to quit golf because of arthritis and needed something to occupy my time. Growing up in Indiana, I was fascinated by arrowheads but never found any and repeatedly failed to make one. I happened upon a how-to book, and after having read it three times and done my 10,000 practices, I can now make museum-quality spearheads in one to two hours. Since I live near Mexico, I use obsidian as flint is rare here.



CHOTU KHAN '95

DHAKA, BANGLADESH

I was homesick my first semester at Wabash. Music was my solace.

After returning to Bangladesh, I played with various local bands until 2007, when friends and I formed a classic rock cover band, Stone Free. We played gigs while each of us maintained day jobs—a pilot, businessman, TV producer, and risk management executive.

In March 2020, Bangladesh shut down in response to COVID-19. Dhaka, a bustling city of more than 16 million people, became a ghost town.

While my band played music as a hobby, I realized professional musicians would soon begin to struggle financially. I remembered NPR's Tiny Desk Concert series. What if I could find a venue to host similar concerts and pay the sound crew, video crew, and musicians?

My wife, Lori, and I ended up at a tiny little bookstore in Dhaka in July 2020. I found my venue.

I asked the lead vocalist of the biggest local rock band, Nemesis, if he would record a session. They hadn't played in months and were delighted to have an opportunity.

Through the generosity and financial sponsorship of Securex, I recorded six pilot episodes.

The channel youtube.com/c/DHAKASESSIONS is now sponsored by bKash and currently features 48 episodes of music and interviews. We just finished recording our seventh season. The channel has about 1.5 million views.

The sponsorships have allowed me to pay everyone involved with the production.

The channel was nominated by The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2021 for Best Content Creator (Entertainment), the most prestigious award within the OTT platform in Bangladesh.

LISTEN AT:
youtube.com/c/DHAKASESSIONS



MICHAEL SEALE '90

COLUMBIA, KY

I spent the first 20 years or so of my career teaching physics at smaller, liberal arts colleges. I also worked for a few years at NASA Langley Research Center. In January 2018, I transitioned away from teaching and moved to Kentucky into my current position as assistant vice president for academic affairs at Lindsey Wilson College. During my free time or when I need to destress, I do woodworking.



JEREMIAH EATON '22

CHICAGO, IL

My musical adventure has been rolling for about eight years now, digging into the messy but real stuff like love and heartbreak. My songs are personal stories, sometimes pulled straight from my life and other times sprinkled with a bit of imagination to keep things interesting. I'm not exactly composing symphonies; it's more like I'm cooking up beats and sounds in the music kitchen.

I released my debut album in April 2023, titled "toss turn sleep repeat." The album is on all major streaming platforms. The songs follow a pop/indie feel.

I collaborated with Grant Quackenbush '21 on the graphic design for the album and promotional images.

I'm a fan of the underdogs—people with killer skills but maybe not the mega streams. They motivate me to up my game. Quality matters, but it's not the only thing that counts. I started from the bottom with a \$20 mic and free software, and people still listened. What I know is that as long as you stay humble and recognize your weaknesses, you can always improve.

I have big plans this year, but to keep it real, I'm pursuing a degree in computer science and working part-time. However, I'm still working on projects and releasing music and have a ton of support.



« JEFF FULMER '97

HENDERSON, NV

“Hayikwiir Mat’aar” is my solo exhibition initially curated for display at the historic Lost City Museum in Overton, Nevada. Following its premiere, Hayikwiir Mat’aar traveled around southern Nevada with displays in Laughlin and Las Vegas.

In addition to being the title of this exhibition, Hayikwiir Mat’aar is the traditional name of the Mojave Desert in the native language of the Mojave people. With these works, I look at and interpret plant life, landscape, and time of day in the Mojave Desert and the Desert Southwest. I chose to title this exhibition Hayikwiir Mat’aar out of respect for the Mohave people and the Mojave language.

I am the art gallery curator and an adjunct faculty member in the fine arts department at the College of Southern Nevada, where I teach a range of courses and manage the college’s nine art galleries and permanent collections.

I have exhibited paintings and sculptures regionally and nationally and currently serve as the chair of the Clark County Board of County Commissioners Art Committee.



» QUINN CAVIN '19

BURBANK, CA

Lucky for me, my favorite thing to create is films and I get to do it for a living! I direct and produce commercials, music videos, and films with my production company, Echobend Pictures. I’ve done projects for Netflix, Google, Warner Media, Republic Records, Mattel, Rivian, Target, The Cheesecake Factory, The North Face, Elden Ring, Panda Express, Hulu, Dr. Squatch, Niantic, and more.

Ryan Cairns '17 and I made a web series in 2020, “CherryBomb,” streaming on Prime Video. COVID-19 left a huge vacuum in the film industry. Suddenly, all my friends were out of work and desperate to create. We developed a show that follows two fresh-out-of-college entrepreneurs, Sofia and Iz, and their misadventures through the post-adolescent experience.

As my career progresses, I realize how much more there is to learn. You can always be learning and growing. It’s one of the most rewarding parts of my career.

Wherever I am, whatever I’m doing, I find people, moments, and locations that inspire me to create. Stories are everywhere. I just try to keep listening.

Directing is all about choices. To direct a 30-second commercial, you might make 1,000 choices that will manifest into the final product. I find that if you make decisions with the story you’re telling in mind, you will rarely choose wrong. Great directing happens when you filter every decision through the experience you want to give the audience.

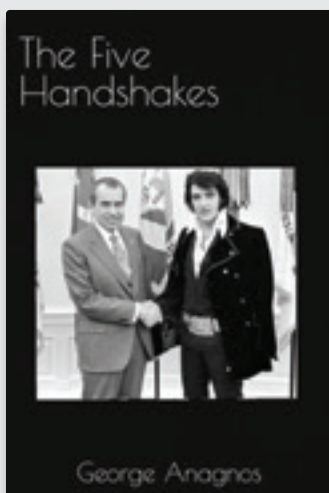


SEE MORE:
“CherryBomb”
on Amazon Prime

Class Notes

1960s

James Beckett '60, who was a member of the Wabash track team in 1957 and 1958, achieved national recognition for breaking existing power walking records for men aged 85–89 in two separate competitions. In July, Beckett broke National Senior Games records in the 1,500- and 5,000-meter power walks at the National Senior Games Championships in Pittsburgh, PA. In October, he won gold medals in the 1,500-, 3,000-, and 5,000-meter races, breaking the meet records in the 1,500 and 3,000 in the 2023 Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, UT. Beckett has been power walking since 2019.

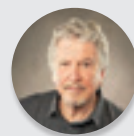


George Anagnos '69 has written and published a book called “The Five Handshakes,” available on Amazon.com. It presents his conservative political views and contains various personal stories, many of them about Wabash.

1970s

Steve Covey '71 and his wife have moved into 10 Wilmington Place, an independent living community in Dayton, OH. **Alex Miller '71** spent the summer participating in an intensive Russian language program in Riga, Latvia. He said, “On June 17, I decided to go to a neighboring town, Jūrmala, which was holding a festival. I boarded the train and started listening for Russian speakers so that I might engage with them. I heard very good English being spoken and turned to my right and identified the source as a male, probably American. We introduced ourselves and shortly after found out he was also a Wabash grad, **Anthony 'Tony' Basch '96**. Tony, an attorney from Richmond, VA, had been in London on business, learned about the festival from an airline magazine, and flew from London to Riga to see it. We had a grand reunion on the train and spent most of the day at the festival together tasting the beer, bread, and other delights and watching a world-class volleyball tournament on the beach of the Baltic Sea.” **Jon Pactor '71** has written another book on Wabash titled “The Monon Bell Stag: Its History and Humor.” It tells the story of the camaraderie between DePauw and Wabash men at an annual roast before the Monon Bell game. The Stag ran six decades and ended in 2013. The book can be purchased at the

Wabash College bookstore or from Pactor. **Steve Brammell '72** has recently published two historical novels set in Lake Michigan Dune Country. The story begins in 1648 and ends in 1833. He is currently working on a third novel.



While at Wabash, he was a member of Kappa Sigma. He resides in Indianapolis.

Gary C. Wollenweber '74 of GE Aerospace has received an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics award for exceptional contributions during a long-standing career in aircraft engine thermal design that led to improved aircraft survivability through IR signature reduction. While at Wabash, Wollenweber majored in physics and was a member of Kappa Sigma. **Bob Grand '78** gave reflections on his career as a lawyer at a CLE presentation sponsored by the Wabash Club of Indianapolis and the Indiana State Bar Association on Oct. 30, 2023. Grand was the second honoree in the Club's annual presentation of a Wabash Lawyer Legend. **John B. Powell '79** represented Wabash College at the inauguration of Dr. Stacy H. Young as the 16th President of Manchester University on Nov. 10, 2023.



Zeckel Awarded Honorary Degree

President Scott Feller presented an honorary bachelor's degree to **Michael Zeckel '70** at his home in Zionsville, IN, on Jan. 31. Zeckel entered Wabash with the Class of 1970 but went to Indiana University Medical School after his junior year.

Zeckel had a distinguished medical career specializing in infectious diseases and internal medicine. He served as chairman of the Infection Control Committee at Methodist Hospital. He led the State of Indiana's response to the AIDS epidemic and the Legionnaire's disease crisis.

He left private practice to join Eli Lilly and Company and enjoyed a second career as a research scientist with numerous patents, publications, and research citations.

Zeckel died Feb. 29. His obituary will be in the next issue of WM.



Kevin Chavous '78 recently celebrated his birthday by hosting a masquerade party in Washington, D.C. Several members of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies were in attendance. Front row left to right, **Jack Armstead '78**, **Joe Mims '76**; second row left to right – **Vince Henderson '78**, **Eugene Anderson '83**, **Kevin Chavous '78**, **Houston Mills '85**, and **Mike Stewart '78**.

