

Wabash.

MAGAZINE



HOMECOMING SEE HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE ANNUAL WELCOME HOME.

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GRAVITATIONAL PULL
QUINN SHOLAR '26 LEADS WITH HEART.

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EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDED
TO JEREMY HARTNETT '96.

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Players gathered in the Parrish Team Tunnel before taking the field for the Homecoming game against Denison University. The Little Giants went on to win the game 36-0.

photo by Scott Olmstead

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photo provided by F.A. Wilhelm Construction

ABOUT THE COVER

Sustaining a Legacy

F.A. Wilhelm Construction has built many of the structures dotting the Indiana landscape and has left a philanthropic mark across the state and country. The expansion at Newfields, formerly the Indianapolis Museum of Art, is one of many projects managed by Wilhelm Construction reenergizing cultural and artistic spaces in Indianapolis.

DEPARTMENTS

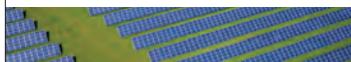
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Energy People

'M AN EXTROVERT. I absolutely gather energy and function best when surrounded by people. I can never say enough about the team I am blessed to be surrounded by every day at Wabash. They sustain me.

Wabash Magazine is a group effort—from the initial ideas and themes to gathering photos and placing words on the page. A quick shout-out to each of my team members.

Chief of Staff and Director of Strategic Communications **Jim Amidon '87** knows more about and cares more deeply for Wabash than any other person I know. In 2020, he entrusted me as the next editor of Wabash Magazine. A lot of days I question why, but I am grateful for the shot he gave me and for all the ways he has made me better.

For more than a decade, **Richard Paige**, director of marketing and media relations, has been telling the stories of Wabash. He is the voice of the “Wabash On My Mind” podcast and has more bylines currently on our website than any other person.

Graphic Designer **Becky Wendt** has leveled up all the publications across the College. She has an incomparable ability to take the words and ideas we throw at her and turn them into something magical. She blows me away with her talent.

Stephanie Cain, editorial assistant, and project manager, juggles the requests and assignments that come through our office each day. She gently reminds me I am behind (always) and jumps in to support whatever anyone needs. She is our Class Notes and In Memory editor and also does the gathering for Moments.

Communications Specialist **Anna Barnett** is one of the newest members of our team but has quickly become essential. As the older sister of Joe Barnett '24, she already understands the impact Wabash has on its students. She has wrapped her arms around the place and made it her Wabash too.

Cheri Clark isn't officially part of our team, but she is our outside proofreader. She is hawkeyed and diligent. If you find a typo in these pages, it's only because it's a page I didn't send her to review.

Adam Phipps '11, website editor and broadcast engineer, **Andrew Day**, director of cinematography and digital video, and **Brynn Patrick**, social media coordinator, don't work as closely with the printing of



Back row (left to right): Andrew Day, Anna Barnett, Jim Amidon '87, Richard Paige, Brynn Patrick; **middle row** (l to r): Becky Wendt, Adam Phipps '11, Stephanie Cain, Cheri Clark; **front row** (l to r): Paige Johnson, Kim Johnson

Wabash Magazine, but are all important in getting the great stories from Wabash College out in public. Visit our website, go to any of our social media channels, or view a live broadcast to see their work shine.

And finally, my daughter **Paige**—she's not employed by Wabash, but she is a big part of my team. She listens as I reflect on interviews and helps me fine-tune stories. She stops by the office most days after school and is happy to sit down on the floor to help me as I literally cut up a story to rearrange it until it's right.

While this issue is mostly focused on the alumni whose careers are in the energy that powers our devices and in sustaining our valuable resources, I would be remiss if I didn't share my gratitude with my colleagues who energize my days with their creative sparks.

Who are the people who bring you energy? Take a minute to let them know how they help sustain you. I guarantee it will brighten their days!

Kim Johnson

Editor | johnsonk@wabash.edu

Sustaining Dear Old Wabash

WHEN YOU ARE the head of an organization that has been around for 193 years, you don't expect to face tough questions about the sustainability of the institution. But higher education has been, and continues to be, under the microscope. Driven in part by an increasing rate of small liberal arts college closures and mergers, these questions also arise from concerns about higher education's business model and coming demographic changes that threaten to further disrupt an industry already under considerable stress.

Actually, I don't mind these questions. It reminds me that people care about Wabash. It also gives me a chance to talk about the work we are doing to sustain our College. In the early years of my presidency, much of that work was framed in terms of the immediate impact of the pandemic—including the roughly 33% drop in the stock market and the substantial number of students who chose not to enroll or to pause their studies.

While the impact of the pandemic is largely behind us—enrollment this fall exceeds 900 students and the short-lived downturn in the endowment value was followed by gains that have brought it to \$450 million—sustainability remains my top priority for Wabash. My focus is now on addressing two long-term trends that challenge our business model.

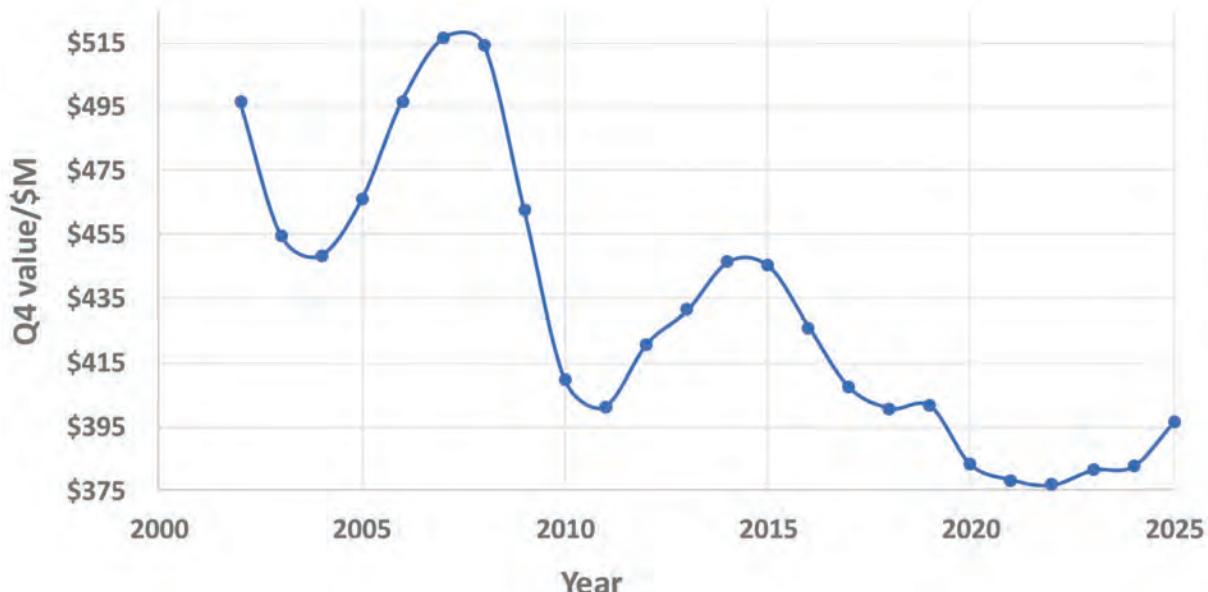
The first challenge we face is to set our endowment on a course to provide the purchasing power that it had in previous decades. While the endowment value today is at a record high, that statistic hides the fact that, after adjusting for inflation, we have substantially fewer dollars to support College operations than prior to the Great Recession of 2008. Our endowment suffered a significant loss in that period, followed by a decade when, on average, investment gains and donor contributions were eclipsed by withdrawals for operations and the effects of inflation.

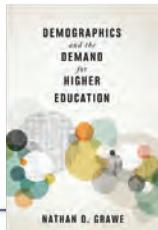
Our approach to an endowment that sustains the College is multifaceted. By controlling costs, we reduced the endowment draw percentage substantially, from a level well above that of our peers to a value below the median. The Giant Steps campaign set us on a course to increased endowment contributions that we have been able to maintain. And, in a collaboration between the Board of Trustees' Investment Policy Committee and our endowment managers, we have evolved our asset allocation to produce returns expected to exceed the draw and inflation rates over the long term.

The second big challenge we are addressing focuses on the demographic changes referred to as the "demographic cliff." American birth rates declined substantially during the financial crisis, which means that in the coming years there will be fewer high school graduates.

ENDOWMENT VALUE 12-QUARTER AVERAGE (Adjusted for inflation)

(January 2025 dollars)





DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS 2019-2029

Nathan Grawe's Higher Education Demand Index (HEDI)

Higher Education Demand Index (HEDI)

Change in High School Graduates 2019-2029



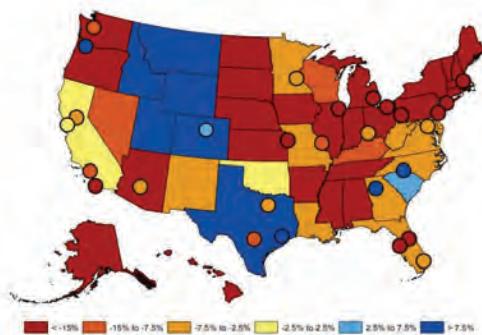
Change in College-Bound Students 2019-2029



Change in College-Bound Students by Race 2019-2029



Change in College-Bound Students through 2029



For Wabash, the effects of the demographic cliff are amplified by our high proportion of students from Indiana. For example, an aging population and out-migration of young people put downward pressure on the number of high school graduates. But even more concerning is the decade-long decrease in the college-going rate for Hoosiers. The most recent data shows that only 45% of male high school graduates enrolled in college, down more than 60% at the time of the financial crisis.

Sustaining enrollment under these conditions is a grand challenge that calls for multiple approaches. Identifying select out-of-state markets, such as Texas and Arizona, where demographics are more favorable, has been successful over the past few years. Recent efforts to expand on-campus summer programming for high school students are showing great promise for both identifying recruits and giving them an understanding of the Wabash value proposition early in their college search.

In addition to these efforts to expand the pool, we have developed best practices to leverage the strength of the campus community and the alumni network. Examples include striving for best-in-class visit programs and connecting prospective students with graduates who are leading the lives these young men imagine for themselves.

Wherever I go on behalf of our College, alumni, parents, and friends always ask me the same thing: "How can I help?" To sustain the momentum we have established, we need you to submit the names of talented high school students you think could benefit from a Wabash liberal arts education through our website: apply.wabash.edu/register/refer.

As we look ever more closely at our bicentennial in 2032, it is my goal to position Wabash as a financially sustainable private college that controls its own destiny. By managing our finances, building on our grand tradition of philanthropy, and introducing a new generation of young people to our College, we will do exactly that.

Scott Feller

Scott Feller

President | fellers@wabash.edu

» “How can I help?”

Submit the names of talented high school students you think could benefit from a Wabash liberal arts education.
apply.wabash.edu/register/refer »



Wabash Wrap-up: A Look Back





Wabash College

July 24

Shaping the next generation of leaders—one play at a time . Playbook for Life is an immersive week-long experience that introduces high school students to vast opportunities within the world of sports . Guided by Wabash faculty, staff, and alumni, daily lessons use sports topics to develop skills in young men that lead to remarkable success . It's one of three Wabash summer programs designed to provide hands-on experiences and showcase the extensive opportunities they can achieve upon graduation .



Steve Campbell '92
Vice President of
Communications
& External Affairs
Indianapolis Colts



Like

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Molecules to Medicine

This STEM-focused summer program for rising high school sophomores and juniors focused on biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and medicine. Students learned how pharmaceuticals are developed and performed hands-on experiments in the lab.



Pathway to Your Future

Pathway to Your Future is a free weeklong visit program for rising high school sophomores and juniors that provides a taste of college life. This year, 26 students from six states participated.



Art Camp

Tanner Quackenbush '26, Evan Furuness '26 (pictured), and Preston Parker '26, summer interns in the art department, spent a week assisting in a summer camp for 40 students from second to fourth grade at Nicholson Elementary School. The week concluded with an exhibition of the campers' work in the Eric Dean Gallery in the Fine Arts Center. The program was supported by a Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust minigrant.



Camp Milligan

Elementary school-age students in the City of Crawfordsville's summer program, Camp Milligan, did experiments in chemistry labs, spent time on the football field, and enjoyed a picnic lunch on campus during a special Wabash field trip.

Moments



Alumni Race

Current members of the Redpack cross country team gathered with team alumni for a 5K and networking at the 2025 Charlie Finch Cross Country Alumni Run.



Back to Bash

Students celebrated moving “Back to Bash” with food, music, games, and other activities.



Business Immersion

Five teams of students presented their brightest business ideas to a panel of entrepreneurs, investors, and Wabash faculty and staff at the Business Immersion Program (BIP) Pitch Day. For rising sophomores, BIP is an on-campus paid summer internship exploring sales, marketing, finance, emotional intelligence, leadership, and consulting.



Football Alumni Breakfast

On the morning of the team's first day in pads, Head Football Coach **Jake Gilbert '98** and the Little Giant football team hosted an alumni breakfast in the W. Club at Little Giant Stadium. The alumni enjoyed breakfast and conversation, a talk from Gilbert, and an introduction of the 2025 football seniors. Following breakfast, all present were welcomed to the field to watch practice.



WLAIP

Members of the campus community attended the annual Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP) Listening Party. The 30 WLAIP participants shared oral essays at the conclusion of their month on campus prior to the start of their freshman year. Students earned their first course credit and were exposed to the breadth of the liberal arts and support services at Wabash.



First Day

Students were excited to start the new semester.



Celebration of Unity

Several Wabash student organizations participated in the Celebration of Unity, including La Alianza, MXIBS, and 'shOUT, along with students, faculty, and staff who volunteered with or are regularly involved with Humans United for Equality (HUE). Two HUE interns, **David Leal '26** and **Hugh Ford '28**, helped lead the student organizations' presence.



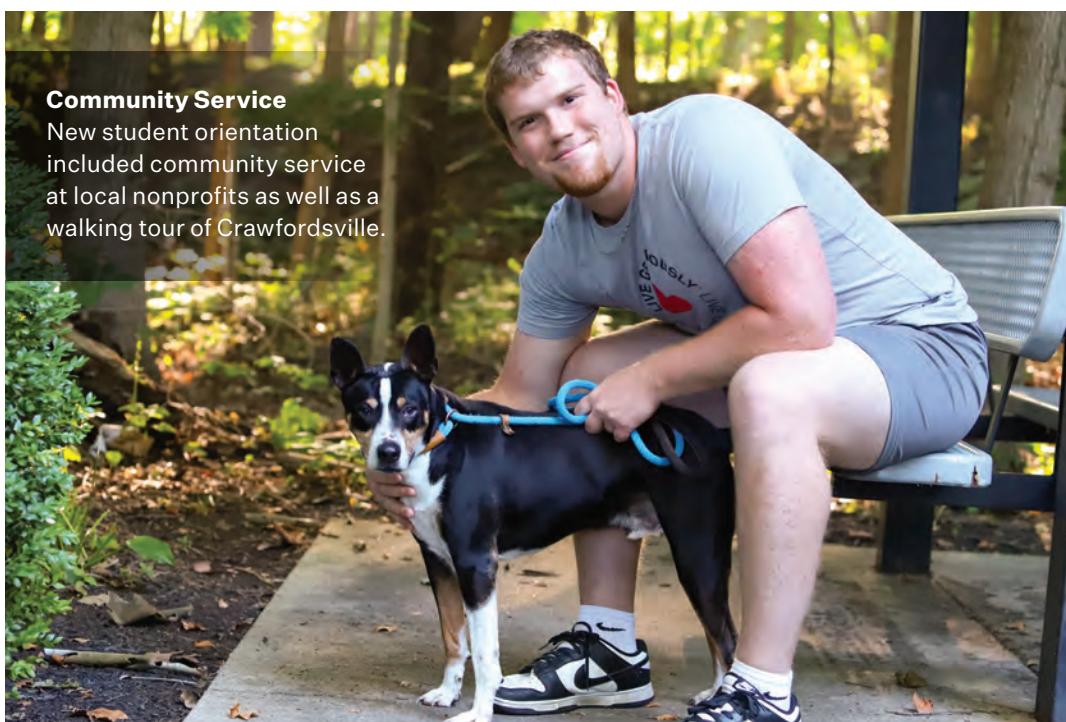
Ringing In

President Scott E. Feller rang in the 270 members of Wabash's Class of 2029 after the new students spent their morning moving into residences, finishing last-minute paperwork, and meeting fellow classmates.



Mental Health Mile

The Mental Health Mile on Sept. 18 raised awareness and promoted discussion about mental health in and around the Wabash community. At the conclusion of the event, participants gathered for lunch and fellowship.



Community Service

New student orientation included community service at local nonprofits as well as a walking tour of Crawfordsville.

^ Phi Delt Anniversary

The Indiana Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta was established at Wabash College on Nov. 16, 1850. On Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, Phi Delta Theta hosted a 175th anniversary celebration.



The Bond that Ties

Welcome/Invocation
Brother Ken Ogorek '87, Bond #1366

Dinner

Welcome from the College
Dr. Scott Feller, Wabash College President

State of our Chapter
Brother Bryce Poling '26, Bond #1895

Friendship Then and Now
Brother John Horner '59, Bond #934

Sound Learning
Brother Dan Susie '68, Bond #1088

Enjoyment of Life
Brother Mike Langford '91, Bond #1439

Brothers Helping Brothers
Brother Dustin DeNeal '04, Bond #1618

One Man is No Man
Brother Collin Bell '17, Bond #1782

From Here to Fraternity
Brother Scott Himsel '85, Bond #1333

Closing
Brother Ogorek

Moments

John Blackburn >

Associate Professor of English and Black Studies Tim Lake took a group of students to a memorial service at the Cherry Grove Cemetery in Xenia, Ohio, for **John R. Blackburn H1862**, the first Black student at Wabash College. They were joined by **Jeanne E. Blackburn Burch**, Blackburn's 105-year-old granddaughter, and other Blackburn descendants for a gravesite memorial tribute.



WDPD

Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) celebrated Constitution Day by hosting speaker **Joshua Bleisch '16**, a staff attorney at the ACLU of Indiana.

LaFollette Lecture

Professor of Theater and Music Department Chair Michael Abbott '85 delivered the 45th LaFollette Lecture, titled "The Last Mixtape."



Alumni Art Exhibition

The "MAJOR" exhibit opened in Wabash College's Eric Dean Gallery, featuring work by **Mark Brosmer '85** and **Ryan Lane '85**, who were among the first students to graduate from Wabash with an art major.



Latino Community Center Dedication

On Sept. 26, Wabash dedicated the Latino Community Center on the northeast corner of Wabash and Grant avenues. The ceremony included the awarding of an honorary degree to **Hipólito Rafael Chacón '85**.



Listen to Wabash On My Mind

This episode features Professor Michael Abbott '85, discussing cuts from The Last Mixtape (the title of his lecture), the stylistic and tonal range of Aretha Franklin, and on coming full circle as an artist.



Off-Campus Study

The Off-Campus Study Fair brought together 13 study abroad providers and more than 65 students. **Director of International Programs Amy Weir** assists students in applying for visas and coaches students through the study abroad experience. Wabash had 11 students off campus for the fall semester, located in Spain, England, Hungary, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Japan, and the New York Arts Program. In Spring 2026, another 11 students are studying abroad in Colombia, Spain, Japan, Czechia, and France.



Ides of August

Professor of Economics **Joyce Burnette** was one of several Wabash faculty who presented their research at the Ides of August program.



Homecoming Concert

The Homecoming Glee Club Concert, “The American Sound: Voices Old and New,” featured songs from all eras of American history.



Class Agent Forum

Class agents gathered on campus to discuss how to better engage classmates, fellow alumni, and friends of the College during the **J.B. Bachman '61 Class Agent Forum**. **Greg Birk '77**, **Herm Haffner '77**, and **John Kerzey '77** were named the Myron G. Phillips Award winners for outstanding class agents.



W.A.B.A.S.H. Day

The Wabash Club of Indianapolis arranged a number of service projects in Indianapolis and surrounding communities. Alumni, families, and friends volunteered time and energy supporting the Crooked Creek Food Pantry, the city of Westfield, Zionsville Parks and Recreation, and The Villages.

Moments



Lambeau Field Visit

The Wabash football team visited Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers, on Sept. 5, 2025, en route to their season opener at St. Norbert College. The visit was facilitated by **Chris Carr '82**.



Scan the code
to see more
images from
Wabash events.



Community Day of Service

Wabash faculty, staff, and students participated in the second annual Crawfordsville Community Day of Service. Volunteers washed windows, cleaned library shelves, power-washed bleachers, and completed other acts of service in the community.



Tutorial Trip

Associate Professor of French **Karen Quandt** took her freshman tutorial, “The Power of Paris,” to the Art Institute of Chicago for a visit to the Caillebotte exhibit.





photo by Kim Johnson

HOMECOMING 2025

IN KEEPING WITH TRADITION,
Homecoming weekend kicked off with
Chapel Sing, one of the College's oldest and
most beloved rites of passage.

On Friday evening, Wabash celebrated the opening of the Latino Community Center, the home of the College's La Alianza student group and a space to sustain important connections with the community. The celebration included a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony, and the awarding of an honorary doctorate to **Hipolito Rafael Chacón '85**.

Several alumni were honored for their contributions to the College and their communities at the annual Alumni Chapel, which also serves as the general meeting of the National Association of Wabash Men.

photo by Braiden Foster '26

Alumni awards presented included:



Jay R. Allen '79
Frank W. Misch Award for Distinguished Service to Wabash



Charles C. Killion '87
Clarence Jackson Career Achievement Award



Eugene N. Anderson '83
Fredrick J. Urbaska Civic Service Award



Jacob A. German '11
Jeremy Wright Distinguished Young Alumnus Award



Eugene "Buck" Waddell
Butler-Turner Student-Alumni Engagement Award



Michael B. Myers '11
Alumni Admissions Fellow



Alejandro Reyna '17
Alumni Career Services Fellow



Cheryl Everett H'25
Honorary Alumna



Philip G. Kenney H'24
Honorary Alumnus



Clyde J. Morgan H'11
Honorary Alumnus



John L. "Jack" Wyatt '58
Honorary Bachelor's Degree



Thomas A. Bridge '74
Honorary Bachelor's Degree



Stephen C. Cougill '64
Honorary Bachelor's Degree

photo by Anna Barnett







SINCERELY *Quinn*

by Anna Barnett

The outstanding work ethic, booming personality, and bright smile of Quinn Sholar '26 make him a gravitational center for community wherever he goes.

ON FALL SATURDAYS, Quinn Sholar '26 is a force on the gridiron. The captain and four-year starter at tackle clears lanes for the Little Giants' offense with the kind of strength and precision that leaves opponents frustrated and teammates end zone bound.

"He is really strong, and he has excellent feet," says Jake Gilbert '98, head football coach. "He's always in control. When you watch him play, he's in control of himself, but he also controls the opponent so well. I haven't seen many linemen own their opponent so regularly. It's almost impossible to get past him."

The Indianapolis native has been named to the all-North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) team four times and has earned all-region honors twice. As a junior, he helped the Little Giants average more than 35 points per game and score 49 touchdowns, tied for 15th on the program's all-time single-season list. In 2023, he anchored an offensive line that paved the way for the conference's best rushing attack at nearly 236 yards per game.

"New guys know that he's a really good player, so they flock to him," says Gilbert. "It's easy to trust him because he has a desire to teach and to help. And he does that with younger players not because it's his job as a captain—that's just who he is. He has a heart to serve others."

Sholar is also a captain on the track-and-field team, where he is the reigning NCAC champion in the weight throw and an NCAA qualifier in the discus. He was Field Athlete of the Year his freshman year, but his value extends beyond the stat sheet.

"Quinn is hardworking and continually trying to level up while helping others improve too," says Clyde Morgan H'11, director of Wabash track and field and assistant athletic director for scholar athlete development. "When his teammate Evan (Furuness) won the shotput—one of Quinn's events—Quinn was the first person to run over and tell me. He was so pumped for him. He's always celebrating other guys' successes."

That same sense of enthusiasm shows up off the field, where Sholar serves as chairman of the MXIBS, the place he calls his "home away from home."

When Sholar was a high schooler touring Wabash, the MXIBS had resonated with him—more specifically, the bond he formed with the students he met at the Institute during his short visit.

"I kept in touch with those upperclassmen and really looked up to them, so it felt like I already had a connection to Wabash coming in," he says. "When I signed the papers committing to Wabash in March and the news was posted on social media, I immediately had 75 new followers, all from Wabash, and a lot of them were brothers from the MXIBS. I felt that first sense of community, and it continued when I got to campus. That made me realize I was in the right place."

The transition to college life wasn't seamless, though.

"I definitely experienced some culture shock. This is the first school I've been to where I'm a minority," says Sholar. "My mom talked to me before I left home about code-switching and people-pleasing and told me to stay true to myself and not try to blend in or fade away my Blackness to fit in. I felt myself doing that after a little bit and had to have some serious conversations."



"I really found my identity by surrounding myself with brothers who were authentic to themselves and made me feel I could be transparent about who I am," he continues.

Finding belonging at the MXIBS gave Sholar the confidence to lean into passions he had pushed aside.

"I started drawing in middle school and got a sketchbook and took art classes in high school, so art was always simmering on the back burner," he says. "I lost it for a bit because when I came to college, I wanted to pursue a career to make as much money as possible and be a savior for my family. But I realized through my time building my own identity that I needed to be creative."

The art major with an economics minor and a schedule full of extracurricular commitments had found himself. Next, he needed to find balance.

"I was the biggest procrastinator," Sholar admits. "Now I have three calendars to keep track of everything so I can see everything laid out and make sure I'm in the right place at all times."

As his coaches see it, his involvement in a variety of activities around campus gives him a maturity and perspective that ripple back to his teams.

"Quinn is extremely well rounded," says Gilbert. "He brings a width and a range to the room, not just for football players, but for anybody. He has a heart for people, a heart for justice, and a brain with a wide-ranging perspective."

Sholar has a way of gathering people around him and building trust and connection in the process.

"I think it's his sincerity. People can smell that," Morgan adds. "At practice, things might not be going well with the throwers, but then he'll laugh and everyone loosens up. Most people say when a young man like Quinn leaves your campus, you can feel it. But I think the work Quinn's done with the younger guys has set us up with rising leadership."



"Sholar has a way of gathering people around him and building trust and connection in the process. I think it's his sincerity. People can smell that."

COACH CLYDE MORGAN

That gift for building people up has shaped his teams, his role at the MXIBS, and now the communities he hopes to serve beyond Wabash. This summer, he tested that calling as a community engagement intern with the Mind Trust, a nonprofit in Indianapolis working to improve public education.

"They helped me realize how much I can get a community going and crowded around one mission," says Sholar. "God put me on this planet to love, lead, and impact others. What better way than creating a sense of community and impacting youth through education." ■

Top left: Quinn Sholar '26 is serving as chairman of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies for his second year; **top right:** A four-year starter on the offensive line, Sholar is a captain of this year's Little Giant football team.

Next-Ball Mentality

by **Kim Johnson**

CHRISTOPHER BOARD '27 approaches life much like he approaches volleyball—as the quintessential team sport. Whether he's coaching or playing, the imperative is learning from and being able to depend on other members of the team to do their part to move the game forward in a positive direction.

Board started playing volleyball in fifth grade. He then played varsity at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis while also playing and coaching club teams.

"I just clicked with volleyball," he says. "I love playing and coaching so much."

In addition to continuing his volleyball career at Wabash, Board planned to become a high school referee to earn a little extra money, but he got a call from Wabash Associate Athletic Director and Crawfordsville High School (CHS) Girl's Volleyball Coach Allison Manwell-Huppert asking if he would consider becoming an assistant coach at CHS.

"Chris bought in from the beginning and the high school players see that," Manwell-Huppert says. "Because he is currently playing the game, they take what he says to heart."

"He brings a great balance of skill and talent," says Claire Peacock, a junior on the CHS volleyball team. "He's able to bridge the gap between being a coach and a peer role model. I know at any moment I can look at the sideline to get some sort of validation and support from Coach Board. He knows when I need a boost of confidence and when I can do better."



photo by Kim Johnson



"I wasn't shy in high school, but I wasn't out there and super big. At Wabash, you can't hide, especially if you rush or join clubs. There's no room for that, and you'll miss out on everything."

In addition to his role as an assistant coach at CHS and being a captain of the Little Giant volleyball team, Board is a double major in chemistry and music with a minor in education studies. He is a member of the Sphinx Club and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, is the treasurer of 'shOUT, plays trumpet in the Chamber Orchestra and Mariachi, takes piano lessons, and is the co-chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

"If you knew me in high school, you would never have thought I would be in a fraternity or in Sphinx Club—none of those organizations that you have to go out of your way to be personable to join," Board says. "I wasn't shy in high school, but I wasn't out there and super big. At Wabash, you can't hide, especially if you rush or join clubs. There's no room for that, and you'll miss out on everything."

While Wabash is not much bigger than Bishop Chatard, moving into a fraternity his first semester presented him with new opportunities to interact with people he would not have been involved with in high school.

"I was used to having my own space and my own privacy, and then we were all in one room. It was a shock," Board says. "I've learned to deal with a lot of different personalities I didn't experience in high school—or at least in high school, I could avoid them. I could remove myself from situations or people. But at Wabash it's your challenge to deal with that. I have learned to listen and understand where people are coming from, and then respond in different ways to help them understand where I'm coming from too."

He has not shied away from stretching himself in the classroom either. He cites organic chemistry, sound design, and game theory as among his favorite courses for the way they pushed him to think.

"Organic chemistry was a very different style of class—like a giant puzzle," Board says. "It was hard, but once you get it you feel really good about getting it."

Michael Abbott, professor of theater and chair of the music department, says Board's "genuinely humane and mindful presence" stands out in the classroom.

"He brings a creative mindset to everything he does," Abbott says. "He's often quiet and humble, but that modesty belies a remarkable depth of insight and curiosity. His contributions are always thoughtful, and he listens with the kind of attentiveness that elevates the entire conversation."

The intentionality he brings to his coursework, relationships, and activities at Wabash has translated into his coaching.

"I've become a more patient coach," says Board. "I know my players individually learn in different ways and need different levels of interaction. One of them is a visual learner. She has to see one of us do it before she knows how to do it. Some of them come up after every point and ask, 'What did I do wrong?' We tell them it's one point. Don't worry about it."

"I've learned there's a balance between talking to them every point and also only doing it when it's needed. If there's constant back-and-forth, they are going to be too reliant on that; they're not going to just adapt to the game as it's going. But if you don't talk enough, then they feel like they're not getting enough information, or they don't know what they're doing."



Top: Christopher Board '27 on his first day of classes in the fall 2025 semester; **middle:** Board plays piano in a student recital; **bottom:** Board places pride flags on the Mall to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month.