Joining President Feller was Trustee **Chris Braun '81**, chair of the Honorary Degree Committee.

“We only recently formalized the practice of considering nominations for honorary bachelor's degrees,” Braun said. “We are aware of many loyal alumni who left Wabash in good standing to attend graduate and professional schools, and our committee will happily consider their nominations.”

The committee will award more honorary bachelor's degrees at Homecoming.

Class Notes

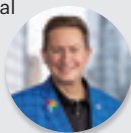
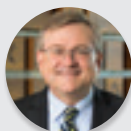
1980s

Timothy J. Haffner '82 represented Wabash College at the inauguration of Dr. John Shannon as the 17th President of Trine University on Oct. 7, 2023. | **Dr. Rujie Wang '83** represented Wabash College at the inauguration of Dr. Anne E. McCall as the 13th president of The College of Wooster on Oct. 28, 2023. | **Denis Kelly '84** received the 2023 Franklin College Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award. He serves the college as a lecturer of art. While at Wabash, he majored in religion and minored in philosophy, was a member of the Glee Club and Phi Kappa Psi, and worked for The Bachelor. | **Ken Ogorek '87** is co-author with Scott Hahn on a new book to serve as a companion to Sunday mass. Ogorek serves on the pastoral staff with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis. While at Wabash, he was a psychology major and member of Phi Delta Theta. | **Jo Throckmorton's '87** documentary film, "Over There: Hoosier Heroes of the Great War," was broadcast by Indiana Public Broadcast (PBS-TV) stations in November 2023. Throckmorton has begun preproduction on a new feature film. He expects to shoot in and around Bloomington, IN, in September and October of 2024. While at Wabash, Throckmorton was an independent and majored in rhetoric. He is the owner of Blue Ace Media LLC. | **Tom Murtaugh '88** was appointed by Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb in September to serve on the inaugural Behavioral Health Commission. Murtaugh is one of five members on the commission. He will serve until June 30, 2025. He is a commissioner of Tippecanoe County (Lafayette, IN). | **Douglas S. Swetnam '88** received the inaugural Michael C. Daniells E-Discovery, Information Governance, and Cybersecurity Professional of the Year award. Swetnam is section chief for data privacy and identity theft unit for Indiana Attorney General **Todd Rokita '92**.



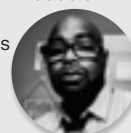
1990s

John Martin '91 and his wife, Susan, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary in August and their eighth anniversary living in Bavaria. Martin has had four short stories published or accepted by Raconteur Press. He has just completed five years as a regular contributor to both Salvo and Touchstone magazines. | **Scott Seay '91** was appointed to the William G. Irwin chair in the History of Christianity at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. He also has a book, "Mama Mputu: The Missionary Reflections of Buena Rose Stober (1897–1972)," releasing this year. | **William Padgett '92** headed a fundraiser tied to the Monon Bell game, as he has done for 22 years. Wabash and DePauw alumni at Barnes & Thornburg compete against each other during Bell Week to raise money for The Julian Center in Indianapolis—Indiana's largest shelter and counseling center for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. This year they raised more than \$6,000 from Wabash and DePauw alumni in Barnes & Thornburg's offices in Indianapolis; South Bend, IN; Chicago; Columbus, OH; New York; and Los Angeles. | Chef **Thomas Lents '95** has been appointed culinary director at Alila Napa Valley, a premiere luxury retreat in the heart of Northern California's wine country. | **Roy Sexton '95**, director of marketing at Clark Hill and 2023 international president of the Legal Marketing Association, has been named to the INvolve Outstanding 100 LGBTQ+ Executives Role Model List for 2023.



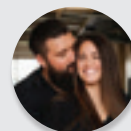
2000s

Albert Enriques '02 completed his MBA from Columbia Southern University. | Kroger Gardis & Regas LLP has announced partner **Séamus Boyce's '03** election as chair of the Indiana State Bar Association House of Delegates. | **Caleb "Ish" Ishman '03** has written some songs for the performing artist Usher. | **Dr. Juan Carlos Venis '09** recently assumed the role of president of the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians. He is the medical director of primary care at the Damien Center in Indianapolis and is also an assistant professor of clinical family medicine at IU Health in Indianapolis.



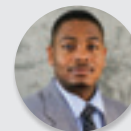
2010s

USA Football, the sport's recognized organization of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) that selects the U.S. National Team for flag and tackle, promoted **Curtis Peterson '10** to managing director of product, sales, and marketing. He was an independent, worked in the sports information office, and coached football at Crawfordsville High School during his time at Wabash. | **Kyle Bender '12** started as associate director of global leadership development at Eli Lilly and Company. | **Casey Wright '12** has joined the Barnes & Thornburg legal team in the Indianapolis office. Wright focuses his practice on trademarks and intellectual property counseling. He earned his J.D. from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2018 and his B.A. in biology. | **Kyleigh Lynette**, wife of Wabash College alumni football player **Garrett Lynette '15**, was a contestant for the title of Mrs. Indiana in April 2024. Her chosen platform is bringing awareness about veteran suicide. A portion of the proceeds collected were donated to Mission 22.



2020s

Ian Little '20 is starting a farm management apprenticeship with New Morning Farm near Hustontown, PA, through the Pennsylvania Sustainable Agriculture Association's Diversified Vegetable Management program. New Morning Farm is more than 50 years old and serves several farmers markets in the heart of D.C. and surrounding food banks. | **Austin Chivington '21** has passed his chemistry Ph.D. qualifying exam. | **Davionne Garrett '22** has been promoted to partner delivery assurance manager II at Ultimate Kronos Group. He also received the UKG Global Delivery Service Diamond Award for Rookie of the Year for 2023. | **Kellen Schreiber '23** began his first season of coaching football at Roncalli High School. He is assistant varsity wide receivers coach and head junior varsity coach, and he teaches history. | **Chase Breaux '24**, a political science major and Black studies minor, was named a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. | **Kayden Beatty '25**, following a Global Health Initiative internship, earned the Luke Borinstein Award, which is given by the Montgomery County Public Health Department to interns who exhibit great achievement, adaptability, determination, and drive. | **Elijah Greene '25** earned a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study in Thessaloniki, Greece. | **Olivier Tuyishime '25** earned a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study in Kigali, Rwanda. | **Hunter Otto '26** earned a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study in Heidelberg, Germany.



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In Memory

Rodney Brown '48

Dr. Rodney F. Brown, 94, of Evansville, IN, died January 2, 2021.

Brown was born in Evansville, to Rodney and Susannah (Seager) Brown. He attended Reitz High School, where he was the starting quarterback on the football team. After graduating, he served on a light cruiser in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the Pacific Theater. After the war, he attended Indiana University School of Dentistry, earning his Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 1952. He practiced general dentistry for 48 years on Evansville's west side, prior to his retirement in 2000.

After the University of Evansville plane crash in 1977, Brown developed an interest in forensics, ultimately becoming one of only two board-certified forensic odontologists in the state. He worked the Drury Inn and Newton County plane crashes. He served as deputy coroner in Vanderburgh County for 17 years. Additionally, he assisted in identifying victims during 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

Brown is survived by his three children, Dr. Randall K. Brown, Melinda Gill, and Alissa Brown; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, Aaron Lee Brown; parents; sister and brother-in-law, Helen and John Stephens; sister and brother-in-law, Susie and Morgan Jones; sister, Jo Ann Turpen; and brother, Joe Schneider Jr.

Thomas R. Cole '51

Thomas R. Cole, 94, died at home in Moscow, ID, November 13, 2023.

Cole was born in St. Louis, MO, just prior to the stock market crash in October 1929. He graduated from Webster Groves High School in 1947, and attended Wabash College and the University of Missouri, where he finished a degree in journalism in 1954. He served in the Marine Corps as a swim instructor in San Diego.

He worked as a journalist at the Centralia, IL, Sentinel newspaper, as a city editor and beat reporter. There, he met his future wife, Dianne Betourne, and they were married in 1959. In 1964, he was hired by the Boeing Company of Seattle, WA, to join their public relations department

in Renton, WA. While at Boeing, he traveled extensively across the world, especially to South America, promoting the Boeing brand. The family lived in the Mirrormont neighborhood outside of Issaquah, WA, for 53 years, and was instrumental in starting the neighborhood community pool and clubhouse and maintaining the history of the neighborhood. In 2018, Cole and Dianne relocated to Moscow, ID, to escape the rainy Cascade foothills to be near family in Pullman.

Cole had a generous spirit and often defended the underdog, encouraging others to see the other point of view. He lived by adages, which he freely imparted to others, such as "use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without," "an intelligent mind is never bored," and "early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." He was known for his generosity, hospitality, and humor. He volunteered for years at the Issaquah food bank. His home was always open, hosting traveling relatives, friends, and their friends, as they passed through the Seattle area. He was known to pick up hitchhikers along the country roads around Issaquah.

Cole loved old-time country and bluegrass music. One favorite pastime was completing crossword puzzles, often verbalizing the clues for anyone within hearing distance to help answer. He had a love of cars, and at times could not part with them, often inventing his own repairs to prolong their lives. He kept handy checklists of what was wrong with them so that family and friends who drove them would not be caught unaware when doors or heaters wouldn't work. This and other circumstances often put him in compromising situations from which came many humorous stories that have been repeated over the decades to the delight of his family. He always had a thick skin and laughed along with the rest.

Cole is survived by his wife, Dianne; sister, Mary Naehrer; and brother, John Cole. Also surviving are three children, Tim Cole, Clint Cole, and Susan Cole; and six grandchildren.

Emmett Brown '52

Emmett (Leon) Brown, 94, died July 17, 2023. Brown was raised in Hammond, IN, and attended Hammond High School, Class of 1946. He attended Wabash College and graduated with a B.S. in business administration from Indiana University graduating 1951.

Brown served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Korea. He was a co-owner of the Golden Gate Inn and owner (1955–68) of the Cave Tavern in Hammond. After selling his businesses, he worked in management for Wisconsin Steel and Calumet Flame Hardening. In 1975 he moved to Tulsa, OK, and opened two successful printing businesses until he retired in 2000.

Brown is survived by his sons, Scott Brown and Kurt Brown; and daughters, Deborah Brown and Ashley Barroso. He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna Grace; parents, Oral and Opal Brown; and brother, Nelson Brown.

William Reinke '52

William J. Reinke, 93, of Granger, IN, died September 30, 2023, in Mishawaka, IN.

Born in South Bend, IN, to William August and Eva Marie (Hein) Reinke, he graduated from John Adams High School, earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wabash College, and with a full-tuition merit scholarship to the University of Chicago, obtained his Juris Doctor in 1955. He also served in the U.S. Army at 5th Army Headquarters in Chicago for two years as a sergeant in the Management Planning Unit, followed by years of service in the Army Reserves.

Reinke began his legal career at Seebirt, Oare, Deahl, & Thornburg and helped lead its growth and development, becoming senior partner at the South Bend office of what would become Barnes & Thornburg, one of America's 75 largest and most prominent law firms. Over his career, he argued cases in both trial and appellate courts at the federal level nationwide. He was a member of the American Bar Association, Indiana State Bar Association, American Judicature Society, the Defense Research Institute, and the St. Joseph County Bar Association, and was listed in the first edition of "The Best Lawyers in America in 1983," where he

earned its highest peer-review rating as a lawyer.

Deeply committed to the South Bend community civically and philanthropically, Reinke served on many boards, including trustee and president of the board of trustees for the Stanley Clark School, Izaak Walton League, First United Methodist Church, and United Way of St. Joseph County. He was a 50-year member of the advisory board and board president for the Salvation Army, South Bend Chapter. He was a proud member of the Rotary Club of South Bend and was among the original five founders and investors of what became the Summit Club atop South Bend's tallest building. A strong patron of the arts, he also served on the board of the South Bend Civic Theater.

He received numerous accolades throughout his professional life, including the Wabash College Richard O. Ristine Law Award. He was honored as a Lifetime Fellow of the St. Joseph County Bar Foundation and received the Sigmund Beck Award presented by the ACLU of Indiana for his development of a course on the U.S. Constitution taught to elementary students across the Hoosier state.

Reinke retired in 1996 after nearly 40 years in the practice of law, which allowed him greater time to devote to his favorite leisure pursuits: traveling, writing, and spending time at his beloved Sabian Lodge. An avid writer, he authored "A Hoosier Trial Lawyer's Notebook: 40 Years at the Bar," a fascinating rendition of his legal career often comparing the courtroom to a stage, lawyers as actors, jury as the audience. He was in the final throes of his second book, "Random Thoughts," when his health declined. His family vows to complete his work.

Some of Reinke's fondest memories occurred in May 2016, with his younger brother Bob, when, both in their late 80s, they retraced the steps of their father's involvement in the 1916 Battle of the Somme during World War I, exactly 100 years later. They were subsequently interviewed by a French television crew for the event.

He was a larger-than-life, constant, loving force for his family, well deserving of the title patriarch. He married his first wife, Sue C.

In Memory

Reinke (Colvin), in 1951, and reared their three children, Sally, William, and Andrew, in his ancestral home on Colfax, designed and built by his father, the late William A. Reinke, in 1939, which remained in the family for 75 years, covering four generations.

Reinke is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Elizabeth A. Reinke (Beck); daughter, Sally S. Taelman; daughter-in-law, Pamela A. Reinke; and son, Andrew J. Reinke. He had four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His extended family with his wife Elizabeth includes his stepchildren, Michael B. Lockwood, Lisa A. Ritz, and Patrick A. Lockwood; six step-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

Frederic Lincoln Marx '55

Frederic Lincoln "Link" Marx died October 8, 2023. He was born in South Bend, IN, to Gladys and Emil Marx.

After the passing of his father when he was 5 years old, Marx and his family called several locations home, residing in Daytona Beach, Washington, D.C., Indianapolis, and San Francisco—where he graduated from Palo Alto High School. While attending Wabash College, he was called upon by his nation to serve in the Korean Conflict. When he returned to the states, Marx took up residence in Washington, D.C.

There he met his wife and the mother of his children, Mary Jane Beasley. They married and moved to Richmond, VA, where Marx enrolled at the University of Richmond to complete his college degree. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and served the fraternity in various roles over the years.

It was also in Richmond that he and Jane had their first child, Brian. Soon after, Marx moved the family to Pennsylvania, where his other two children, Carolyn and David, were born. There he was an active member and officer in Media Presbyterian Church for more than 30 years.

After retiring, Marx and his wife moved to Georgia and set up residence in Vinings, joining First Presbyterian in Marietta. Just three short years later, after 46 years of marriage, Jane tragically died after a long bout with cancer. After Jane's passing, Marx relocated to

Buckhead, where he was a member of Shallowford and Morningside Presbyterian Churches over the ensuing 20 years.

Marx was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs and enjoyed following college football and basketball. He loved the time he was able to spend on the golf course.

Marx is survived by his three children, Brian and his wife, Patty; Carolyn and her husband, Greg Morton; and David and his wife, Brenna. He is also survived by four grandchildren.

Frank Rasmussen '56

Frank Morris Rasmussen, 87, died March 23, 2022.

Marx was born in Modesto, CA, to Evelyn and Elmer Rasmussen. Following the death of his father in 1941, he and his mother relocated to Illinois, where he finished his secondary education. Rasmussen received a bachelor's degree from Wabash College in 1957 and graduated from Harvard University Law School in 1960. Following law school, he joined the Cleveland law firm Squire, Sanders, and Dempsey, where he practiced law until retirement. Rasmussen married Carolyn Humbert in August of 1959; the two eventually settled in Chagrin Falls, OH, where they raised their three children: Katy, Jamie, and Pete.

While law was Rasmussen's passion, he also enjoyed participating in community organizations, serving as president for Great Decisions of Wayne County, as a board member of Chagrin Falls Park Association, and as the founder of the Damariscotta River Association (Damariscotta, ME). Rasmussen also loved the western United States. He enjoyed visiting historical and sometimes little-known sites, falling in love with Jackson Hole, WY, where he and Carolyn spent some of their retirement years.

Rasmussen is survived by his three children; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and dear friend, Diana Day. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Carolyn.

Michael Paul Shinkle '57

Michael Paul Shinkle of Howell, MI, died August 29, 2023. He was born in Muncie, IN, the only son to Dorothy and Glenn Shinkle. He married Linda Shafer in 1959 in Muncie.

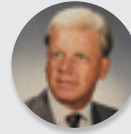
Survivors include his children, Ted, Doug, Michelle, and Amy; three grandsons; and two great-granddaughters.

Roland Nelson Litterst '58

Roland Nelson "Ron" Litterst, 87, of Peoria, IL, and Sister Bay, WI, died October 29, 2023, at his home. Born in Peoria to Dr. Milton R. and Marian Nelson Litterst, he was a 1954 graduate of Dunlap High School and received his preparatory education at Wabash College, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. Years later, he served as the alumni advisor for the Beta Pi chapter of his fraternity at Bradley University. He received the Durrance Award as the outstanding advisor of Phi Gamma Delta in 1998. He also received a citation for distinguished and exceptional service from Phi Gamma Delta in 2022. He received his J.D. at the University of Michigan and Indiana University.

Litterst was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1962, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, and was in private practice in Illinois for 40 years. For three years he was an assistant state's attorney for Peoria County, where he argued the state's cases before the Illinois appellate courts and the Illinois Supreme Court. He was a partner in the firm of Covey and Litterst and served as assistant attorney general for three Illinois attorneys general. He was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in 1971 and was a 50-year member of the Peoria County Bar Association, and a member of the Illinois State and the American Bar Associations. He retired in 2002 as senior partner in the firm of Becker and Litterst.

In Peoria, Litterst served on the board of directors of the Peoria County Legal Aid Society, which later became Prairie State Legal Services Inc. He incorporated the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation and for many years served on its board of directors. He served eight years on the board of the Peoria symphony orchestra,



and as its finance chair. He was serving as a trustee of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra Foundation at the time of his death.

Litterst spent 11 years on the board of trustees of Lakeview Museum and on its executive committee. He served as president of the Peoria Area Arts and Science Council, served on the former Peoria Art Commission by appointment of the mayor of Peoria, and in 1992, received the Prescott E. Bloom Award as the arts volunteer of the year. Illinois Governor James Thompson appointed him to the Illinois Arts Council for eight years. Litterst was a member of the Creve Coeur Club of Peoria, and a former member of the Country Club of Peoria and the Illinois Valley Yacht Club. He was a member of First Federated Church in Peoria for more than 50 years. He served on its executive board for a total of 12 years and as an elder and a vice moderator of the congregation.

Litterst and his wife, Lois, maintained a second home in Door County, WI, at Sister Bay, where family and friends gathered. He was a trustee of the Bayshore Estates Homeowners Association, a member of the Ephraim Men's Club and the Ephraim Historical Foundation, and a longtime member of the Ephraim Yacht Club and Bethany Lutheran Church. At the age of 68, Litterst became a watercolor artist, taking classes at the Peninsula Art School in Fish Creek, WI, where he was a member and studied with master artist Ed Fenendael. His work was exhibited at the Door County Art League Gallery, where he was a member. His work was juried into a show at the Hardy Art Center, Ephraim, WI. Long bike rides, swimming in Lake Michigan, and cooking dinner with Lois for a full table of family and friends were among his greatest joys in life.