Above: (left) Assistant Coach Christopher Board '27 and (right) Head Coach Allison Manwell-Huppert talk during a girls' volleyball game at Crawfordsville High School (CHS); **top right:** (left to right) Manwell-Huppert, Board, CHS junior volleyball player Claire Peacock, Claire's father Brandon Peacock '04. Brandon is proud of the connection between Crawfordsville and Wabash and his daughter being coached by members of the Wabash community. In a full circle moment, Manwell-Huppert is starting a club team in Crawfordsville and Claire will serve as one of her assistant coaches. **Bottom right:** Board plays in a game at Wabash College.



Volleyball has informed his approach to leadership at Wabash.

"What I've learned to ask from volleyball is, 'How can I make sure I'm doing the best job I can, but also hold everyone else to that standard?'" Board says. "If I'm doing the best I can and I'm watching everyone else not doing well, or if everyone else is working super hard and I'm the one who's slacking... I know in my heart that nobody can afford to lie low and not do their job because we're reliant on everybody else."

"Nobody wants to lose, so if you're in the heat of the moment and telling yourself, 'I'm playing a really bad game,' you can choose to continue to play a bad game or you can say, 'Maybe this is why I'm playing a bad game,' realize what you're doing wrong, and then keep going," he continues. "You have to make the active choice. That point you just hit out-of-bounds or the point you just shanked is gone. It's useless to you. You have to look forward to the next point."

Abbott sees this in Board off the court too. "He's resilient, reflective, and consistently focused on growth, both for himself and those around him," says Abbott.

"That next-ball mentality is so crucial," Board says. "Sometimes we lose that at Wabash."

"Everyone rides the high until we take a tough hit, and then we lose our momentum," he continues. "I try my best to hold on to it and keep moving, but all it takes is one or two people for everyone else to fall behind with them."

It's similar in Board's work on the DEI Committee and 'shOUT.'

"It's about making sure everyone can enjoy Wabash like I am," he says. "Sometimes all it takes are hurtful words for someone to not want to be here anymore. I feel like I can be the one to put on events that make sure everyone has the space to celebrate and feel like they belong."

"If everyone believes in the Gentleman's Rule, they need to treat people like they belong because that's what a gentleman does," Board continues. "Everyone just wants to be a part of the brotherhood too."

Board hopes to continue coaching at the collegiate level after he graduates. Regardless of his path, he'll be looking for that next ball.



"It's refreshing to come across a young coach who has knowledge to back up his own playing experience," says Manwell-Huppert. "A lot of young people get into coaching and think being a good player will automatically translate to being a good coach. He's got the 'student of the game' mentality that will help him grow as a coach and not be limited to what he experienced as a player or the coaching styles his coaches have had." ■

Season in Sports

photo by WillDuncan '27



Fall 2025:

FULL SEASON RECAP IN NEXT ISSUE



photo by Jeremiah Runge '29



photo by Jeremiah Runge '29



photo by Kim Johnson



Gavin Ruppert '26

photo by Will Duncan '27



No. 13 Ethan Simmons '29,
No. 6 Ben Church '28

photo by Will Duncan '27



Carter Norris '27,
Tyler Kerzee '29,
Hayden Diemer-McKinney '26



No. 82 Nick Witte '27,
No. 22 Xavier Tyler '26

photo by Braiden Foster '26



Jack Loftus '29

photo by Kim Johnson



Brady Reiter '29

NEW LEADERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

by Kim Johnson

WHILE JIM ROBERTS '52 of Lincoln, Nebraska, attended Wabash for only one year, he saw something in William "Bill" Wheeler '83 that is still impacting campus today.

"He was a friend of my father's," says Wheeler. "He said to me, 'I've never recommended Wabash to anybody, but I think it might be right for you.'

"I still don't even know what that means," Wheeler says with a laugh. "There was no way I was going to an all-male school. But I liked the guy so I promised to visit. I did, and I fell in love with it."

Wheeler was elected chair of the Board of Trustees in May, replacing Jay Allen '79, who held the position for eight years. He has served on the Wabash Board of Trustees for 25 years.

"I truly am excited about Bill in his new role," says Allen. "His long-standing relationships across generations of Wabash alumni, proven executive skills, unwavering support of the College, and significant experience as a trustee ideally position Bill to be an impactful and effective board chair. He has earned much admiration and respect from President Feller, his leadership team, and the board members."

A Harvard Business School graduate, Wheeler spent his career in finance, including several years at MetLife in roles including treasurer, chief financial officer, and president of the Americas. He was also the former president of Athene and currently serves on the boards of directors for Ethos and Evercore.

Wheeler says it's an honor to step into this new role but also a responsibility.

"Wabash has a lot of good initiatives in place," Wheeler says. "In the face of challenges small private colleges in this country face, Wabash is thriving because, one, we have a bigger endowment per student than a lot of places, so we're financially in better shape. But beyond that, we have a lot of good strategies about coping in this environment."

"Many schools think they have to reinvent themselves to survive; we don't," he continues. "We have the right people in place, focused on the right things. We don't need to change anything, necessarily, or turn the place upside down to address challenges, but we have to continue to execute on what we're doing and to refine our approach when necessary."

According to Wheeler, all members of the Board of Trustees are big believers in Wabash and are as happy to serve as he is.

"We're a place that does good," he says. "Even though we're a small place, we really do change lives and help young men be the best people they can be."

Most people who ask Wheeler where he attended college have never heard of the little school in Indiana.

"I say to them, 'There's really nothing like it. It's all male, but that's not even remotely the most interesting thing about it,'" he says.

The uniqueness comes from the traditional liberal arts school and the Gentleman's Rule.

"I've never been to another school that even pretends to have something like that," Wheeler says. "It's just a different kind of culture. You're expected to be a young adult, and that's how we're going to treat you. When I was 18, that had an incredible amount of appeal to me, and it still does."



"We're a place that does good. Even though we're a small place, we really do change lives and help young men be the best people they can be."

WILLIAM "BILL" WHEELER '83

WHEELER BECOMING CHAIR of the trustees meant vacating his role as chair of the executive committee. That role is now filled by David Lewis '81.

"It's a great honor to be elected as the chair of the executive committee by fellow members of the Board of Trustees," Lewis says.

Lewis has been a trustee at Wabash for 11 years. He retired from Eli Lilly, where his career spanned almost 30 years, most recently as Lilly's vice president of global taxes. He is the current president and CEO of Indy Championships Fund and serves on the board of directors of Indiana Sports Corp. He is a former member of the boards of directors of OIA Global and PwC's Tax Policy Services and a former CEO for Action for Racial Equity.

"David's leadership of the executive committee is both a natural progression and recognition of the value he brings to the table," says Allen. "He has played an integral role in substantially upgrading the College's ability to assess, plan for, and address the many risks facing higher education and businesses in our rapidly evolving environment. He has been selfless in sharing his time and the knowledge he brings from his career and community service experiences."

That's not an accident on Lewis' part.

"In my leadership role at Eli Lilly, I was always thinking not just what's around the

next corner, but what's around the corner after that, and the corner after that," says Lewis. "I need to bring that thinking to Wabash as we navigate toward the end of our second century and position the College for its third century. We need to be thinking about the decisions we make today and next year and how those will impact what happens in the late 2030s or the early 2040s.

"It's incumbent upon us to continue to make the case for why it is a good thing for an all-male college option," Lewis continues. "Wabash has a loud voice to project at a time when we have a crisis of academic and college achievement in men. We also have to continue to make the compelling case that a liberal arts education is worth it."

The summer before his senior year at Arsenal Tech High School in Indianapolis, Lewis attended Opportunities to Learn About Business (OLAB), a weeklong business boot camp at Wabash. It was his first interaction with the College.

"That intrigued me, but I have to give my mom full credit," Lewis says. "She took me to an admissions event, and said, 'You just ought to look at it.'"

Through the encouragement of an admissions counselor, Lewis applied for the Lilly scholarship, a scholarship he later received.

Lewis recounts his mother's story about the day he interviewed, "I remember

your dad and I in the car—you got out, walked up, and I turned to him and said, 'This could change his life.'"

"I was scared to go to Wabash because I had gone to an inner-city school," Lewis continues. "I didn't know if I could compete with kids that had gotten a 1600 on their SATs, but I wanted to hold myself to a higher standard than many of my peers.

"I can honestly say it changed my life," he continues. "The financial assistance that came in the form of that very generous Lilly scholarship plucked one kid from the city and allowed him to better himself, realize his leadership potential, contribute to his community, raise his family, and live in a way that enabled me to do good things."

Giving back to Wabash and ensuring its future is something Lewis does not take lightly.

"I hope we can continue to find those kids who need that little bit of money to come and get an education that will change their lives, because I was the beneficiary of that," says Lewis. "For a school that changed my life, to be able to pay it forward in such an important capacity is a great honor. It's a great responsibility." ▀



"Wabash has a loud voice to project at a time when we have a crisis of academic and college achievement in men. We also have to continue to make the compelling case that a liberal arts education is worth it."

DAVID LEWIS '81



The Future of Solar Energy

by Anna Barnett

IN 1954, BELL LABS INTRODUCED the first silicon-based solar panels, which produced power five times more efficiently than previous models that dated back to the 1880s. In a front-page story, the New York Times called the invention “the beginning of a new era, leading eventually to the realization of one of mankind’s most cherished dreams: the harnessing of the almost limitless energy of the sun.”

Since this breakthrough, the solar industry has innovated, improved efficiency, lowered costs, and grown this technology into an essential part of the energy system—a solution that is renewable, carbon-free, and reduces society’s reliance on fossil fuels. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, as of 2023, solar accounted for more than 50% of new electricity-generating capacity added to the grid and employed more than 260,000 Americans, including several Wabash alumni.

“I was very lucky that my parents exposed me to some pretty incredible natural environments traveling as a kid, so I understood from a young age that we do our part to protect nature,” says Ty Benefiel ’10. “It wasn’t until I was older that I realized climate change jeopardizes more than just the beauty of nature; it’s a real threat to humanity and society. Once that hit home for me, I decided, Why don’t I try to do my part?”

Following graduation from Wabash, the economics major and history minor attended the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. There, he and a few fellow students launched Meter Genius, an app that helped consumers understand their energy consumption and save money by tailoring their usage.

After selling the app in 2020, he teamed up with his dad, Kevin Benefiel ’81, who had recently retired from his role as vice president of Dr. Pepper. Combining Kevin’s network in the restaurant business with Ty’s interest in the clean energy industry, the father-son duo launched Integrate Solar to empower businesses to harness solar power and reduce energy costs.

During his time at Dr. Pepper, Kevin worked closely with quick-serve restaurants, many of which spend more than \$100,000 per year on utility bills. To offset this monetary cost and environmental impact, Ty developed solar canopies that generate power while providing shade and sun protection over drive-throughs, patios, and parking lots. Today, Integrate Solar’s canopies can be found at more than 150 locations in partnership with major brands like Starbucks, Chipotle, and Taco Bell.

“The solar industry is stronger than it’s ever been,” says Kevin. “The cost of solar is cheaper than ever, and more and more people are realizing the negative economic, health, and climate impacts of fossil fuels—so the demand for solar is greater than ever.”





photos from unsplash.com

According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the U.S. Department of Energy's primary national laboratory for energy systems research and development, there were 64%, 69%, and 82% reductions in the cost of residential, commercial-rooftop, and solar farms, respectively, between 2010 and 2021.

Although there is a burgeoning market today for high-tech innovations like Integrate Solar's on-site solar canopies, Wabash graduates have long been exploring sustainable power and solutions.

In 1978, Dick Durham '64 saw an ad for a Florida-based company specializing in active solar—systems that use mechanical components like pumps and fans to transfer solar-collected heat. This kicked off his career of installing and educating on green energy.

Durham installed a couple hundred solar-powered domestic water heaters in homes. Then, he connected with an Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate in Colorado who had created a "breadbox" solar heater—a simple design that utilizes an insulated tank and a dark transparent cover to capture solar energy and heat the water inside.

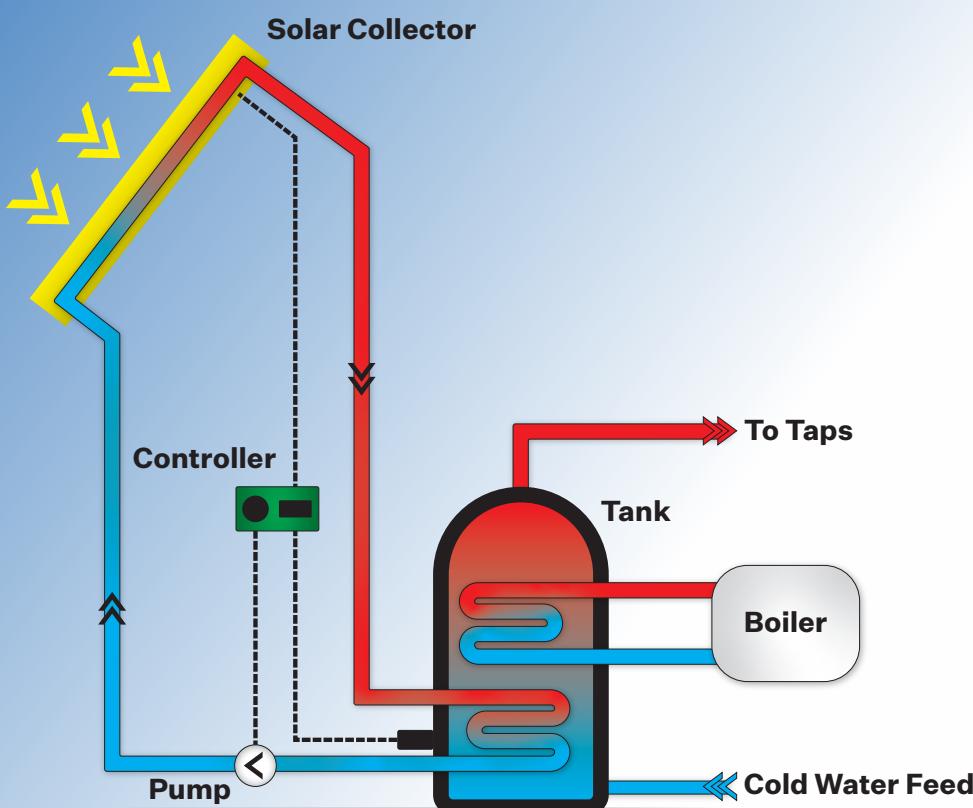
"I sold about 300 of those, and believe it or not, after 40 years they all still work!" he says with excitement.

A longtime champion of conservation and sustainability, Durham faced his fair share of skepticism and misinformation regarding solar power.

"The biggest hit was when Consumer Reports came out in the 1980s saying that solar does not work. It really tainted the water for a long time," says Durham. "So, I started trying to educate people on what works. I'd have solar parties at our house and show them, 'Hey, look at this. This is our electric bill. Wouldn't you like a bill like that?'"

Daniel McCarthy '20 approaches many conversations with landowners the same way. The Chicago-based project developer for Sol Source Power often says, "OK, you're hesitant. Why are you hesitant, and what can I do to reduce that hesitancy?"

"A lot of it comes down to a lack of information about what solar is and what it does. A lot of people hate wind and associate solar with it," says McCarthy. "But solar energy is not wind."



Left: Closed-loop, or indirect, systems like this are common in Indiana and other regions that freeze. Indirect systems use antifreeze liquid to transfer thermal energy from the sun to water in insulated storage tanks. Antifreeze is pumped through tubes to the solar collector, where it is heated by the sun's thermal energy. The fluid then passes back through the tubes within the tank and transfers heat to the water before cycling back to the collectors.