Litterst was married to Lois Ferguson Lindner on November 25, 1998. She survives. Other survivors include son, R. Nelson Litterst; daughter, Erika Adele; three stepchildren, Brad Lindner, Andrew Lindner, and Julie Darko; and 12 grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, David Milton Litterst.

In Memory

Robert Duane Bittner '59

Robert Duane Bittner was born in Peoria, IL, and died November 17, 2023.

After Bittner graduated from Wabash College with a degree in psychology, he was director of the Title III hearing impaired program that introduced sign language to the Special Education District of Lake County, Illinois (SEDOL). Upon retiring and moving to Las Vegas, he worked with at-risk babies from birth to age 3 for many years. He moved to Florida and became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, serving as a Stephen Minister and deacon. He continued his lifelong work with children through the church and by volunteering to work with children with autism and other special needs in an underprivileged school.

Bittner was generous in his love and caring not only for his family, but for his community and church family as well. His lifelong work as a child psychologist allowed him to combine these attributes and skills to the benefit of many families and children throughout his life.

Bittner was preceded in death by his parents, Lester Emmanuel Bittner and Elizabeth Irene Bittner; stepmother, Martha Steiner; first wife, Betty Bittner; newborn grandson, William; and daughter, Kimberly Christopher. He is survived by his wife, Diane Lenell Bittner; brother, Kenneth; children, Dru Bittner, Liz LaSalle, and Kelly Sassi; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Roger Hill Buckley '59

Roger Hill Buckley, 81, of Indianapolis died October 16, 2018. He was born in Evansville, IN. He loved Snoopy and the Cincinnati Reds. He is survived by his daughters, Beth Pfister and Linda Kossmann; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Nadine Buckley; and his wife, Hannah Kessing Buckley.

Valerie Journeaux Harvey Powell '59

Born in Racine, WI, to Richard G. and Mary Lou Harvey, Valerie Journeaux Harvey Powell died November 5, 2023, in Pittsburgh, PA. A dedicated professor, researcher, and a determined advocate of



progressive causes, Powell died after a valiant effort to recover from a grievous head injury suffered in a fall.

Powell began her education at the rural, one-room Wind Point Elementary School, where she excelled and discovered her love of learning. In 1955, she graduated from William Horlick High School in Racine. She then enrolled at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN, and in 1959 obtained her B.A. in language and philosophy. She spent her junior year in college as an exchange student at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität in Freiburg im Breisgau, where she advanced her mastery of spoken and written German.

From 1959 to 1962, Powell attended the University of Texas–Austin, where she obtained a Ph.D. in linguistics and philosophy. She later completed an M.S. in computer science in 1980 at Texas A&M University–Commerce. In 2002, she became a registered radiologic technician.

Powell enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a university-level teacher, where she reinvented herself, adapting to the trends and needs of higher education. She began her career in 1966 teaching German at Texas A&M University in Commerce, TX. She later shifted to teaching English and philosophy and then in the 1980s made a career move into the burgeoning field of computer science. In 1990, she assumed an appointment as professor of computer and information systems at Robert Morris University (RMU) in Pittsburgh, PA. There, in addition to teaching computer science, she offered classes in discrete math. After retiring in 2015, she remained a professor emerita at RMU, allowing her to continue to pursue her research and publication interests.

Throughout her life, Powell was a crusader and pioneer for causes she believed improved the community. During high school, she home-printed and distributed a newspaper, The Wind Point Beacon, in an effort to facilitate community information sharing. During her teaching career in Texas, she engaged students in community activities and language clubs. She later became a passionate advocate of bilingual education.

After her switch to the computer science field, Powell was influential in developing computer systems for medical records and for air traffic control systems. Most recently, and up to the time of her passing, she continued to research, publish articles, edit books, and champion the integration of medical and dental records to significantly improve the quality of healthcare.

Perhaps her most important pioneering effort came in the personal realm when she acknowledged her true identity as a woman and successfully and gracefully transitioned to a female during a time when such transitions were less recognized and accepted. Based on this personal journey, she became a strong advocate for transgender rights and, by extension, for the rights of all political, social, ethnic, and gender minorities.

In 1961, Valerie (William at the time) married Kay Jacobson from Austin, TX. They raised two sons, David and Michael. They provided an intellectually stimulating family life that included board games, travel abroad, camping and outdoor adventures, support of religious education, and an early introduction to computers. Jacobson predeceased Powell in 2016.

After her transition, she married Jay Powell, Ph.D. Together, they enjoyed sharing their academic interests, presenting around the world at academic and scientific conferences, and traveling throughout the United States. Jay predeceased Powell in 2018.

Powell is survived by her sons, David Harvey and Michael Harvey; and brothers, Timothy Harvey and John Harvey. In addition, Powell is survived by her five grandchildren.

Charles Leo Bowerman '60

Charles Leo Bowerman, 83, was born in Alamo, IN, to Thomas Edward Bowerman and Hazel Augusta Melvin Bowerman. He died September 2, 2023.

Bowerman played basketball from the time he could walk, and in true Hoosier fashion developed a lifelong passion for the game. This passion led to a career that spanned nearly four decades with Phillips Petroleum Co.



Bowerman attended Alamo High School, where he averaged more than 27 points per game playing for one of the toughest coaches he ever had—his dad! As a high school baller, Bowerman was selected all-county, all-sectional, and Outstanding Senior Athlete in Montgomery County in 1957. Bowerman then earned a scholarship to Wabash College. He had a great basketball career there, including a historic five-overtime game with Butler University his junior year in which he scored 53 points, helping Wabash get the win, 110–108. His senior year, he scored 63 points, a single-game record that still stands today.

Between his junior and senior year, he married Coralea Weir, the love of his life, whom he had known since grade school. Bowerman graduated from Wabash in 1961.

His success on the court gained the attention of a Phillips recruiter, who asked him to come to Bartlesville, OK, for an interview. The recruiter also happened to be a Phillips 66ers assistant coach, and the interview quickly turned into a basketball tryout and, soon after, a job offer. Bowerman often said the best advice his father ever gave him was to take the job at Phillips and work while also getting the opportunity to play ball. He had already turned down a chance to play in the NBA with the New York Knicks, being selected in the fifth round of the 1961 draft. Bowerman's three-year stint with the 66ers included a goodwill tour to the Middle East and playing in the world games in Rio de Janeiro. He was selected as an AAU All-American in 1964 and was a member of the AAU All-Star Team in the Olympic Trials. After three years of basketball and traveling, Bowerman decided to settle down with his family and focus on his career.

Starting out in the sales training program in South Bend, IN, and then La Porte, IN, Bowerman worked as a district sales representative and rose rapidly in the ranks. He held various managerial positions in marketing operations in the 1970s and 1980s, and in 1984 he became the vice president of marketing for Phillips. Some of his fondest memories were working on a national marketing campaign to improve and revamp their retail store image. In 1988 he became senior vice president of petroleum

In Memory

products, with worldwide responsibilities for refining, marketing, and transportation. Bowerman was elected to the Phillips board of directors in 1989, and held various other executive positions, including executive vice president of planning, corporate relations, and services. He retired in 1999 after 38 years of service with Phillips Petroleum Company and was the last remaining Phillips employee from the 66ers glory days.

While working, Bowerman was a member of the American Petroleum Institute's board of directors, served on the Boy Scouts of America's national executive board, was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1995, served on the board of trustees for the Boys & Girls Club of Bartlesville, and was also a trustee for Hanover College and Jane Phillips Medical Center. He continued his service to the community after retirement, serving on various committees with First United Methodist Church in Bartlesville, the Bartlesville Community Foundation, and the Bartlesville Sports Commission, and helping bring the American Legion World Series to Bartlesville. And while all of these are admirable things, he did them humbly while coaching his girls in sports, teaching their Sunday school classes, helping with term papers, and later even running a basketball camp in the driveway for his grandkids.

Bowerman's successes in life were rooted in a strong foundation of faith. He never shied away from talking about hardships and trusting in the Lord. He had a disciplined prayer life, set goals, and expected excellence along with ethics. This living out of his faith was the greatest legacy he left his family. With fond memories of holiday gatherings, family vacations, treasure hunts, and fancy dinners, family and friends take comfort in knowing he is reunited with Coralea.

Bowerman is survived by his daughters, Cindy Dean, Cristie Lister, and Candie Morris; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and sister, Judy Bratton. He was preceded in death by his parents, Tom and Hazel; sister, Pat Bryant; and wife, Coralea Weir Bowerman.

James Lawson Davidson III '61

James Lawson Davidson III, 83, of Indian Head Park, IL, died June 10, 2023. He was born and raised in Marshall, MI, where he graduated from high school with honors. He then graduated from Wabash College with a bachelor's degree. He went on to the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University in Chicago and graduated with an MBA in marketing.

Davidson served in the Navy as Lieutenant J.G. for four years on the USS Cowell DD-547. After his time in the Navy, he grew his career in marketing and advertising working for Alberto-Culver, Cunningham & Walsh, Bender Browning, and Euro Taitham.

He was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity in Kane County, IL, and at the Hinsdale Historical Society for many years. After retirement, Davidson started his own handyman business and had great success. He loved playing golf, sports car racing, making stained glass windows, and woodworking.

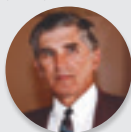
He is survived by his wife, Carol Davidson; sister, Deborah Fisher; and sister-in-law, Holly Self.

Richard J. Lesniak Sr. '61

Richard J. Lesniak Sr., 84, of Schererville, IN, died October 1, 2023.

He was born in East Chicago, IN, to the late Benjamin J. Lesniak and Helen (Gajda) Lesniak. After graduating from Bishop Noll High School, Wabash College, and Indiana University School of Law, he began his law career as an escrow officer with Chicago Title Insurance and then transitioned to deputy prosecuting attorney for Lake County. Next, he joined the private practice firm of Given, Dawson, and Cappas in East Chicago. He later founded his own firm.

While practicing in East Chicago, Lesniak represented many local government agencies. As the East Chicago School City general counsel for 20 years, he participated in the financing and construction of numerous schools and municipal improvements. Later in his career, he relocated the firm to Schererville and leaned toward family practice. Preparing for retirement, in 2018 he merged into the offices of Rubino, Rumen, Crosmer, and Polen in Dyer, IN. He



was a member of the Lake County Bar Association and the Indiana State Bar Association for more than 50 years.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he served as the representative for Lake County in the Indiana House of Representatives. He was the Democrat caucus chairman in 1971 and 1972, a member of the Indiana Code Study Commission, and co-sponsor of Indiana Code of 1971.

Lesniak was an avid golfer and ballroom dancer, dancing with his wife in numerous amateur ballroom dance competitions across the U.S.

Lesniak is survived by his wife, Janice (Kmiecik); four children, Linda Kiefer, Karen Tracy, Richard Lesniak, and John Michael Lesniak; five grandchildren; his brother, John Lesniak; his sister, Margaret Doll; many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and one aunt, Lucile Gardner.

James Gordon Gibbs Jr. '61

James "Jay" Gordon Gibbs Jr., 84, of Danville, IN, died October 27, 2023. He was born in LaPorte, IN, to the late Grace (Patterson) and James Gordon Gibbs Sr. Gibbs married Shirley L. Marquess on July 28, 1961, in Danville, and they were married 58 years before her death on May 29, 2020. He is a U.S. Army veteran.

Gibbs graduated from Wabash College and earned a J.D. from Indiana University. He worked in the attorney general's office for the State of Indiana for many years and then returned to be an attorney in Hendricks County. Gibbs loved the town of Danville, where he grew up, and was very involved in his community. He was the founding president of the Danville Optimist Club and volunteered his time with many of the youth sports programs. His passions and hobbies were many; his love of his sports teams, fishing, hunting, reading, games, cards, movies, and music was well known by those who knew him.

Gibbs will be remembered for his sense of humor and trying to bring a smile to all he met. He will be missed greatly by those who remain behind, and we will look fondly on his life well lived. Survivors include his sons, James "Jamie" Gordon Gibbs III and Justin "Judd" G. Gibbs; daughter, Paula R. Schmidt; brother, Dennis L. Gibbs; sister, Beverly Reiger;

six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. His parents, wife, and daughter, Bethany J. Bradshaw, preceded him in death.

Michael Paul Hughes Jr. '61

Michael Paul Hughes Jr., 84, died December 1, 2023. He was born in Montclair, NJ, to Michael and Ruth (Jones) Hughes. Hughes married Rosemarie Largura on June 20, 1964, at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Gary, IN.

Hughes graduated from Wabash College and went on to get his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska. Family and friends were very important to him, even if it was just sitting down over a meal or having a beer, going fishing with his children and grandchildren, and supporting their activities or sporting events.

Hughes worked at Tri-County Mental Health Clinic, Rock County Family Service, and Beloit Regional Hospice. He volunteered at Bridge Lakepoint Waunona Neighborhood Center, Agrace Hospice, and Holy Wisdom Monastery, and was very involved in social justice issues. He also enjoyed kayaking, walking, taking Sunday drives, and watching sports in person and on TV.

"Papa" was the biggest fan of his children and grandchildren. Hughes was a giving guy who was very loving and always gave people his time and attention. He loved telling stories and making jokes. His wit and humor were appreciated by all who surrounded him. He loved everything Irish, including traveling to Ireland and even playing in an Irish band called Americay.

Hughes is survived by his wife of 59 years, Rosemarie; children, Meghan True, Jen Hughes, Tony Hughes, and Katie Stevens; seven grandchildren; brothers, Jim Hughes and Bill Hughes; brother-in-law, Aldo Largura; nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

From the Pages of The Wabash

NOT A DAY GOES BY in the Ramsay Archival Center that I do not find myself flipping through the pages of one of the most valuable resources in our collections: The Wabash yearbook. This time machine can take readers back decades to relive student days or showcase a period of time at the College. Each edition uniquely represents the students who composed it and the world events that shaped their Wabash experiences.

One thing often overlooked when viewing a yearbook is the artistry that went into its production. Early editions frequently featured the creative works of Wabash students, including drawings, music, and poetry.

To preserve these resources and to make them accessible to you, the Ramsay Archival Center has been digitizing our yearbook collections. This project was made possible through the generosity of the Jon and Andrea Pactor Fund. Established by Jon '71 and Andrea Pactor, it provides impactful support for Wabash students, faculty, alumni, and others engaging with the Ramsay Archival Center and supports the preservation and collection of historical objects of the social, academic, educational, and athletic history of the College. Through the assistance of this fund, we can preserve items like The Wabash yearbooks and provide access to the rich history of the College.

To view our progress and some of these fantastic works, please visit www.wabash.edu/go/yearbooks.

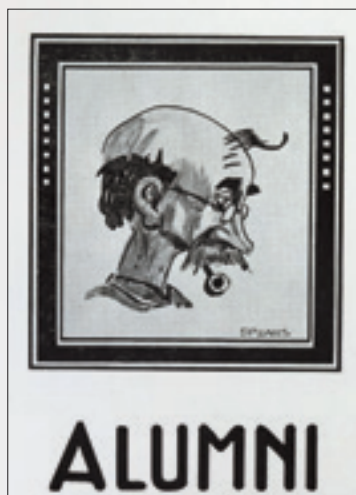
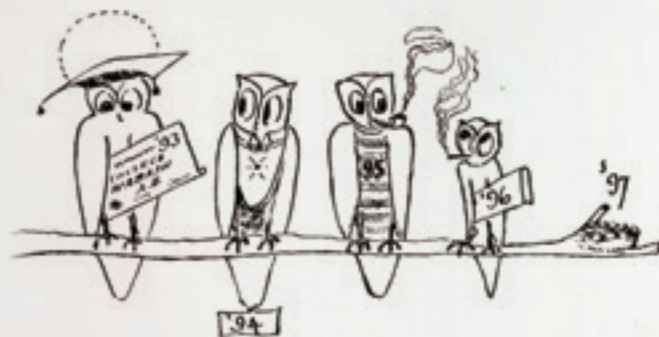
Nolan Eller '11

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FOUR KAPPA SIGS SPEND SPRING VACATION
IN CRAWFORDSVILLE IN ORDER TO KNOCK
OUT SOME TERM PAPERS



*"The clock beats out the pulse of passing years,
The tides of life may sweep us far away,
But memory will treasure all the cheers,
The careless college life of yesterday."*



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	Date	Creator	Description
1.	1894	unknown	Owls
2.	1923	Harold Hubert Spears [W1924]	College Types
3.	1923	Harold Hubert Spears [W1924]	Alumni
4.	1894	William Fenner Fry [W1894]	College Departments/Center Hall
5.	-	unknown	unknown
6.	1923	Richard Elwell Banta [W1926]	Freshman Matriculate Here
7.	-	unknown	unknown

	Date	Creator	Description
8.	1922	unknown	Milligan Clock
9.	1894	unknown	Center Hall/Arboretum
10.	1910	Harry C. Bain [W1911]	Senior
11.	1923	Unknown	Center Hall
12.	1894	Lee Orean Smith [W1894]	The Old Guitar
13.	1910	Julius E. Underwood [W1911]	Athletics
14.	1881	unknown	Board of Editors

Light

WHEN IT COMES TO MUSIC, it's rare that parents and teenagers ever agree on what is good. Although I don't "appreciate" some of the music my kids listen to, we have managed to find some common interests in artists such as The Beatles, Beach Boys, and Chicago. I suppose there's just some music that is so undeniably good that it's nearly impossible to dislike. While I did come to appreciate and enjoy Frank Sinatra, my parents, and more specifically my father, never did embrace the guitar-oriented rock music I grew up blaring in my bedroom. But we eventually did find a common interest: the Wabash College Glee Club.

My father, Paul Hawksworth '56, was not a particularly good singer, but enjoyed his time in the Glee Club tremendously. He was especially fond of Bob Mitchum H'59, a legendary figure at Wabash who served as Glee Club director, as well as professor, golf coach, band director, and alumni director. My dad spoke of Mitchum with a reverence usually reserved for a family member or best friend.

In the early 1950s, "Mitch" wanted to raise the profile of the Glee Club on campus, so he went about recruiting athletes to join... regardless of ability. My dad was one who signed on. It was a decision that would impact his life and his three Wabash sons who followed in his footsteps at Wabash.

There is something captivating about male voices singing in four-part harmony. I was lucky to have had the opportunity to sing several of the same songs in the club that my dad had sung in the 50s: "Ride the Chariot," "Cantante Domino," "Salvation Belongeth to Our God," "Brothers Sing On," and the raucous crowd pleaser "Old King Cole." He and I would sing these songs together for many years after my graduation, often while enjoying a gin martini.

On an otherwise non-descript day during summer break in college, I remember my dad dusting off an old Wabash Glee Club record to play me his favorite song, "The Creation," by Willy Richter. As it played, I sat in awed silence and watched him sing

along,
eyes closed,
and with
purposeful intent;
much in the same way
someone would savor a fine
wine or a well-aged scotch after
the first wonderful sip. Like many special
moments in my life, I remember it vividly. I
was moved by the undeniable beauty of the
song and how it moved my father.

After taking the needle off the record, he
looked at me and said, "I want that song
played at my funeral."

I laughed it off at the time, but never forgot
his words.