Integrate Solar installed a 114-foot solar canopy at a Taco Bell in Delano, CA. The canopy, which was installed over the parking lot, boosts the restaurant's energy efficiency while also protecting customers and team members from rain and intense summer heat.

Kevin Benefiel agrees that one of the greatest hurdles in his work is educating customers on the financial benefits of solar energy in addition to sustainability.

"The solar panels that we use will generate power for 30 years or more, and many of our customers pay off their solar canopies in five years or less. So, essentially, you are getting 25-plus years of free electricity that's generated by the solar canopies," Kevin says.

Ty Benefiel argues that further development of batteries—which store energy for use when the sun isn't shining—will be critical to unlock the full potential of solar as a dominant force in both domestic and global energy.

"We are going to see with batteries the same kind of cost reduction and efficiency improvements that we saw with solar. You're going to see the

price of batteries drop 90%, and you're going to see the efficiency probably double; and when that happens, you're going to see a real decisive shift to clean energy," he says.

Now 15 years out of college, Ty reflects on how his time in the classroom shaped his view of the world and his career path.

"As a Wabash student, it was instilled in me this idea of trying to think critically and act responsibly. I can't think of a better industry that lives up to the ideals of Wabash than the clean energy industry," Ty says. "Whether you care about the planet, the health outcomes of your community and your loved ones, or profit, the solar industry has a place for you." ■



Ty (left), Grant '16 (second from left), and Kevin (middle) pose with the Benefiel family at Exit Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska. Ty credits his interest in environmental protection to the family's many trips to national parks when he was growing up.

FINDING HIS NICHE

by Stephanie Cain

DRESSED IN CARGO PANTS, a Carhartt ball cap, and cracked work boots, Justin Harmeson '18 walks Clegg Memorial Garden in Lafayette, the headquarters property of NICHES Land Trust (Northern Indiana Citizens Helping Ecosystems Survive), where the Attica, Indiana, native acts as stewardship manager.

"There are intersections with history and geology, how soils affected the plants that are growing there," Harmeson says as he points out a Virginia spiderwort growing alongside the trail. "You have to be a botanist, a community advocate—and when you're in the field, a small-engine mechanic, a tree cutter."

Hiking down the side of a ravine covered in wildflowers, Harmeson talks about his work since graduating from Wabash while narrating the species in the landscape. It's hands-on work

that includes invasive species removal, tree thinning, and prescribed burns, but it also requires someone adept at communicating with people from all walks of life.

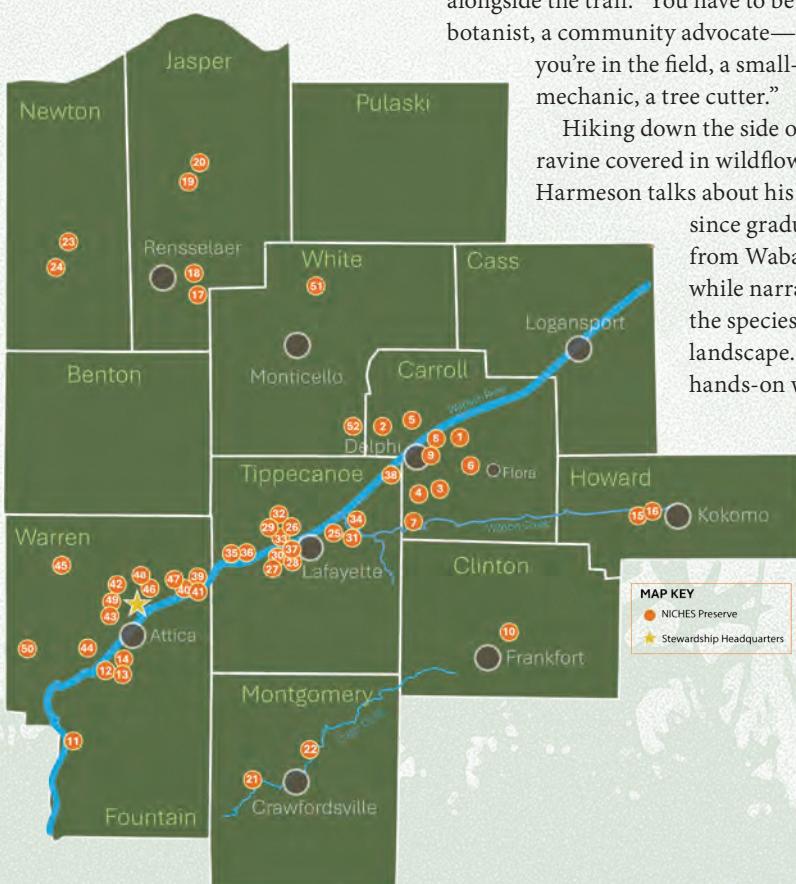
While his liberal arts education prepared him well for this work, a lot of his knowledge has also come from hands-on experience in the field, whether he is deciding which trees belong in an upland forest or pulling invasive garlic mustard.

"That's the cool thing with this job: There is always something to learn," Harmeson says. "I was talking with the state botanist today and frantically making notes of new plants and stuff to look up later. I'm always learning things at a species level but also learning how we can improve the work we do."

NICHES serves 13 counties in Indiana. Most of their properties are open to the public, including Clegg Memorial Garden in Lafayette and Bachner Nature Reserve and Walnut Fork Wildlife Refuge in Montgomery County.

Harmeson, who was a member of the Outdoorsman Society at Wabash, originally thought he would be a wildlife biologist. During a 2017 internship with NICHES, he realized he could manage the entire landscape instead of just wildlife. Since then, he has blazed a trail dedicated to stewardship, connection with nature, and ecological management.

"A lot of this job is trying to read the landscape," he says. "Understanding the plants, animals, and insects and what they're telling you, which affects the type of management we do."



Hill's thistle population on Nature Conservancy property was becoming genetically bottlenecked. Through Harmeson's research and local partnerships he built, a population of the state-endangered plant was discovered in Sand Ridge Cemetery in Tippecanoe County. The township agreed to collect seed, which NICHES planted at the Granville Sand Barrens. Now, instead of five populations, there are six, and one of the previously existing five has had genetic improvement. Without Harmeson's action, the Hill's thistle might have been extirpated from the state. "It's a NICHES success story," Harmeson says. "You've got to stay positive."

At the same time, he adds, "The critical thinking skills I learned at Wabash really get brought into this job, because I'm trying to take the whole natural world and put it within the human lens and how we can actively manage that."

The human effect on land management is something Harmeson thinks about daily.

"Indigenous Americans played a really important role," Harmeson says as an eastern phoebe flits through the trees. "They don't get the recognition they deserve for protecting and living within the landscape. Then colonization essentially started changing our landscape. When you throw in climate change and habitat fragmentation with agriculture, it gets to be a lot."



"An average day involves invasive species removal. In the spring and fall we do prescribed fire; in the winter we're doing sugar maple thinning," he continues. "Mix in volunteer work days and training seasonal staff, and then in the fall, we have our hunting program."

The hunting project is particularly near to Harmeson's heart.

"That's how I first got involved with the natural world," he says. "I find a lot of gratification showing those hunters why we're doing this work. Then they invest in the mission. We have about 160 folks that hunt across our land. Those people volunteer about 20 hours a year. This past year, they put in around 4,000 hours on the land, so we're getting something from them on top of the work of just reducing the deer population."

Once Harmeson has a relationship with fellow hunters, he works to instill a feeling of ownership of the public lands NICHES is preserving. That's why he says a lot of his work as a land steward is in building relationships.

"Hunting is great, fishing is great," he says, "but that holistic connection—understanding the landscape—is really when you get that passion for it and want to protect it for future generations."

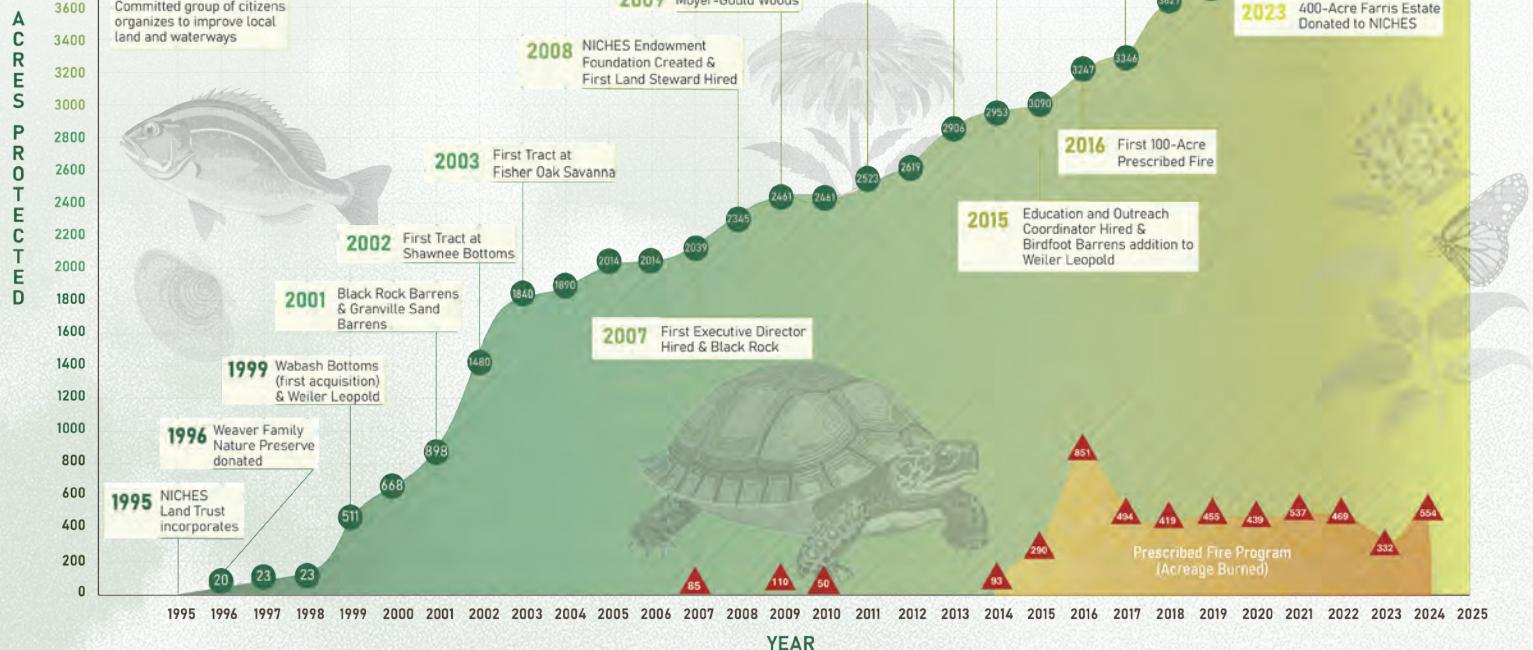
This past spring at the 2025 Awards Chapel, Harmeson was awarded the Thomas A. Cole Alumni Prize in Biology. The prize is presented to the graduate who is doing outstanding work for the fields of biology, environmental science, or medicine.

"What applied to Justin, of course, was that word 'outstanding,'" says Associate Professor of Biology Brad Carlson. "Justin found a niche in connecting his own background as a hunter and fisherman from a small town to this broad liberal arts education. He found his unique path and blossomed into someone his organization relies on."

Carlson, who currently serves on the NICHES board, knows Harmeson not only as a student but also as a colleague. He emphasizes how important Harmeson's work is.



Celebrating 30 Years of Northern Indiana Citizens Helping Ecosystems Survive



"I'm increasingly of the opinion that—and I say this as a scientist—we don't necessarily need more science," Carlson says. "We don't necessarily need more information to be discovered; we just need people to do something with the information we have. We already know enough to solve a lot of these problems, but the problem is getting people to respond to that and take action."

Carlson takes Wabash classes to multiple NICHEs properties during the school year. He says getting people to take action is exactly what Harmeson is doing.

"Justin's work builds those connections," he says. "He'll continue to spread the word and build support among people in the area."

Harmeson's job isn't without its challenges. As a small nonprofit, NICHEs relies heavily on donations and memberships, as well as people who donate land or sell it at a bargain rate. Climate change, habitat fragmentation, and historical land use changes have significantly altered the ecosystems. NICHEs is dedicated to preserving. The four stewardship staff members manage nearly 5,000 acres across 11 counties.

But Harmeson isn't giving up.

"I'm really excited about the amount of opportunity," he says, pointing at a hillside of Virginia bluebells. "We can't go back to the past. We have to understand where this property is, and how we can best manage to promote this moving forward. I'm really excited about the future of the organization and how our work looks." ■

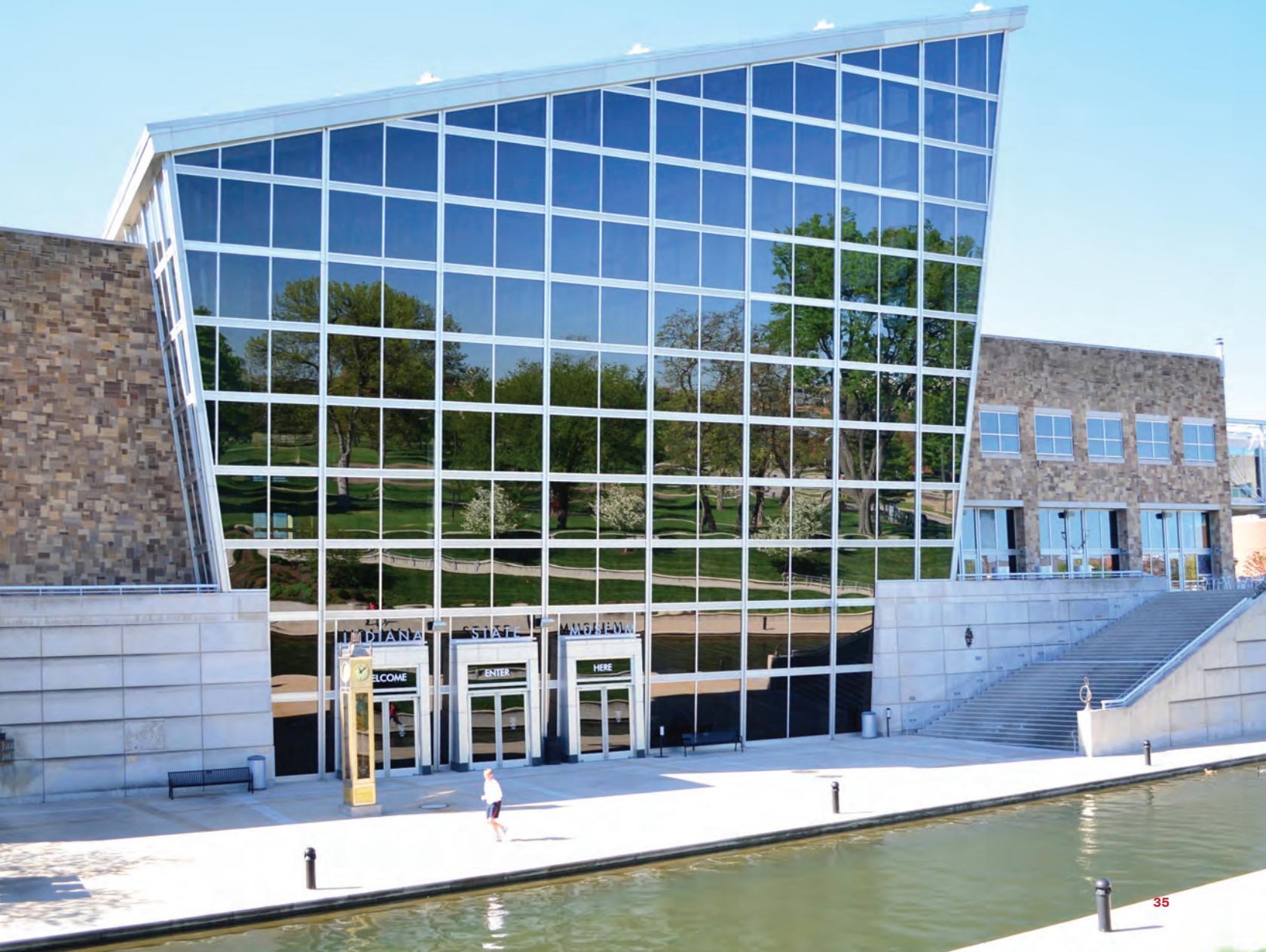
Culinary Tip:

Harmeson's biggest invasive battles are against Amur honeysuckle and garlic mustard. He says the farm-to-table chefs should take note. "I've had pesto made with garlic mustard. It's really good."