The lyrics to the song are few and simple,
taken from Genesis 1:1-4 in the Bible:

In the beginning God created the heaven
and the earth
And the earth was waste and void
And darkness upon the face of the deep
And the spirit of God moved upon
the waters
And God said let there be light, and there
was light

What makes the song particularly
moving is the way the arrangement
juxtaposes darkness and light. It bounces
between soft, slow, and brooding when

singing about darkness, then loud, powerful,
and cheerful with the arrival of light.

The next time I heard it was July of 2017
at my father's funeral.

There is a chord sung in the line "and
there was light" that is stunning. When
that line in the song played in the church,
it was as if I could see the heavens open to
welcome my father into his eternal place of
rest, being called to the light. It brought me
much-needed peace and comfort during
those dark days surrounding his passing.

The song was a fitting farewell to a great
Wabash man after a life well-lived. I am
grateful that my dad played me that song
so many years ago. It is impossible for me
to not think of him when I hear it, forever a
wonderful and moving connection to a man
I miss dearly.

Jim Hawksworth '95
President | NAWM



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In Memory

John Hays III '62

John Hays III, 83, of Gig Harbor, WA, died July 10, 2023. He was born in Sullivan, IN. Hays was valedictorian of Sullivan High School and earned his bachelor's degree at Wabash College and an MBA at Harvard Business School. He lived and worked in South America for more than 20 years and later in Hawaii, Panama, and Washington state.

Hays was a talented youth and could be found playing Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C Sharp Minor" on the piano, turning an old motor into a lathe, or learning a new language. He had perfect pitch and sang in high school with the Two Js and the Stairsteppers, a barbershop quartet, as well as church choirs throughout his life. A lover and speaker of many languages, he worked and traveled extensively throughout the world. He was proud of being an Eagle Scout and a member of MENSA. To his end, he was gracious and generous and had a curiosity for all things.

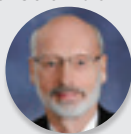
Hays is survived by his wife, Susan; son, John Hays; daughter, Caroline von Keisenberg; sisters, Barbara Hays Dove and Emily Hays Moss; brother-in-law, William (Buck) Brown; eight grandchildren; a niece; a nephew; and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, John T. Hays II and Mary (Polly) Spooner Hays.

Jon R. Pontzius '64

Jon R. Pontzius, 84, of Columbia City, IN, died December 4, 2023. Born in Fort Wayne, IN, son of Robert W. and Veril (Goodrich) Pontzius, he grew up on a farm in Thorncreek Township and graduated from Columbia City High School in 1957.

Pontzius graduated from Wabash College, where he majored in philosophy. His postgraduate study was in American history at the University of Washington, where he was selected for membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honorary society, in 1964–65. He studied social work at Portland State College in Oregon in 1967–68, where he received a certificate in social sculpture.

After living in Elkhart, IN, for 25 years, he lived in Thorncreek Township in Whitley County, where the farm has been in the family since 1835.



Pontzius was a member of Whitley County Historical Society, where he served on the board of directors of Genealogical Society of Whitley County, Whitley County Literacy Council, People Preserving History, Friends of the Library, and the Unitarian Church in Fort Wayne. He retired from Passages Inc. in Columbia City in 2000.

Reading the New York Times every day was his favorite pastime, but travel, gardening, genealogy research, sculpture, and writing were other main interests. He was also a book collector, having more than 2,500 volumes on a variety of subjects.

In 1958–59, Pontzius studied at the Alliance Frances in Paris, France, and he traveled to Moscow, Russia. In 1976–77, he traveled around the world to South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. In the U.S., he visited nearly every county in every state while delivering travel trailers for Morgan Drive Away Inc. When his pickup truck was destroyed by a tornado near Louisville, KY, in 1996, he returned to social work for ADEC Inc. in Bristol, IN.

Pontzius wrote poetry and several books and essays on his travels, as well as a history of the family farm. Two of his genealogy books have been in the Allen County Library for more than 30 years. The main theme of many of his poems, sculptures, and writings was the great positive potential and unity of mankind. He had designed a collection of more than three world flags representing the entire human race, rather than one nation as a group.

Survivors include his brother, Roy Pontzius; sister, Ruth Ann Husak; six nieces; and six nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Dean Robert Davis '66

Dean Robert Davis died October 10, 2023, in Wilmington, NC.

Davis was born in Wabash, IN. He spent his childhood in rural Franklin, IN, where his parents and uncle had a veterinary practice. He graduated from Franklin Community High School in 1962 and earned a scholarship to Wabash College. Davis was a gifted athlete, excelling at basketball, baseball, and football. High school friends remember his beautiful jump shot. Following college, he earned a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps and trained as a helicopter pilot. Davis served

a year in Vietnam flying CH46 helicopters on transport, resupply, and medical evacuation missions.

Soon after returning from his tour of duty, he visited his sister, Barbara, in Atlanta, GA, who set him up on a blind date with her roommate, Carol. Davis and Carol married following a three-month, long-distance courtship and spent their first year of married life in California. Davis rose to the rank of captain before leaving the Marines to pursue a law degree at Emory University. Following graduation, he worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office in Atlanta, and then the couple moved to Wilmington, NC, where they put down roots. Davis worked in private practice for 40 years and always viewed the law as a helping profession.

Among many other fine qualities, Davis will be remembered for his intellectual curiosity, good nature, generosity, tolerance, humility, and patience. His children remember him getting up before sunrise to read the classics and study Latin and Greek. He participated in numerous marathons, triathlons, and road races over the years with his dear friend Lee Crouch. Even into his late 70s, he enjoyed running, cycling, and working out at the YMCA. Some of his favorite things were travel, reading, and his dog, Moby. His love of food and a good pint was legendary. Davis was very involved in the lives of his children—coaching their basketball teams and involving them in various self-improvement projects. He was a serious-minded person but had a wry sense of humor and a lawyerly fondness for well-considered phrasing.

Davis is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Carol Wallace Davis; three devoted children and their spouses, Carrie Davis Conway, Judson Michael Davis, and Mary Davis Tiahlo; sister, Barbara Davis Garry; and brother, Mark Sage Davis. Davis is also survived by his three grandchildren, who knew him affectionately as "Daddy Dean." In addition, he is survived by his sister-in-law, Mary Beth Wallace; brother-in-law, James Edward Wallace Jr.; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Ivan Garry; and his parents, James Robert Davis and Priscilla Sage Davis.

In Memory

Dean Stepp '66

Dean Edward Stepp of Coeur d'Alene, ID, died October 26, 2023.

Stepp was born in Columbus, IN, and loved basketball intensely. He was a three-sport star athlete in football, baseball, and basketball. He ended up making basketball his career as a boys' high school coach and physical education teacher for 30 years. He taught at Aloha High School, Lebanon High School, and South Eugene High School in Oregon—coaching and developing the character of hundreds of young men during that time. He had the joy of coaching both of his sons, who became exceptional players in their own rights.

Stepp graduated from Wabash College. Immediately after graduating, he became a Marine Corps officer and served for three-and-a-half years. He served in Vietnam in the DMZ and earned a Purple Heart. Upon his return stateside, he coached the Marine All-West Coast basketball team out of Camp Pendleton. After completing service, Stepp moved to Oregon to finish his education and begin his career. Though he spent most of his working life in Oregon, he and his wife owned a summer house in Harrison, ID, for 20 years, where they spent summers before eventually retiring in Coeur d'Alene.

Stepp was nothing if not a powerful personality and an iconic character all his own. He wrote in all caps and often spoke in them too. He was a man with serious passions. He loved his wife, kids, grandkids, and dogs. He was an avid bass fisherman and fished tournaments all around the Pacific Northwest, winning trophies and simply enjoying the water. He recycled before recycling was ever a formal program. He believed in humility and discipline and had high standards. He taught his kids that there was no such word as *can't*. He maintained a meticulous home garden and grew the biggest tomatoes in town. He had a dry sense of humor, shared mostly through a twinkle in his eye and the look on his face. He put his print on the world, and we are all thankful for it.



Stepp is survived by his wife of 42 years, Judy Stepp; children and their spouses; grandchildren; and dog, Bear. He is also survived by his twin sister, Deanna Stepp.

Arthur Hegewald '68

Arthur "Art" Hegewald, 78, died in Panama City, FL, August 29, 2023. He was born in New Albany, IN.

Hegewald graduated from Wabash College, and served three years in the Peace Corp on Ifalik, an island in Micronesia. His career was with the Department of Corrections in Indiana, and he retired after 40 years of service. Hegewald enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; son, Spencer; daughter, Morgan; two sisters; a brother; and grandchildren.

James Thomas Fogarty '69

James Thomas Fogarty, 76, died in March 2023 after a brief struggle with pancreatic cancer.

Fogarty was born in Chicago, to Jim and Elaine Fogarty. He had two sisters and a large extended family with many cousins. He attended Wabash College, where he served as editor of *The Bachelor*.

Fogarty and his wife, Noni, first met as friends in California in the 1970s. Fogarty headed north to British Columbia, where she later came to visit him, and they fell in love. Throughout the next decade, they spent time exploring B.C., making maple syrup in Minnesota, and living in North Vancouver. Every spring, Fogarty would return to Chicago to work during the tax season in his father's accounting firm. It was an old friend who urged them to check out Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, and once they did, they knew this was home.

Details like how to find a house and a job never bothered Fogarty. He and his wife settled in the south end of Salt Spring, had four kids, grew veggies, and figured out ways to make a living. He cut firewood, trucked fruit from the Okanagan, and tuned and rebuilt pianos. Eventually they developed their tax and accounting business, but for Fogarty it was always about family. The couple made a point of working part-time so that they could devote more time to family activities—gardening, swimming, hiking, biking, and spending time with the other families in the neighborhood.

Fogarty put his heart into every endeavor in Salt Spring. His business was an outgrowth of his family values. Many clients knew him as a friend and he gave every client his personal attention, loyalty, and care. He spent years volunteering with local organizations and community initiatives.

He loved sailing and valued every opportunity to crew on his friends' boats. He also loved trains, regularly riding Amtrak across the U.S. to visit family, and once taking his elderly father across Canada on VIA Rail. Choral singing was always a joy, from touring Europe with Wabash Glee Club to singing with Salt Spring's Bach on the Rock. His favorite musical activity was his garage band on Reynolds Road, where he played piano, Fender Rhodes, or steel guitar, and sang blues and rock 'n' roll.

Fogarty was curious, skilled, intelligent, kind, and endlessly generous. He will be sorely missed by many.

He leaves behind in great sorrow his best friend and companion, Noni; children, Jessy, Ryan, Dan, and Simon; three grandchildren; sister, Melissa "Missy," sister-in-law, Lisa, and her husband, Charley; brother-in-law, Steve, and his wife, Jeanne; and many other extended family members and close friends.

John F. Hickman '69

John F. Hickman, 71, of Terre Haute, IN, and formerly of Paoli, IN, died October 6, 2019. He was born to Frederick and Irene Hickman. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, Paul Sudbrink. He is survived by his sisters, Sally Sudbrink and Joni McFarland; and nieces, Shannon Ebenkamp, Sara Jo Vaughn, Laura Ash, and Autumn Ash.

Michael Allen Bryan '73

Michael Allen Bryan, 72, of Elkhart, IN, died September 20, 2023.

He was born in Mishawaka, IN, to Earl and Elnora (Carter) Bryan. On October 16, 1982, in Mishawaka, he married Penny Hill; she survives.

Bryan was a manager for Publix grocery store and later became a customer service representative for PGT industries. He loved sports; he played baseball all throughout his time at Mishawaka High School and some during his time at Wabash College. He later continued his love for baseball

supporting the Chicago Cubs.

He was a fan of Notre Dame football and found a passion for pitching horseshoes later in life. He was a singer and was even a part of a southern gospel quintet with his wife during their time in Florida. The most important part of his life was his family, who will miss him dearly.

Survivors in addition to his wife are his son, Seamus Bryan; daughter, Jenna Chilik; four grandchildren; and sister, Carol Bowton. He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Sean Bryan.

Dr. Mark Allen Shaffner '77

Dr. Mark Allen Shaffner, 68, of Estero, FL, died October 7, 2023, after a brief battle with cancer.

He was born in Anderson, IN, to Jack and Joyce Shaffner and graduated from Oak Hill High School in 1973. He excelled in band, academics, and athletics, including basketball, baseball, and football. Throughout his life, he regularly referenced his appreciation for the guidance and life lessons learned from many of his coaches through sports.

After high school, Shaffner majored in biology at Wabash College before receiving his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Indiana University School of Dentistry in 1981. He practiced his entire dental career in Marion, IN, and took great pride in his business, his team, and his relationships with patients.

He was a member of the Wabash Valley Dental Society, the Indiana Dental Society, and the Swayzee Christian Church. Shaffner also served as a board member and president of the Meshingomesia Country Club—one of his favorite places for golfing and socializing with friends.

Shaffner loved spending summers with his family at Lake Tippecanoe and continued the tradition after moving to Estero, FL, eight years ago. He will be remembered for his quick wit, love of books, golf, science, and time with friends and family.

Shaffner is survived by his wife of 49 years, Ann (Rybolt) Shaffner; father and stepmother, Jack and Winnie Shaffner; and three sons, Jason Shaffner, Chris Shaffner, and Brent Shaffner. He also precedes three grandchildren; a brother, Mike Shaffner; and a



photo by Julia Moravec

sister-in-law, Nora Jane Lamb. In addition, he leaves behind many dear family, friends, and caretakers, including Brad and Linda Hiatt and his niece, Brenda Lamb.

Shaffner was preceded in death by his mother, Joyce Shaffner, and father- and mother-in-law, Morris and Jane Ann Rybolt.

Steven Pettinga '79

Steven Cornelius Pettinga, 67, of Indianapolis died October 19, 2023.



Pettinga was born in Indianapolis to Yvonne and Cornelius W. Pettinga, who preceded him in death. He graduated from Park Tudor School in 1975 and Wabash College in 1979, where he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. He worked as the cartoon editor and archivist for the Saturday Evening Post until his retirement in 2002.

Pettinga is survived by his sisters, Julie Stalnecker and Jennifer Pettinga; and brothers, Mark and Tom. He was uncle to four nephews and three nieces, along with four great-nephews.

Kenneth Luczkowski '81

Kenneth "Louie" Richard Luczkowski, 64, of Goshen, IN, died August 27, 2023. He was born in South Bend, IN, to the late Richard A. and Rita M. (Switalski) Luczkowski. On September 10, 1996, he married Kimberly K. Horvath, who survives.

Luczkowski was an athlete, which started in his grade school days at Holy Family and excelled in at Washington High School. As a Panther, he played baseball (All American), wrestling, and football. His football career led to playing in the Alonzo Stagg Bowl Game for Wabash College. He was a competitive powerlifter and held the world record for total lifts in his age group. Luczkowski loved horses and is waiting for "Louie's bailout super" to come in. He was spiritual and studied the Bible and lived his faith.

Luczkowski is survived by his wife; two sons, Paul D. Luczkowski and Jacob R. Luczkowski; two grandchildren; sister, Mary Louise Luczkowski; niece; uncle; and four fur babies.

Thomas Murray '84

Thomas J. Murray died March 22, 2023.

Murray was born in Plainfield, NJ, to Carole and Jim Murray. For much of his life, he found his primary identity and joy in three categories: father,



husband, and friend. For the last seven years, he leaned into his new grandfatherly identity as the silly, indomitable, picture-book-reading heavyweight "Poggy."

Murray was a spiritual man and a religious golfer. He leaves behind a daily devotional whose loose pages and creased spine attest to his deep, personal faith. He also leaves behind a near-angelic multitude of golf buddies and lifelong friends. As Proverbs 27 and common wisdom attest, a man's character is reflected by the people he surrounds himself with. Murray's pantheon of compassionate, uproarious, and principled friends speaks volumes.

A full recounting of Murray's career in business, advertising, and philanthropy could fill volumes. He delighted in his time as a double Buckeye (B.A., MBA); president and chief executive officer of Perio-Barbasol; and board member, advisor, and philanthropist (A Kid Again, Wittenberg University, Cristo Rey, and The Evans Scholars). But anyone who knew Murray and his accomplishments also knew that he took as much pride in his time as a pizza guy at the old Iacono's and the predawn paper route that afforded him the funds for his first VHS recorder.

Murray is survived his wife of more than 40 years, Melanie; children, Sarah Fast, Caleb Murray, Jacob Murray, and Daniel Murray;

six remarkable grand-littles; sister, Kathleen Hickey; brother-in-law, Brent Morgan; and three nieces and one nephew.

John William Brierley Jr., '73,

of Crawfordsville passed away December 9, 2023. He was born in Danville, IL, to the late John William and Georgia Elizabeth (Rison) Brierley.



Brierley graduated from Georgetown High School and received an associate's degree in auto diesel mechanics from Danville Junior College.

Brierley married the love of his life, Patricia Karen McMahon, on October 7, 1989. He worked at Wabash College as a custodian for 27 years. Brierley had a passion for music and enjoyed going to concerts. Although he was a simple man, he enjoyed helping people, especially while working at Wabash.

Wabash Magazine reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.

Szczeszak-Brewer Publishes Memoir

by **Stephanie Cain**

WHAT INITIALLY BEGAN AS AN ESSAY took on a life of its own. In October 2023, Professor of English and John P. Collett Chair in Rhetoric Agata Szczeszak-Brewer published “The Hunger Book,” her memoir of growing up in Communist-controlled Poland.

“I thought, ‘I can’t possibly parse out all these issues within 20 pages,’” Szczeszak-Brewer says. “I wrote another essay, and then another, and then I thought, ‘Well, actually, it looks like it’s growing into a book.’”

The major themes of Szczeszak-Brewer’s memoir are addiction, codependency, nourishment, and intergenerational trauma. She said those themes left a great deal of room for her to explore maternal love and the sacrifices people make for each other. Her grandparents hold a special place in the memoir as people who stepped up to care for her and her brother when their mother was unable or unwilling to do so.

“I wrote this memoir knowing that there are millions of people like me, with a parent or another family member struggling with addiction,” she says. “Knowing that my story is not necessarily unique actually helped me continue writing, because I knew there are people out there who would read it and maybe see themselves a little in the book.”

Szczeszak-Brewer came to the United States to earn her M.F.A. and earned her Ph.D. in English from the University of South Carolina before coming to teach at Wabash. She is the founder and chair of Immigrant Allies, a group that provides translation services, legal aid, and transportation for local immigrants.

What Szczeszak-Brewer didn’t expect the connection her writing created between her and her readers.

“I was surprised at how readily people shared their stories with me,” she says. “I cherish those moments. They come up to me to share they had a family member with that same issue, or that they themselves are pining for love from a family member who isn’t wholly present in their lives.”

One of her proudest moments was first holding the physical copy of her book. It brought back the emotional investment and the time that she had spent writing.



“The fact that I opened the box containing the books in the presence of my children made it even more beautiful and meaningful to me,” says Szczeszak-Brewer. “I decided early on that I would break the cycle of abuse, that their childhood would be very, very different from mine.

“It was a healing moment to hold this book about my past and to think that now it’s an object; it doesn’t just live in my brain or in my heart. It’s an external object that I can hold, touch, open, put away,” she concludes. “The writing itself was retraumatizing, but once the book took its physical form—printed and bound—I was proud, but more relieved.”