SUSTAINING A LEGACY

by **Kim Johnson**

A look across the Indianapolis skyline reveals a legacy that began with bricklayer Francis A. Wilhelm in the 1920s. Not only has F.A. Wilhelm Construction built many of the structures dotting the landscape, but it has left a philanthropic mark across the city, state, and country. Led by only four presidents—Francis, his son James “Tippy” Wilhelm, grandson Phil Kenney H’24, and great-grandson Pat Kenney ’18—the company has grown into one of the largest construction companies in the Midwest.





THE SUMMER BEFORE HIS FRESHMAN YEAR in high school, Phil Kenney H'24 began working in the “yard” at F.A. Wilhelm Construction. In addition to performing other simple labor, he unloaded train cars and trucks, making about \$2 an hour.

By the time he graduated from high school, Phil had moved into the estimating department, and as a civil engineering student at Purdue University, he spent summers on Wilhelm construction sites. After graduating from Purdue in 1985, he began working full time at the company. In January 2001, he became president—a title he held until April 2025, when his son Pat '18 was named his successor. Phil's son Vince '14 is also part of the company, in project management.

“I knew I wanted to be a part of it,” Phil says. “I know the jobs we build are done well, they are done right, and they will last a long time. It was great to carry on our family legacy. It’s pretty special to have Pat and Vince continue to do so too.”

Vince was the family’s first connection to Wabash. He recalls an intriguing introduction to the College in a letter from Greg Castanias '87.

“I had never heard of Wabash until Greg wrote me a letter,” Vince says. “That piqued my interest. I fell in love with the history and the unique small aspect of it, but the light bulb didn’t go off on how great of a place it is until I was in school and meeting everybody.”

Following in his older brother’s footsteps, Pat came to Wabash, where he majored in physics. He interned with Wilhelm Construction throughout his time on campus, including during the renovation of Martindale Hall.

“I thought I wanted to go into engineering. I loved Legos and building,” Pat says. “I interned in our preconstruction estimating department after freshman year in college and loved it—the crunching numbers. Early on I knew I wanted to be in construction. It just became a question of what part of it.”

The Kenney men have early Wilhelm memories that originated at the dinner table when they were approaching the end of their eighth grade years.

“Hey, you’re going to work this summer in the yard,” they all recall hearing from their fathers.

“I started with cleaning up trash, working the concrete forms, grinding concrete beams, painting the buildings, weed eating,” Pat says. “All the above, anything they needed.”

Phil, who served as a trustee of Wabash College from 2017 to 2025 and on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, is happy that both sons chose to stay in the family business.

“They are two very different people, their personalities, the way they study,” Phil says. “But they understand hard work. My grandfather and my uncle both said if you work hard, luck will find you. Hard work sometimes means a lot of hours, and these guys are doing it now.”

Pat has been at Wilhelm for 14 years—since working in the yard as a rising high school freshman. He says his transition to president in the spring was made easier by the people around him.

“I started as a laborer, and I’ve spent time in almost all the departments,” he says. “Every day is something new. I call my father all the time getting his advice. The leadership team here is great.”



Projects include the Indiana State Museum (page 35), JW Marriott Hotel (below), NCAA Headquarters, Indiana University Health downtown hospital (left page bottom), Indianapolis Children's Museum expansion (above), Indianapolis Convention Center expansion (left page top), Eiteljorg Museum expansion, the Indianapolis Museum of Art (now Newfields) expansion, the former Hoosier Dome, and Union Station renovation.

photo by Kim Johnson



"I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I know the jobs we build are done well, they are done right, and they will last a long time. It was great to carry on our family legacy. It's pretty special to have Pat and Vince continue to do so too."

Phil Kenney H'24





Indianapolis International Airport



"If you want something, you've got to take the chances, go do it, learn something new. If you wait for it to happen, it never will."

Pat Kenney '18



"I don't think there's anyone more blessed than me," Pat continues. "In 102 years to be only the fourth president is very unique. I am with a great company with a great culture."

Vince returned to Wilhelm in 2019. One of the early projects he was involved with was Little Giant Stadium.

"I knew I wanted to be back working with my dad and brother," Vince says. "Even though the company has gotten so big, it still feels like it's a family with all the employees. They started building porches, kept the company going through the Great Depression and a World War, and now we're doing billion-dollar projects."

Pat knows while the weight of the family legacy is largely on his shoulders now, the generations before him have set Wilhelm up for success.

"It's a great company culture built over 100 years," Pat says. "I want to make sure we stay on that path, continue to grow, and better ourselves every day. We have a lot of hardworking people who want to do well for the company. We're all

here to work hard for our clients and deliver projects that last a lifetime."

That culture was instilled in Phil early by his grandfather and uncle.

Quick Facts

4,000+ employees

\$2.4B annual revenue (2024)

3,054 projects completed*

803,538 cubic yards of concrete poured*

4,210,000 bricks laid*

#1 Contractor in Indiana
(Engineering News-Record Midwest)

*last three years



Eiteljorg Museum expansion

"We're a service organization, so we try to serve them and stay humble," Phil says.

His sons see that as one of his most defining traits. "He is humble, no matter what," Pat says. "He'll tell it to you straight—good, bad, or indifferent. He'll hold you accountable. He cares for people learning and bettering their lives."

Vince continues, "No matter how successful or how big the company has gotten, he's always been a grounded person. He and my mom are generous with everything. They have a 'give back and be where your feet are' mentality."

Both Wilhelm Construction and the Kenney family are community builders beyond the brick and mortar.

"(My wife) Colleen and I support the arts locally—the symphony, Heartland Film Festival, the IRT," Phil says. "We also support addiction services."

In addition, the Kenneys have established a family scholarship at Wabash and have funded multiple projects on campus.

Wilhelm Construction is also generous in the communities it serves. For the company's 100th anniversary, the employees made suggestions of projects and organizations to support, and 100 were chosen.

"There's always a connection, whether it's family or the larger Wilhelm family," Phil says. "It's not just here in Indiana. Wherever we're working, we're helping the community. We have offices in North Carolina, and when the floods

happened there in 2024, all the employees got together and helped. We also make gifts as part of the projects we do anywhere."

The Kenneys do not take for granted what has been handed down.

"My mom used to say, 'You don't get an education, you take it,'" Phil recalls. "You can sit back, listen to your teachers, and just take it in, or you can ask questions, do the research, do the hard work."

"The same goes for your career," says Pat. "If you want something, you've got to take the chances, go do it, learn something new. If you wait for it to happen, it never will."

"You never stop learning," Vince says. "You can learn every single day." ■



"There are a lot of things that come up in a daily construction life. No matter what role you're in, you have to be dialed in. What separates Wabash guys from a lot of people is critical thinking, thinking on your toes, thinking outside the box."

Vince Kenney '14



Marion County (Indiana) Community Justice Campus



Transforming Transportation

by Anna Barnett

TRANSPORTATION IS ABOUT MORE than just getting from point A to point B. It is about building the conditions for people and communities to thrive economically, socially, and sustainably.

After majoring in physics at Wabash, Mike Gallagher '68 completed his Ph.D. in nuclear engineering at Stanford University. He began his career in the middle of the 1970s oil crisis.

"That immediately gave purpose to my work. In the U.S. and Europe, there were long lines of people trying to get gasoline for their cars," says Gallagher. "It instantly converted my interest in energy technology to wanting to spend my career working on ways to replace or at least reduce our dependence on oil."

In the following years, Gallagher spent four years developing a large-scale energy model of the United States to advise government officials on what it would take to build out the nation's supply of all types of energy region by region. The extensive report projected how much capital would be required for the next 30 years, calculated how many engineers and pipe fitters they would need to build a nuclear power plant, and even included an environmental database to predict future emissions. This "labor of love" was adapted by 20 countries.

Gallagher led the first two modifications for Peru and Egypt before he joined Westport Innovations the early 2000s. Westport, a then-startup based in Vancouver, partnered with Indiana-based company Cummins to redesign diesel engines to run on natural gas—offering fleets a quieter, cleaner alternative fuel.

"We couldn't just sell a truck that had one of these special engines if the customer didn't have a refueling station nearby," explains Gallagher. "But over time, the technology took off. Now there are thousands of Cummins and Westport natural gas-powered buses in China and across North America."

Through further research and development, Gallagher and his colleagues designed engines that ran on biomethane, or renewable natural gas—created by biological sources like landfills or dairy farms.

"We're essentially recycling gas, thereby creating a system with no carbon impact," he explains. "Instead of sending the methane into the atmosphere, we capture it and put it in trucks and buses, and it doesn't require drilling into the ground. It's 90% to 100% renewable in that respect."

He expects steady growth in the use of natural gas for trucks and buses in the future, especially as scientists discover more ways to extract it from renewable resources.

While Gallagher focused on innovating the fuels to keep vehicles moving, others aim to reshape the systems that move people.

Jacob Sheridan '14 works as a transit scheduler for Cincinnati Metro, mapping out bus routes that connect thousands of riders to their jobs, schools, health care, and daily life. He oversees nearly 4,000 bus stops—ensuring their correct location, route run times, and signage.

Public transportation is inherently more sustainable than private car ownership, Sheridan points out. "A diesel bus still emits carbon, but when it's carrying 40 people instead of 40 cars on the road, the

emissions per rider are far less. And beyond that, transit helps keep cities more walkable, which makes biking and walking more practical. That's a huge sustainability benefit people often overlook."

In theory, large public transit systems are the most efficient way to support mobility in highly populated areas, but in practice, bus routes require detailed strategies and planning months, and even years, in advance. Even then, factors like traffic changes, new housing developments, and surges in ridership require minute-by-minute scheduling tweaks.

“

We're essentially recycling gas, thereby creating a system with no carbon impact. Instead of sending the methane into the atmosphere, we capture it and put it in trucks and buses, and it doesn't require drilling into the ground. It's 90% to 100% renewable in that respect.”



MIKE GALLAGHER '68



“Public transportation is such a big piece of the equation when it comes to building sustainable communities. Citizens have a greater quality of life when they can get places quickly and safely,” says Sheridan. “Our goal is always reliability, meaning the bus shows up when we say it’s going to show up. We are constantly adjusting route run times to match reality.”

“

A diesel bus still emits carbon, but when it's carrying 40 people instead of 40 cars on the road, the emissions per rider are far less. And beyond that, transit helps keep cities more walkable, which makes biking and walking more practical. That's a huge sustainability benefit people often overlook.”



JACOB SHERIDAN '14

Sheridan and his team managed a major scheduling change this August as Cincinnati public middle schools transitioned from transporting students on traditional yellow school buses to Metro buses.

“We have served high schools for a long time, but the district has added middle schools this year in a budget-saving move,” explains Sheridan. “The news of this change didn’t come out until this summer, so we had to quickly adapt to add stops to existing routes and figure out how to safely maneuver our 40-foot vehicles down narrow neighborhood streets while considering all the other restraints of buses.”

Today, sustainable fuels and powering systems are being integrated into existing transportation systems. Cincinnati Metro has also begun experimenting with hybrid buses that combine diesel engines with electric batteries. Using GPS-based geofencing, the vehicles automatically switch to electric-only mode in targeted areas, such as downtown business districts or neighborhoods with high pedestrian activity.

“Technology like this ensures that when buses are moving through densely populated or environmentally sensitive areas, they’re quieter and cleaner,” Sheridan explains. “We’ve already seen savings on fuel and maintenance, along with measurable reductions in emissions.”

“Our buses can only run on electric for about 40% of their daily service now,” Sheridan continues. “But it will be interesting to see how this technology improves in the coming years and how public transportation as a whole evolves.”

Matters of transportation service expansion are not limited to dense metropolises. Smaller communities like Crawfordsville, Indiana, are also adapting transportation and infrastructure to better serve residents. The Sunshine Van program, which has provided donation-based transportation within Montgomery County for decades, plans to scale up its service offerings in January of 2026.

“Until now, the Sunshine Vans were restricted to seniors and people with disabilities,” says Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton ’00. “With new funding, we’re transitioning into a public transportation system anyone can use beginning in January, called Crawfordsville Area Transit. It won’t be bus routes and bus stops—at least not yet—but an on-demand service where people call and get picked up for a very nominal fare.”

This expansion is a direct response to what local employers have been telling city leaders: Reliable transportation is a major barrier for entry-level workers. “Too often, new hires depend on a friend or neighbor for a ride, they miss a few shifts, and then it unravels,” says Barton.

"Once we started studying transportation locally, we realized the need went well beyond workforce," he continues. "People told us they couldn't get to doctor's appointments, to church, or even to buy groceries. That really broadened our thinking about what this service could provide."

By offering more consistent and reliable transportation for residents, Barton hopes to bolster the community's quality of life and economy.

"This is workforce-driven first and foremost, but it also makes sense from a sustainability standpoint. The more we can combine trips and reduce the number of cars on our streets, the more we save—economically and environmentally."

The transportation landscape will continue to transform for as long as people have someplace to go. Like other Wabash alumni, Gallagher appreciates the opportunity he has had to drive the conversation.

"It's been really fun for me to contribute to the growth of a major part of the energy system—one that's environmentally cleaner, more sustainable, and can reduce geopolitical risk," says Gallagher. "I never would have thought, sitting in a Wabash physics class 50 years ago, that it was all going to lead to anything like this." ▀



BLAZING A TRAIL THROUGH THE

by **Stephanie Cain**

It's almost like the setup for a joke: How many Wabash grads does it take to change a light bulb? No one knows, but at least four are dedicated to making sure the bulb turns on when you flip the switch.

WABASH MEN TAKE MANY PATHS after they graduate and go into the workforce. Joe Motuliak '05, Blair Littrell '17, Joshua Powers '22, and Andrew Wells '06 never anticipated working in the energy sector, but all followed their skills and passion and found their vocation.

Motuliak majored in economics and, after working with a major mechanical engineering contractor, went to Purdue for his M.B.A. He has spent 15 years in the wholesale energy sector. Wholesale energy companies purchase energy in bulk from producers to resell to customers at a profit. Early on, he was with energy management company ACES, working on the "load side"—managing the demand for electricity and adjusting voltage to stabilize the grid and reduce costs. He eventually moved into the "G&T side" doing generation and transmission cooperative work.

"In 2023, I joined NextEra and did development origination for wind, solar, and battery," Motuliak says. "We were starting to do natural gas over the last year or so. Then, I joined Aypa Power, which is really focused on storage."

After graduating from Wabash, Littrell began looking for work that would give him experience before entering law school. He landed at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), an administrative agency that oversees utilities in the state and makes decisions in the public interest on rates, finance, and service.

The IURC is mandated by the State of Indiana to hear evidence in cases surrounding public utilities. It does not make policy, but ensures policies are enforced in a way that is fair to energy generators and energy consumers.

Littrell says, "We play a critical role in making sure all Hoosiers have safe and reliable utility service at just and reasonable rates."

He went back to school—not law school, but graduate school for an accounting degree. He now works on utility rates and spends a good portion of his time reading testimony and checking accounting records.

Powers is a financial analyst with RES Group (Renewable Energy Systems), the world's largest independent renewable energy company. He majored in economics at Wabash and went on to get his master of science in finance at the University of Colorado. He has spent the past two years supporting the development of renewable energy assets across the United States and Canada.

"RES does not own our assets," Powers explains. "We're looking for people who want that diverse portfolio with renewable energy assets that also help offset their carbon footprint. Or maybe they're trying to get into the market because they see value in it. We're trying to find places for these people to then develop."

"When we find a development project, the biggest thing we are looking at, from an economic standpoint, is the wind itself, because that's generating the revenue," Powers continues. "Then we're looking at the value of the tax credits we can get. This all informs our project internal rate of return."

Wells serves as general counsel for Duke Energy Indiana, the largest electric utility in the state. After Wabash, his path took him to the office of then-Gov. Mitch Daniels. During Daniels' reelection campaign, Wells attended Indiana University McKinney School of Law. He has experience with private practice, as well as state government as a house lawyer with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Following a stint with the IURC, Wells has been with Duke for seven years.

"Duke Energy is the largest electric utility in the country, and we're the largest electric utility in Indiana," he says. "We have just over 900,000 customers in 69 counties. Duke Energy Indiana is everything but nuclear, really—we have full natural gas, hydro, solar, wind. It's not wind generation, but we have some battery storage associated with that."

Despite the varied paths these four men took, they all play important roles in discovering and adapting to the evolving energy landscape.

EVOLVING ENERGY LANDSCAPE

DEMAND FOR RELIABLE, FLEXIBLE ENERGY

HAS NEVER BEEN HIGHER. Data centers and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure have increased demand—AI is resource-hungry—while hotter summers have increased strain on power grids around the world.

At the same time, consumers are increasingly conscious of how their power is generated. Added awareness of climate change and conservation has prompted more people to question reliance on fossil fuels and to support wind and solar energy.

“Even companies whose bread and butter has been oil and gas are transitioning to renewables,” Powers says. “They see it as a better market right now.”

The biggest factor, all four agree, is reliability. “I have always been pretty agnostic about how power is generated,” says Motuliak. “We need a diversity of supply.”

“Base load,” the minimum demand on a power grid, is one of the main factors in energy generation.

“We don’t care how we get the base load, but it’s got to be reliable,” he continues.

He goes on to point out that load growth—the increasing demand for energy—had been relatively stable, around 2% a year, since the



Andrew Wells '06

late 2000s. That has changed exponentially in the past two years.

“Most of this load growth is data center driven,” Motuliak says. “The power demand is not going away.”

POWER DEMAND CAN BE MET IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, and recently, energy companies have shifted from fossil fuels into a diverse and balanced mix of sources.

“No one is going to build new coal plants,” Wells says. “But you’ll see some of the older coal plants get extended lives. They’ll still have to comply with the environmental regulations in the books.”

He points out, though, that there are better alternatives to coal at this point. “Nuclear is more able to generate energy efficiently.”

Littrell agrees.

“Nuclear assets are very expensive to build,” Littrell says, “but they have long, long lives, and they’re only down when they refuel. Nuclear fuel is very stable.”

Nuclear seems to be the refrain when speaking with experts in the industry. Other Wabash alumni have taken note. Indiana Gov. Mike Braun '76 announced he is pushing for nuclear development in Indiana.

“Indiana’s legislature has moved legislation in the last handful of years to try to make it easier for nuclear,” Wells adds. “It seems the federal administration is also making some similar efforts.”

Other forms of clean energy, such as wind and solar, aren’t met with the same sort of enthusiasm.

“A lot of times, with wind and solar facilities, their lives aren’t as long as a coal or gas plant,” Littrell says. “When they build a new coal plant, they expect this asset to live over 35 years. Wind assets typically live perhaps 20 years.”

Wind and solar are also much less dependable, on a utility scale, than nuclear and natural gas.

“‘Nameplate capacity’ is how much, in theory, we’re going to provide to the grid at any given time,” Littrell explains. “A nameplate capacity of, say, 150 megawatts might be the absolute best-case capacity, but the wind doesn’t always blow.”

“‘Accredited capacity,’ as opposed to nameplate capacity, is how much you can reasonably expect that capacity to be. Using the 150 megawatts example, that wind facility may have an accredited capacity of 15% of that, so 22.5 megawatts. They provide amazing energy value, but the capacity value they provide is much less than a thermal resource (such as coal or nuclear).”

Motuliak says battery construction is essential for wind and solar development. Although the battery sector is relatively new, it’s making a huge difference.

“You’ve probably heard the term ‘intermittent resources,’” Motuliak says. “Obviously, they don’t always work, because the sun’s not always shining and the wind is not always blowing. We have a lot of times during the day where either wind is outpacing demand or solar is, so batteries have filled that void. In the middle of the night, when the wind’s blowing and everybody’s asleep, what we don’t need in the grid we can now use to charge, and we can store it for the middle part of the day when everything’s ramping up, and discharge it.”

These batteries resemble a more aesthetic version of a shipping container and operate the same way a cell phone battery operates. They can store and hold large capacities to discharge during peak hours, evening out the load.

THE TRANSITION FROM FOSSIL FUELS

requires workforce and economic adjustment, neither of which happens easily or quickly.

Powers emphasizes that the work he does with RES is addressing some of those concerns.

"There are jobs lost because of the loss of fossil fuels, so we've been moving into those regions," he says. "We're trying to replace as many jobs as we can from any coal closures."

There are also larger community-wide impacts of this shifting energy landscape. Motuliak points out the economic impact of starting an energy project.

"You're seeing areas that historically have had a coal plant close that carried a lot of the tax base for that community," Motuliak says. "These new projects can come in and, again, provide tax revenue for decades. There's a lot of benefit out there that goes beyond what people see."

Powers agrees that the utility-scale projects his company works on can become huge assets to the community.

"We have to spend a lot of money to get those operational, especially in property taxes," he says. "Those facilities generate millions of dollars of property tax for a county."

Yet those projects are often met with resistance. Wind farms and solar developments are protested, often by rural landowners who don't want to see farmland taken out of production.

When Motuliak was working at NextEra, he was involved with a solar project that received a lot of pushback.

"People are all for property rights," he says, "but the minute they think any of that is going to impact them, now we've got an issue."

Ultimately, when the permitting on NextEra's solar project failed to go through, the project was pivoted from solar to battery storage.

"I don't know why a local community is going to tell a farmer what they can do with their land," Motuliak says. "They basically force them to continue doing something either not productive or very volatile, as the commodity markets are. With solar, these farmers can sign long-term lease agreements where they're getting stabilized payments for 25 or 35 years."

Littrell can see both sides of the issue.

"I get it to some extent," Littrell says. "You buy your house, then this construction starts next door, and all of a sudden you feel like you can't enjoy your property."

He says developers are increasingly working on outreach to emphasize they are not trying to invade, but trying to become a part of the community.

"I have found those projects to be more successful," he says.

Ultimately, Littrell thinks electricity consumers should spend time educating themselves about what goes into establishing price rates, regulations, and incentives.

"Understanding how our process works is going to be very valuable when people think about energy policy, when they go to vote, and think about what they want from their representatives and their decision-makers on energy policy," he says. "Understand the role of state commissions, whether you live in Indiana or not, every state has a utility commission like us. We all do the same work, and we're all focused on energy policy."

OVERALL, THE ENERGY OUTLOOK IS BRIGHT.

Tax credits for the renewable energy market through 2028 mean the potential for lots of renewable projects in the next three years.

"Between now and 2028 there's going to be a flood of renewables trying to get into the market," Powers says. "Post-2028 there will be a sharp decrease."

"We're seeing load growth that I don't think we've seen in this country since World War II," Motuliak says. "Over the next five to 10 years, there's going to be a mad rush to build solar and wind in particular, to get these projects online. Everybody's looking at natural gas, but that's not going to get built or permitted really quickly, so that's maybe 2030 or 2032, if you didn't already have it in the works."

"I'm pretty positive we'll have a good five- or seven-year run here," Motuliak continues. "And I'm sure things will evolve during that timeframe."

There are challenges, however.



Blair Littrell '17

Determining fair rates for all customers can be difficult, whether the customer is a homeowner wanting to do his laundry or a data center wanting to process thousands of inquiries an hour.

"Do you want your residential customer paying for a power plant that was needed to power an AI data center?" Littrell asks. "These are conversations we're having every single day, how to structure these things, what's the right way to do it."

Demand is anticipated to continue growing, especially as AI integration is added to more and more aspects of life. Wells compares the increased demand to the 1960s and 1970s, when much of the United States began relying on air-conditioning in buildings.

"The biggest challenge right now is just being able to build it fast enough," Wells says. "We've entered a period of dramatic load growth, basically driven by data centers, AI, and crypto. That's a lot of megawatts to come on the system."

Powers remains optimistic.

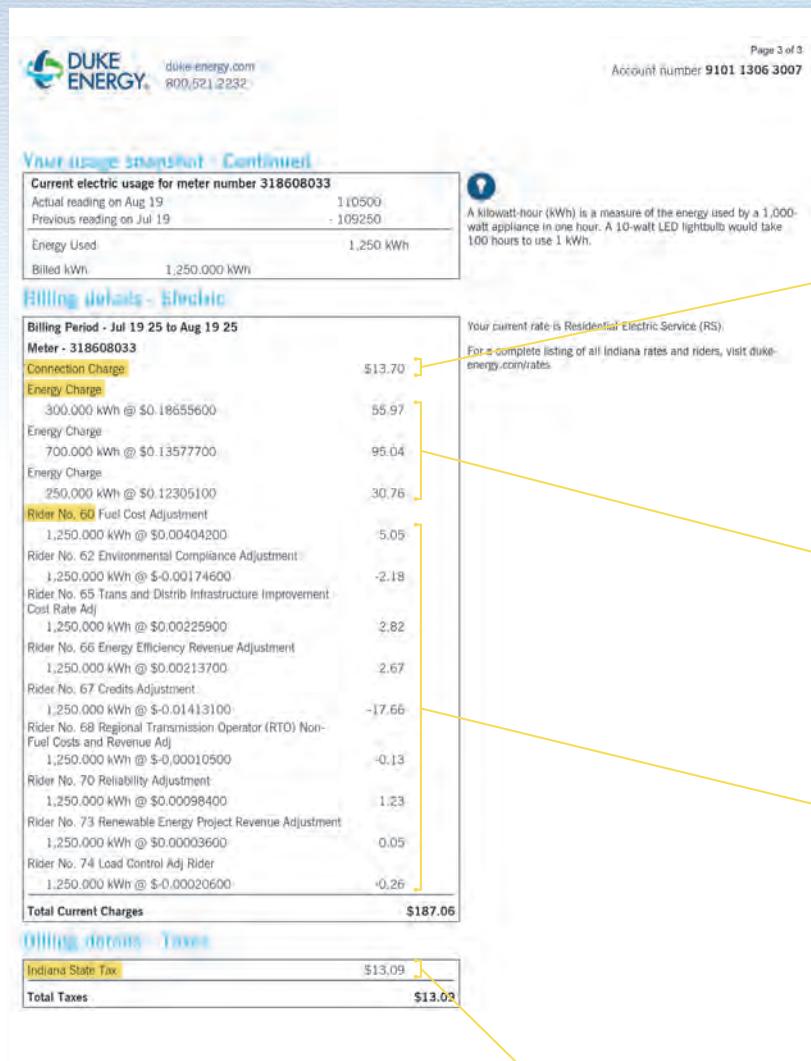
"I'm reassured by people who've been in our industry for 20-plus years," he says. "They've seen these tax credits almost sunset three or four times, but every single time, right before it sunsets, it comes back."

Littrell knows that their collective efforts are significant.

"It's critically important, the work we do, and it helps me get up every day knowing what I do is going to affect peoples' lives," he says. "There's not a day I don't feel like I'm doing something that's critical for society." ▀

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Regardless of who is delivering the physical electrons to your home, there are three main components of an electric bill:



- **Base rates:** These charges are designed to recover the infrastructure investments, operation and maintenance costs, and the general business expenses of a utility. For investor-owned utilities, this includes a reasonable rate of return to investors.

There are two basic components of base rates:

- **The connection/customer/service charge:** the minimum amount you pay, no matter how much you use. Utilities incur costs to serve you whenever you demand electricity, even if you never flip a light switch or do laundry, so the fixed charge is meant to recover at least a portion of those costs. For businesses, this can also include a demand charge based on the kilowatt (kW) of power a customer may need at a moment's notice.
- **The energy charge:** the amount you pay depending on your usage, expressed in cents/kilowatt-hour. This charge is designed to recover the rest of the company's costs not recovered through the energy charge.

- **Riders or trackers:** These charges are meant to "track" certain costs of a utility that are largely out of its control but are still necessary for providing safe and reliable service and are determined on a cents/kilowatt-hour basis. A certain amount of these costs is typically embedded in base rates, but their more volatile nature means that actual costs incurred were not reflective of what was assumed in the setting of base rates. If costs increase beyond what was included in base rates, it ends up as a surcharge; if costs decrease, you get a credit. Some common trackers include:
 - Fuel or purchased power costs
 - Regional transmission operator (RTO) costs
 - Environmental compliance costs

- **Sales tax**

GOING NUCLEAR

by Anna Barnett

SHEI MINNICK PARKED HER CAR IN FRONT OF CENTER HALL. It was her first time stepping foot on the campus of the alma mater of her husband, Brad Fewell '86. He did not make the trip from Philadelphia with her this time. After all, this was not Homecoming or Big Bash or a Monon Bell game. Minnick's reason for visiting was much more serious: a nuclear inspection.

"Believe it or not, the College had, and probably still has, licensed radioactive materials in one of its instructional science labs. Part of my job at the time was traveling to institutions to ensure those materials were accounted for and safely used," recalls Minnick. "When I saw Wabash College on the list, I knew it was the perfect opportunity to finally see the campus I had heard so much about."

That moment marked the beginning of her connection to Wabash—one that would grow in significance in the years to come.

Minnick and Fewell met as young professionals at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the independent agency responsible for overseeing civilian use of nuclear materials in the U.S.

After graduating from Wabash and earning a law degree from Rutgers University, Fewell planned to work at the New Jersey Attorney General's office as an attorney. When that job fell through at the last minute due to a hiring freeze, he applied for a job as an attorney at the NRC on a whim.



Minnick, a Villanova mathematics graduate with a master's degree in health physics from the Georgia Institute of Technology, also applied for a position at the NRC because "I didn't have a job yet and they were hiring all the math and science people like me."

That chance move set the foundation for their long-lasting marriage and kicked off their careers in the nuclear energy industry.

Minnick inspected and issued authorized licenses for nuclear material as a health physicist at the NRC for 11 years before taking a job at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There she directed a regional radiation program and worked to establish a credible radiation program at the Department of Homeland Security. She returned to the NRC a few years later to liaise among local, state, federal, and Native American tribal government entities and propose regulations that protect public health

and safety. In 2007, she took the role of deputy radiological safety officer at Argonne National Laboratory.

Fewell spent more than a decade at the NRC as an attorney before moving on and rising through the ranks to become general counsel and senior vice president for nuclear security, licensing, and regulatory affairs at Constellation Energy Group, the nation's largest operator of nuclear power plants.