Note to Szczeszak-Brewer from daughter Izabela Brewer prior to book launch.

Excerpts from the “Birds” chapter

A few months before Mother swallowed the whole container of pills, chased it with a bottle of vodka, and lay down in her bed to die as my brother and I played with our clay zoo in the next room, she got hold of a whole chicken on the black market. City folk like us had little access to meat of any kind in Communist Poland, and I still don't know who sold the chicken to her. She wasn't much of a cook, my mother, but she was determined to make a feast for us all, and she stuck that bird into our rotisserie oven—possibly the first and the last bird that was cooked there. She sat at the laminate table by the window and waited, smoking one filterless cigarette after another. Suddenly, she screamed “*Jezus!*” and ran out of the kitchen and out of the apartment, leaving a trail of tobacco smoke behind. Father was still living with us then, or maybe he was just visiting. When he checked the oven, he realized that Mother had not removed the chicken's trachea, and now, as the air was circulating through it, the chicken made an eerie *eeeeeeech eeeeeeeech eeeeeeeech* sound, the notes rising with each rotation. I don't remember the taste of that chicken. I do remember that we ate it without her.



“
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Excerpted by permission of Mad Creek books, an imprint of The Ohio State University Press, from Agata Brewer's “The Hunger Book: A Memoir from Communist Poland.”

Four Faculty Receive Tenure by Stephanie Cain



DEAN OF THE COLLEGE Todd McDorman announced the promotion and tenure of four Wabash faculty members: Katie Ansaldi, Cara Healey, Nate Tompkins, and Heidi Winters Vogel.

Katie Ansaldi, an assistant professor of mathematics, is known as a devoted and skilled teacher who uses innovative approaches in the classroom and commits extensive time to students in one-on-one office meetings.

“She has explored new pedagogical approaches such as mastery grading and helps her students develop a growth mindset that allows them to thrive,” McDorman says. “Her close work with students extends to her scholarship, which has included working with students in the study of rainbow numbers, and her many student-centered service activities.”

Ansaldi earned her B.S. at Loyola College in Maryland, an M.S. at University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and both an M.S. and a Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame.

“I am excited and honored to receive tenure at Wabash and to be recognized for the work I have put into my teaching, research, and service,” Ansaldi says. “The Wabash community has allowed me to foster great connections with both colleagues and students. Wabash students are eager to learn and engage, both in and out of the classroom.”

An assistant professor of Chinese and Asian studies, **Cara Healey** is described as a caring and empathetic professor committed

to inclusivity and accessibility. She creates a positive, supportive environment for her students, and in turn students know that she wants them to succeed.

“Cara has taught a broad range of classes and is central to the Asian Studies minor, a program I expect she will contribute significant leadership to going forward,” says McDorman.

As a scholar, Healey has gained a national reputation in Chinese literary and cultural studies for both her research on Chinese science fiction and her translations that have allowed works to gain greater exposure.

“I’m honored and delighted to continue working with supportive colleagues and excellent students as a tenured member of the Wabash faculty,” she says.

Assistant Professor of Physics **Nate Tompkins** is an excellent and thoughtful teacher who uses evidence-based pedagogies. He is particularly skilled at providing clear explanations of complex material that guides students through challenging topics.

“As a campus citizen, Nate has been particularly impactful in his work on the Graduate Fellowships Committee in helping students obtain excellent post-Wabash placements,” McDorman says.

“Tenure is a vote of confidence from the College administration and an acknowledgment of years of effort,” says Tompkins. “I look forward to continuing to serve the students and College to the best of my abilities.”

Associate Professor of Theater **Heidi Winters Vogel** is committed to leading students in the process of creative self-discovery. She brings enthusiasm to the classroom, exhibits a deep collaborative spirit, and fosters an environment that allows for the development of trust in exploring difficult topics.

“An advocate for social justice, Heidi’s creative work has brought important and difficult issues to the Wabash stage,” McDorman says.

In addition to producing scholarship on participatory and playback theater, Winters Vogel is an active professional who continues to direct and act in off-campus productions. She also leads the visiting artist and teaching and learning committees at Wabash and has made important contributions to accreditation and gender issues.

“I am honored to join, in a more settled way, this group of faculty,” says Winters Vogel. “What an accomplished and collegial group of brilliant educators to be working alongside.”

Pictured left to right: Katie Ansaldi, Cara Healey, Nate Tompkins, and Heidi Winters Vogel

Quick Notes



Professor of Rhetoric **Jennifer Abbott** was the lead author (with co-authors Dean of the College Todd McDorman and David Timmerman) for a PALSave Textbook Creation Grant to produce a second edition of “Public Speaking and Democratic Participation: Speech, Deliberation, and Analysis in the Civic Realm” as an open educational resource.



Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics **RJ Barnes** published the chapter “Epicharmus and Early Greek Philosophy” in the book “Paideia on Stage.”



Equity and Inclusion Pedagogy (EIP) fellows Assistant Teaching Professor of Biology **Anne Bost** and

Associate Professor of Biology **Heidi Walsh** have teamed up to conduct a



pedagogical research study titled “Assessing BIO 111 Students’ Academic Success, Progression to Other Biology

Courses, and Perceptions of Biology Experiences and Belongingness,” which will run through Fall 2025. Associate



Professor of Biology **Erika Sorensen-Kamakian** is also an EIP fellow. Her project is focused on inclusivity in student-faculty research.



Professor of Physics **Jim Brown** was named executive director of The MoNA Collaboration, the multi-

institution project in which many Wabash students have participated.



Associate Professor of English **Eric Freeze** has the textbook “Story Mode: The Creative Writer’s Guide to Narrative

Video Game Design” forthcoming with Bloomsbury Academic.



Associate Professor of Political Science **Shamira Gelbman** was awarded a grant from the Community

Engaged Alliance’s Voter Engagement grant program. The grant will support improvements to PSC-211: Election Polling and Public Opinion to enhance campus and local community engagement in the 2024 election.



Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science **Colin McKinney** and Professor of Physics **Jim**

Brown used the Crawford Standardbred Farm Division I Research Fund to purchase a new computing station capable of high-powered work. It has been utilized this semester in a course on machine learning in which students developed a model capable of cracking CAPTCHAs. It was also used in a new, non-majors course on sensors, electronics, and computing.



Associate Professor of Art **Damon Mohl** had a film selected as a finalist for the best film award at the

International TV Film Festival in London.



Associate Professor of English **Derek Mong** received a Los Angeles Press Club Award for the essay “How Is a Poem Like

a Political Campaign?” which he published in Zócalo Public Square.



Assistant Professor of Philosophy **Jorge Montiel** translated Pol Vandeveldé’s essay “Attestation or

Parrhesia? The poetics of truth in Ricoeur and Foucault” for the Spanish-language volume “Paul Ricoeur: Attestación y Reconocimiento.”



Professor of Religion **Derek Nelson ’99** published the co-edited volume “Bodies Inhabiting the World:

Scandinavian Creation Theology and the Question of Home.”



Assistant Professor of History **Noe Pliego Campos** received the Kellogg Institute Award for Distinguished Dissertation

on Democracy and Human Development from University of Notre Dame for his dissertation titled “Crises, Rights, and Futurity: Youth in 1980s Mexico City.”



Professor of English **Agata Szczeszak-Brewer** published “James Joyce’s Exiles” in the James Joyce Quarterly.



Professor of Chemistry **Ann Taylor** was accepted to be a peer accreditation reviewer for the North Central Association

Higher Learning Commission.



Associate Professor of History **Rick Warner** published in a multivolume set on women’s history, “Women

Who Changed the World: Their Lives, Challenges, and Accomplishments Through History.” The publication focuses on Argentine feminist Juana Paula Manso and the abolitionist sisters Sarah and Angelina Grimké.



Professor of Biology **Eric Wetzel** co-authored “Spatial analysis and risk mapping of *Fasciola hepatica* infection

in dairy cattle at the Peruvian central highlands” in “Parasite Epidemiology and Control” with Peruvian colleagues D.A. Zarate Rendon, D.G. Padilla, S.P. Carcausto, C.A. del Águila, and J.N. Vásquez.



Igniting the Imagination

The Eric Dean Gallery underwent a psychedelic transformation this semester as Artist-in-Residence Owen Lowery transformed the room into a synergistic installation space, filled with bright colors, soothing sounds, diverse textures, and collaborative technologies designed to encourage viewers to explore and create using all of their senses.

“I see art as existing within situations rather than physical artwork itself,” says Lowery. “The art comes alive in moments when curiosity takes over and deeper exploration begins. I hope people take a little of this curiosity away with them into their daily lives.”

Along with Art Professor Annie Strader, Lowery also spent his time on campus teaching Interactive Art + Inclusivity, a course designed to introduce students to the field of interactive art—both digital and analog—and its unique ability to create accessible and inclusive art experiences.

“The idea of making art accessible to as many people as possible is very powerful, and that’s something I really wanted students to think about while creating,” says Lowery. “Art can go beyond the visual. You can add touch and sound so that (for example), a blind person can read braille or listen to an accompanying sound that changes their overall interaction. That brings heart and rewards curiosity, which is what art should be all about.”



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LAST GLANCE

Mark your calendar for the 2024 Day of Giving on April 24. After you make your gifts on the Day, snap a photo of yourself with this back cover and post it on social media with #CelebrateWabash to enter a drawing for one of five \$50 gift cards to the Wabash College Bookstore. First-time donors can win a \$100 gift card. We will share images from the Day of Giving on social media and in the Summer 2024 issue. More than 3,570 donors—including 435 first-time donors to the College—raised \$1.68 million on the 2023 Day of Giving. Help us achieve this year's goal of reaching 5,000 gifts to unlock more than \$500,000 in challenge support for Wabash and its students.