Fewell says nuclear is the "largest, most effective producer of carbon-free energy generation today."

Countries around the world are embracing nuclear energy now more than ever—investing in new nuclear reactors and facilities as they look for efficient solutions to growing energy demands.

But this alternative power source was not always celebrated. Fewell has observed a shift in attitude in recent years.

◀ **Fewell** inside Bellefonte Nuclear Generating Station next to the reactor vessel.

"For a long time, you really didn't go around telling people you worked in nuclear energy. It was a bit taboo," he says. "What we were doing was beneficial to the world, but people associated the word 'nuclear' with destruction. People didn't understand it, so they feared it."

Perception is changing thanks to improved advocacy, better communication, and broader interest in how human behavior impacts the environment.

"It has been great to see people, especially the younger generation, open their minds to nuclear power and alternative energy sources," says Fewell. "That became one of my favorite parts of the job later in my career—speaking with young people who are passionate about sustainable energy and interested in learning more about our work."



▲ **Minnick** taking environmental samples in a creek near a landfill in Pennsylvania.

As a Wabash student, Fewell never dreamed of one day dealing with nuclear energy. A psychology and English double major, he wrote for *The Bachelor*, served as president of Phi Kappa Psi, and was active in student government.

"Nuclear energy and the energy industry at large were not really on my radar at Wabash," says Fewell. "At the time, I had my sights set on law school and didn't know a thing about energy."

"Funny enough, I was also involved in an organization on campus called Wabash SANE that focused on nuclear weapons disarmament," he continues. "It had nothing to do with nuclear energy, but it is a weird coincidence."

After decades of shaping policy and practice in the nuclear field, Fewell and Minnick say bigger things lie ahead.

"We've spent our careers helping to build the foundation, but the real story of nuclear energy is still being written by the generation that's coming next," says Fewell.

"Nuclear energy isn't a perfect solution, but it's one of the tools the world has to meet its future responsibly," says Minnick. "That makes the work we've done feel worthwhile." ▀

Brad Fewell '86 and Sheri Minnick spent their careers ensuring the safety of nuclear energy. Their latest project is about creating opportunity. Through the newly established Fewell-Minnick Scholarship, the couple is opening doors to enable students with financial need to attend Wabash—an opportunity they hope will change a life the same way unexpected opportunities changed theirs.

"Life is all about opportunities," says Fewell.

"I made the decision to go to Wabash and a few years later to apply for a job at the NRC. Those choices shaped my life and my career. We hope our scholarship offers students the opportunity to make the decision to continue their education at Wabash and change their life trajectory."

The Fewell-Minnick Scholarship aims to empower a Wabash student who needs, as Brad once needed, an opportunity to grow, discover, and make bold choices.

"We are firm believers in a well-rounded liberal arts education," says Minnick. "A good education can change a person's life, especially one from Wabash."

For the Fewell-Minnick family, energy and education are inextricably linked—both powerful forces for change, growth, and a better tomorrow. The couple's impact does not stop with Wabash. They are also working to establish a similar scholarship at another institution for women pursuing a liberal arts education.

"Brad and Sheri are amazing, generous people," says Steve Hoffman '85.

"They are lifelong learners, put education at the forefront, and care about providing opportunities for others. They will be changing lives forever, and I know that means a lot to them."





Reclaiming Fashion's Future

by Richard Paige

THE FASHION INDUSTRY has long attempted to bring the latest trends to the consumer. The fast-fashion trend seeks to deliver this on a mass-produced scale to maximize profits and reduce costs.

In a world now dominated by fast fashion—where new collections are introduced constantly—a movement centering on environmental and economic responsibility is unfolding.

“Cotton is water intensive, and it doesn’t stop at the growing of it, but the harvesting, the processing, the creation

of the threads, the weaving of the materials,” says Christie Byun, associate professor of economics. “It’s incredibly resource-intensive.”

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, the production of a simple T-shirt and pair of jeans, for example, can consume up to 2,300 gallons of water, from irrigation in cotton farming to the washing, bleaching, and dyeing. Factors like shipping these materials across continents and the heavy use of plastic-based polyester further increase the environmental costs.

“Producers have these massive shipping containers and technological advances that make it easy to ship stuff around,” Byun says. “Cotton can be grown in Texas, spun into yarn in India, made into T-shirts in Vietnam, and then sewn in Central America.”

Kevin Hall ’81, a leader of brands in the fashion industry and former president of Champion, has spent decades watching and shaping the shift toward more environmentally responsible production and consumption.



The production of a simple T-shirt and pair of jeans can consume up to 2,300 gallons of water, from irrigation in cotton farming to the washing, bleaching, and dyeing. —United Nations Environment Programme

“Across the board, our recycling rates as consumers are very low,” Hall explains. “Plastic still makes its way to the landfill. We need more brands using recycled materials in the production flow.”

The real economics of clothing are complex. Byun points out that while fast fashion has made clothing accessible, it has also encouraged excessive consumption.

“It’s become a race to the bottom,” she says. “Where can we make the cheapest clothing that somebody will wear one or two times before they dump it? People

feel virtuous donating it to Goodwill, but 90% of it probably ends up in a landfill.”

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, clothing production doubled from 2000 to 2014. Consumers purchased an average of 60% more in that span, while keeping those items only half as long.

While the clothes look good, often highly decorated with lots of patterns and embellishments, they are designed with the goal of tricking consumers into overlooking the lack of quality.

“That’s to distract from the fact that the materials are so cheap, and if you wear them a couple times, or even if you try to wash them, they’ll begin falling apart,” she says. “The stores are set up like that, too. They have new stock almost every day. They’re gambling on consumers getting addicted to shopping.”

While fast fashion enables middle-to-low-income consumers to purchase more clothing, it creates a hidden cycle of overconsumption.

"We're cheapskates yet we're buying more stuff," says Byun, whose current research project is a book on the economics of the fashion industry. "Somehow, it's not making us more satisfied."

Hall echoes the sentiment from an industry perspective.

"The consumer is the boss. They want it cheap, they want it now, and they want it to look good," he says. "Sustainability can be an afterthought."

Recycled polyester, for example, is currently up to 10%–20% more expensive than virgin polyester due to processing, sorting, and shipping.

"The easiest thing to do right now is to make new polyester," Hall says. "The more you recycle, the cheaper it will get. But if the demand for recycled goods isn't there, you're back to square one."

Social media is also having an effect—allowing people in any location worldwide to see different trends as they happen.

"There is a consumer demand for season, colors, and trends, and you have to be able to meet that," Hall says. "The trick for most manufacturers is that you're trying

to meet global demand with as little product inventory as you can, because product inventory erodes your margins."

Despite the challenges, some fashion companies are embracing sustainable practices and building their brands around the effort.

Hall now advises StepChange Clothing, a mission-driven brand that uses only recycled materials and donates profits to Force Blue, a nonprofit that reclaims oceanic ecosystems.

"We make socks from plastic bottles. Our T-shirts use up to 16 bottles each," Hall explains. "We do this because it's the right thing to do, but it still has to look good and feel good for consumers to care."

One hope for fashion's future is circular fashion, the idea that clothes can live multiple lives. Instead of ending up in landfills, materials are returned to the supply chain, broken down, and reimagined.

In between Hall's time at Champion and StepChange Clothing, he spent nearly two years at Unifi, a global leader in the circular-fashion space. Its

REPREVE brand transforms plastic bottles into performance fibers used by companies like Nike, Adidas, Hanes, Lululemon, and Walmart.

"Walmart and Target don't promote it much," Hall says, "but they've quietly demanded that manufacturers incorporate recycled materials. They're driving enormous change from the supply chain side."

However, textile recycling remains a technological challenge. Unlike plastic bottles, textiles often contain blends of materials that are hard to break down. "Textile take-back is the next frontier," Hall surmises. "It's not as easy to do because most clothes aren't made of just one material. It takes science and investment."

Secondhand stores, vintage outlets, and clothing donation programs are simple and immediate ways for the consumer to support the circular economy, but large-scale textile recycling remains in its infancy.

The clothing company Res Ipsa (named after the Latin legal term for "the thing speaks for itself") takes a slow, deliberate, and personal approach. Everything the company produces is handmade from vintage or repurposed fabrics sourced globally.

"We operate on a different model than almost all other fashion brands," says Cole Crouch '17, Res Ipsa brand manager. "Everything is upcycled, repurposed, with zero waste. There's a story behind every product."

"The consumer is the boss. They want it cheap, they want it now, and they want it to look good. Sustainability can be an afterthought."



Kevin Hall '81





(from left) Cole Crouch '17 and Res Ipsa co-founders Odini Gogo and Josh Moore on the streets in Morocco.



For Crouch and Res Ipsa, the goal is meaningful impact. “We’re not trying to please everyone. We just want to make beautiful things that last, and tell stories while doing it.”

The company’s studio in Marrakesh, Morocco, has had this mission since its founding in 2013. There, leftover fabric from one garment is transformed into something new, such as patches for denim jackets, shoes, or bags. “We built our own workshop so we could control every part of production,” he explains. “We use every inch of fabric. If something doesn’t sell, we send it back and make something new. You can give fabrics a second life by turning them into something else.”

With eight storefronts (seven in the U.S. and one in Paris), the Marrakesh atelier, and a growing online presence, Res Ipsa is quietly proving that one-of-a-kind affordable luxury doesn’t have to come at the planet’s expense. “We know we’re not for everyone,” Crouch says. “But the people who get it, get it. And they come back again and again.”

Res Ipsa operates at very low volume, essentially producing only what it sells. There aren’t sales to rid the warehouse of inventory at the end of the season, which allows the brand to meet multiple goals.

“We don’t make a lot of anything,” Crouch says. “There is a scarcity that incentivizes you to want it, but it also helps us achieve zero waste.”

Sustainability often ends up being an internal decision within companies. “How do you balance capitalism versus sustainability?” Byun asks. “It’s really hard.”

Hall agrees. “Sustainability has to be a key priority from the leadership team. I’ve worked for several companies that made that choice at the top, and the energy often came from younger employees pushing change internally.”

While brands can lead, consumers still hold sway, and they’re not always making sustainability a priority in their clothing choices. According to Byun, clothing expenditures over time have remained almost fixed, but there is more consumption.



How to Shop Sustainably

Look for recycled or organic materials:

Tags like REPREE or descriptions like “eco-fleece” signal sustainable choices.

Support companies with transparent supply chains:

Brands like Patagonia, Allbirds, Pact, Levi’s, and Reformation are committed to sustainability.

Recycle textiles:

Donate clothes, support take-back programs, and shop at resale stores and platforms.

Ask questions:

Email your favorite brands and ask about their sustainability practices.



This handwoven reversible jacket with corduroy trim will be an upcoming release at resipsausa.com, which operates under the mantra of “Slow Fashion. Built to Last.”

“We’re spending the same percent of our budget, even a little bit less than we used to, but we’re buying more clothing items than ever,” she says. “We’ve trained ourselves to think a T-shirt should cost \$19.99,” she says. “That’s ridiculous when you consider what goes into producing quality garments ethically and sustainably.”

Hall believes education is critical. “There’s a lot of good happening that people don’t know about,” he says. “It would be great if there was a way to get that story out and make sustainability a bigger importance for consumers.”

“We’re in the early innings,” Hall says, “but I’m optimistic. When we set a goal of 50 billion recycled bottles by 2025, people laughed. Now we’re going to hit it.”

Ultimately, Byun knows that economics are essential.

“There are really great brands out there doing the right thing,” she says. “You can’t ignore that capitalism and the bottom line drive most of these decisions. It takes courage to change.” ▀

Class Notes

1950s

Victor Lindquist '54 has endowed the Victor R. Lindquist Scholarship.

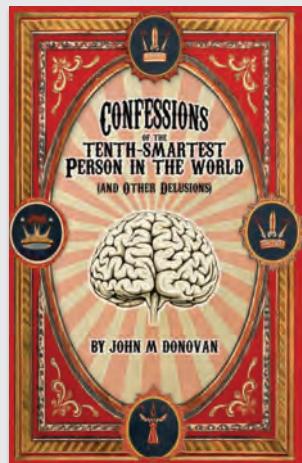
Gary Brand, Nina Brand, and Andrea Brand have endowed the **Moses '57** and **Jane Brand** Scholarship.

1970s

Harry "Mac" McNaught '76 has been inducted into the Logansport High School Hall of Distinction. He was honored for a lifetime of exemplary achievement in law, business, and civic leadership.



1980s



John M. Donovan '82 has published his first memoir, "Confessions of the Tenth-Smartest Person in the World (and Other Delusions)." Described as a freewheeling romp through the author's school days, the book offers page after fast-paced page of stories about everything from unfortunate Halloween costumes to weird restroom policies to life at an all-male college and more.



Mike Laudick '82 and Allan Misch were married at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 31, 2024. In addition, Laudick celebrated his sixth work anniversary as tour manager with Italy Adventures. This is his "second act" career, offering small private tours in central Italy, after 24 years of managing a consulting business.

Jim Carr '86 says, "I ran into **Mason McPheron '22** in Marco Island, FL. Mason's father-in-law noticed my shirt at the pickle barrel at Snook Inn (if you know, you know). Always love running into other Wallies in the wild!"



Michael Skehan '86 has been named chief operating officer at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center in Vancouver, WA.

Karsten Alva-Jorgensen '88 and **Mathe van Heeswijk '91** recently visited **Arun Muralidhar '88**.



Muralidhar, an adjunct professor of finance at Georgetown University, helped Brazil create two new financial instruments to improve retirement security and education financing. He also completed two books, "A Nobel Retirement" and "Investment Theory and Practice."

1990s

Jeffrey Grabill '91 has been named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University at Buffalo in New York.



Brett Croushore '95 has been appointed director of secondary education at Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis.



Mark Grossenbacher '97 has been appointed principal of Wellen Park High School when it opens in Sarasota County, FL, in 2026.



William Hobbs '97 and his wife of 22 years, Anne Marie, are pleased to announce the birth of Sophia Catherine, their ninth child. "Our children exist because of an openness to life sparked in a freshman tutorial taught by **Ed McLean H'03**. We're not getting any younger, so Sophie may be the last Hobbs baby ... but you never know. Deus vult! Wabash Always Fights!"



2000s

Escalada Sports Partners, headed by **Jeremy Bird '00**, has acquired a stake in the Polish football club Warta Poznan.

Jon-Mycle D. Price '02 has been named the president of Security Federal Savings Bank in Logansport, IN.



Ben Hewitt '05, head swimming coach at Nova Southeastern University, led the Sharks to their third consecutive NCAA Division II women's national championship.



Mark H. Bains '06 has been admitted to practice law in the state of Ohio. He concentrates his practice in the area of real estate law, including acquisitions and dispositions, leasing, and zoning and land use matters.



Logan Fowler '06 began a new role at Toyota Material Handling (Columbus, IN) as the North American manager of Toyota Lean Management.



Cliff Lee '06 was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors for the South Carolina Education Association. He has served two previous terms. He also represents South Carolina on the National Resolutions Committee for the National Education Association.

Leo E. Priemer '06 has been named Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisor for the fourth consecutive year. Currently serving as a financial advisor at Edward Jones in South Bend, IN, Priemer has dedicated his career to assisting professionals, small business owners, and families navigate their financial journeys.

Charles Ray '06 has been selected for a new Vigo County magistrate post.

Ryan Grand '08 has been named head of business development at Red Arts Capital, a supply-chain and logistics investment firm. He will lead deal sourcing and build upon existing relationships.

2010s

Evan Johnson '13 has joined Moskovitz, McGhee, Brown, Cohen & Moore, a law firm in Memphis, TN.



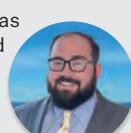
Jordan Surenkamp '13 has been named the assistant coach for the Radford University men's basketball team.



Francisco Huerta '14 received Noble Schools Network's Alumni Legacy Award, given to a Noble graduate who has made significant achievements in their professional field, contributed meaningfully to Chicago, and worked to advance Noble's vision.



Nikolas Jones '14 has been appointed head of legal recruitment and development for Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP.



Class Notes

Jack Kellerman '18

has joined Barnes & Thornburg in its general litigation group after finishing law school at Washington and Lee University.



Pat Kenney '18 has been named president of F.A. Wilhelm Construction. **Phil Kenney H'24**, who has served as both president and CEO since 2001, will continue to lead the company as CEO.

Kaleb Hobgood '19

joined Plunkett Clooney's Torts & Litigation Practice Group. He focuses his practice on insurance defense litigation involving product liability, premises liability, and motor vehicle claims.



George Pippen '19 released a country music EP, "Magnolia Nights," in 2024 and signed a deal with Virgin Records. His single "Rest of Our Life" was released in February.



2020s

Paul Haesemeyer '21 knitted a sweater that was featured in a "Saturday Night Live" skit.

The biology department welcomed back **Darren Glore '22** and **Sam Hayes '19** to speak with students about postgraduate paths other than medical school as part of the Thomas Cole Lecture Series. Glore spoke about how valuable his undergraduate research experiences have been in physical therapy school, and Hayes spoke about the rewards of working for Precision AQ, where he helps disseminate useful tech solutions for pharmaceutical clients.

Collin Kinniry '23 joined Barrett McNagny LLP as a law clerk for the summer of 2025.

Cole Bergman '24

joined Faegre Drinker's 2025 Summer Associate Program in Fort Wayne, IN.



Brigham McGill '24 joined the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office as a legal intern for the summer.

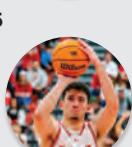


Jacob White '24

has a risk analyst position with Guy Carpenter in Chicago.



Vincent Buccilla '25 signed to play professional basketball with CAB Madeira in Portugal's Proliga.



Noah Hupmann '25

has signed to play professional basketball with the Raiffeisen Dornbirn Lions in Austria.



Jacob Weber '25 received the 2025 President's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference Lambda Pi Eta Top Paper Award. His research paper was mentored by Sara A. Mehlretter.

Caiden Jeffries '27 is one of 29 recipients of the Realizing the Dream award and accompanying scholarship. Made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the scholarship program annually recognizes first-generation college students from Independent Colleges of Indiana colleges and universities.

Angelos Niozas '28 recently visited Washington, D.C., where he spent time with **Arun Muralidhar '88** and **Greg Castanias '87**.

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In Memory

Wayne Hamilton Risinger '48, 99, died May 3 at his home in Mishawaka, IN. He was born in 1925, in Jasonville, IN, to William H. and Grace (Simpson) Risinger.



Risinger grew up in Crawfordsville, IN, and graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1943. He was attending Wabash College when his studies were interrupted during WWII to attend the United States Navy Reserve Midshipmen's School at Columbia University. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an ensign and entered into active duty, serving on both the USS LCT-724 and the USS LST-805 in the Pacific. After the war, he returned to Wabash College and graduated in 1948. He then attended the Indiana University School of Dentistry, graduated in 1953, and moved to South Bend, IN, to start his dental practice. He was a dentist in South Bend for 50 years before retiring in 2003.

He married his high school sweetheart, the former Marjorie Golden, in 1950. They were married for 58 years before her death in 2008.

Risinger loved to golf, fish, and hunt, and was an avid fan of Notre Dame sports. He also supported his grandchildren throughout their athletic and music endeavors. During his lifetime, he was a member of several organizations, including St. Joseph County Dental Society, Indiana Dental Society, Phi Delta Theta fraternity, Morris Park Country Club, Elks Club, and First Presbyterian Church of South Bend.

Risinger is survived by his daughter, Linda Peacock; daughter-in-law, Mary Risinger; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and loving companion, Frances English. In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by his son, Mark W. Risinger; sister, Mary Mason; and brother, William Paul Risinger.

Paul Funkhouser Arnold '52 died June 8 at his home in Bloomington, IN, where he had lived for the last 23 years of his life. He attended Stanley Hall Elementary School in Evansville, IN, and was a member of the Bosse High School Class of 1948. He attended Wabash College and graduated from

Indiana University Law School in Bloomington in 1956.

Arnold served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 and was a special agent in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps. He practiced law in Evansville for 34 years. Until his retirement from law in 1990, he was a partner in the law firm of Early, Arnold, and Ziemer. He was a past president of the board of directors of the Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science; the Evansville Bar Association; and the Indiana State Bar Association. He served as a member of the original Evansville Preservation Commission and was on the board of directors of the Willard Library, for 19 years each. He was a lifelong Democrat.

Arnold is survived by his wife, Carol Arnold; daughters, Anne Olenek, Christine Keck, and Laurie Strothman; stepdaughter, Eloise Orbin; and stepsons, Rom Byron and Glenn Barning. He was the son of H.E. "Yotes" Arnold and Alta Funkhouser Arnold, both of whom predeceased him.



Frederick Augustus Gallagher Jr. '53, known as Fred, was born in 1931, in Indianapolis. He died peacefully on March 27 in Fairfax, VA, surrounded by his loving family.

Gallagher's journey included a distinguished 20-year career in the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a navigator, including a deployment during the Vietnam War. He retired with the rank of major and earned a Bronze Star, among other commendations. Gallagher had the honor to serve in locations throughout the world, though he often reminisced fondly about his favorite duty station in Juneau, AK, where he was awed by the wild and natural beauty that surrounded him. His passion for flying allowed him to travel extensively, creating lasting memories that would shape his stories throughout life.

After retiring from the USAF, Gallagher embarked on a second career as a fiscal officer at the dean's office of Indiana University School of Medicine, where he continued to contribute his talents and skills.

Gallagher was a graduate of Wabash College, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta

fraternity and notably served as the manager for the undefeated football team in 1952. His pursuit of knowledge extended beyond academia; he was a deep thinker who enjoyed engaging in meaningful conversations and relished the exchange of ideas with those around him.

After his second retirement, Florida beckoned to Gallagher and his wife, Louise. They traded in the cold, snowy days in Indiana for the warmer, balmy clime of Melbourne, delighting in their proximity to Cape Canaveral, where they could enjoy all things space-related. Eventually, they moved to Orange City, where they resided in a retirement community, John Knox Village. After the death of his beloved wife, Gallagher moved to Virginia to be closer to family.

His remarkable sense of humor, characterized by an endearing fondness for "dad jokes," brightened the lives of all who crossed his path. A master storyteller, he relished sharing memories and engaging in thought-provoking dialogue. His inexhaustible curiosity was matched only by his deep appreciation for the English language, which he wielded with passion and finesse. He took utmost care to remember the names of those he met, believing that a person's name must be spoken with warmth and recognition.

Gallagher was a connoisseur of life's pleasures; whether it was indulging in delightful dining experiences, savoring desserts, or immersing himself in the world of literature, he found joy in every moment. An exceptional bridge player, he spent countless hours honing his skills and played weekly with friends. In his retirement, he discovered the beauty of stained-glass artistry, crafting stunning pieces that will forever reflect his creative spirit. Together with his beloved wife, he explored the horizon of the cruising world, creating memories that would last a lifetime.

Gallagher's passions extended to the realm of music, with an eclectic array of favorites, including many tunes from ABBA, Petula Clark, and the Beatles. He shared his excitement for cinema with his family, arranging many outings for movie viewing. In later years, he spent hours reveling in

Turner Classic Movies. Afternoons often culminated in the preparation of his favorite martini, an exacting ritual that required just the right amount of vermouth and precisely two olives on a toothpick.

He is survived by his daughters Terri Gallagher, Tracy Harler, Lucy Newman, and Diane Elmore; his son Fred Miller, and his daughter-in-law, Laura Novello Miller. His legacy continues through his 10 beloved grandchildren, along with 10 great-grandchildren, who brought him immense joy. Gallagher was preceded in death by his devoted wife, Mary Louise Gallagher; brother, Edward Gallagher; and son, Jim Miller.

Thomas A. Hays '55, 92, died June 19. Born in 1932 in Cleveland, he grew up in Ohio and Indiana. Hays and his wife, Sue, were married in 1954 during his senior year at Wabash College.



After graduating from Wabash, Hays entered the U.S. Marine Corps as a lieutenant, later serving three additional years in the reserves as a captain.

Upon leaving the Marines, Hays pursued a career in finance and management, working for Touche Ross, Diners Club, and May Department Stores. He held multiple positions across his career in various retail divisions, such as Venture and Hecht's, before being promoted to president and finally deputy chairman at May Department Stores Company.

Throughout his career, Hays' dedication and hard work, no matter what the task, earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues. He served on multiple boards, including Ameren, Mercantile Bancorporation, Kinko's, and Wabash College. He was an active member of the board of trustees at Wabash College from 1985 to 2011, and an emeritus member until his death. His work with Wabash College inspired him the most, as he wished to give back and support the college that had meant so much to him and Sue.

In Memory

During Hays' retail career, the family moved multiple times to locations around the country, but no matter where they lived, they sought to remain active in their local church community and gave generously to various church and nonprofit organizations.

Hays was an avid golfer throughout his life, and after his retirement, he was able to devote more time to his favorite sport. He and his wife loved to travel and spend vacation time with their four children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Hays was preceded in death by his wife, Sue. He is survived by his children, Jonathan Hays, Beth Black, James Hays, and Elaine Hays; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and sister, Ellen West. He was predeceased by his brothers, Richard Hays and Paul Hays.

J. David Nall '55 of Kokomo, IN, beloved husband of Lois V. (Tooley) Nall, who predeceased him, died March 14. He was a member of the Crossroads Community Church.



Nall was born in Chicago in 1933, the son of Darl Otto Nall and Adeline Mart Nall. As a youth, Nall was very active with the Boy Scouts, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. He graduated from Fairmount High School and was a graduate of Wabash College, majoring in speech.

During his Wabash years, Nall was an officer of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and a member of Blue Key, Sphinx Club, and Scarlet Masque. He was a feature writer for The Bachelor and a cartoonist for the college magazine *Suave*. He was a member of the cheerleading squad and was captain in his senior year. While at Wabash he appeared in leading roles in "Light Up the Sky" and "Mr. Roberts," as well as in "Stalag 17," as Stoch, for which he received the College's leading actor role award.

Following graduation, Nall spent two years with the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps at 6th Army Headquarters in San Francisco.

In 1958, he joined the Aetna Life & Casualty insurance company. He rose rapidly through a series of management positions and was appointed general agent in Oakbrook, IL, in 1966. In 1968, he became general agent in Chicago, where the organization not only developed a number of agents to Million Dollar Round Table status, but also recruited and trained eight managerial candidates.

In 1977, Nall was appointed general agent in Aetna's career agency in San Jose, CA, and the next year he became the general agent for Aetna for the northern half of California, with responsibilities devoted to the development of career agents. During this period, his agency led the company in production from new agents. He was the recipient of the General Agents & Managers Association's National Management Award for every year since 1976 during his general agency tours.

In 1981, Nall was promoted to assistant vice president, producer development and marketing training, of the personal financial security division in Aetna's Hartford, CT, home office. In 1989, he was named vice president of marketing with Aetna International Inc., where he was responsible for supporting the company's international operations in 14 nations with distribution issues related primarily to the training and development of the sales forces, as well as general marketing and sales activities.

In 1994, after 36 years with the company, Nall retired. His work on behalf of the international life insurance industry continued through his activities as an independent consultant in a number of nations around the world until 2003.

Nall's love of performing onstage stretches from high school and college to the present. He was involved in community theater productions, many with the great love of his life, his wife, whom he met and married in 1972 shortly after their performance in the production "LUV," for which they each received best actor awards.

His rich life was filled with humor, happiness, and joy by—and because of—all who knew him, as expressed by the inscription on his grave marker, "Asbestos Gelos" ("Unquenchable Laughter" from "The Iliad"), the "Laughter of the Gods."

He will be sorely missed by the children of their blended family, Amy C. Tucek, Lori E. Berry, P. McLean Nall, John P. Nall, and Gary B. Sullivan; and by his sister, Mary (Nall) Cobb Herlihy. He will also be missed by his nine grandchildren.

Elbert Eugene "Gene" Pride '57, 89, died Oct. 21, 2024.

Pride was born in 1935, in Washington, IN, to Sylvie Olive and Elbert Thomas Pride. His dad worked on the railroad, and on weekends Pride would accompany him to install television antennas on houses to make extra money for the family. His father died of a heart attack when Pride was 16. Perhaps it was because of losing his father at a young age that he became such a hands-on, present father to his own three children later, rarely missing an opportunity to support them at their various pursuits, which included horse shows, baseball games, Boy Scouts activities, and more.



After graduating from high school, Pride attended Wabash College, where he served as the president of his fraternity. It was at a dance at Indiana University in Indianapolis that he first met Nancy Bugg. They were married in Indianapolis in 1958. Shortly after, he began attending law school at Indiana University.

During college, Pride had a variety of jobs to help pay for school, including working two summers as a forest ranger and firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service in Montana, a job he hitchhiked to because he couldn't afford a car. He also joined the U.S. Army and, after graduation from law school, spent three years working as a judge advocate general.

Following his time in the Army, Pride found his permanent career home as an attorney with the Atomic Energy Commission, later renamed the Department of Energy. His job took his young family across the country to Washington state, with stops in Charlottesville, VA, where daughter, Alison, was born, and in Los Alamos, NM, where son Matt joined the family. In 1968, the family arrived in Washington, where they eventually added son Nathan to the family and Pride went to work every day at the Federal Building in downtown Richland. He retired as the DOE's chief counsel in 1994, and for 23 years he and his wife were snowbirds, splitting their time between Richland and Tucson, AZ.

When he wasn't working, supporting his children at one of their many activities, fixing the family's cars, or working on projects around the house, Pride loved to fish, and he passed this love along to his eldest son, two of his grandsons, and one granddaughter. At family reunions, any missing family members could usually be found alongside him by a lake or river with a line in the water. He also enjoyed hiking and camping with his family, as well as golfing, and he even summited Mount Rainier in 1978. He and his wife taught their children early to love the outdoors.

After Pride's retirement, he and his wife moved to a house overlooking the Columbia River, where they spent many happy hours on the deck watching the river in all its seasons and moods. He also became increasingly active in their church, serving as a deacon and church treasurer, among other roles.

In everything he did, Pride modeled for both his children and his grandchildren the value of hard work, responsibility, and quiet compassion. As one of his sons said shortly after his passing, "He really loved being a father."

Pride is survived by his wife of 66 years, Nancy; three children, Alison Pride, Matt Pride, and Nathan Pride; and four grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Evelyn Hinkle and Constance Fleetwood; and their children. He was preceded in death by his mother, Sylvia O. Pride; and father, Elbert T. Pride.

In Memory

Quentin Peter Schwarz '57

lived a full life and was passionate about and committed to making the world a better place. He was born in 1936 to Joseph and Adelaide (Ball) Schwarz in Waukegan, IL.



He graduated from Waukegan Township High School in 1953. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Wabash College and a master's degree in education from Eastern Illinois University.

On the same day he graduated from college, Schwarz married the first love of his life, Deanna J. Palm. They moved back to Waukegan, where they raised their four children. They enjoyed a beautiful life together, filled with family, social, and civic engagements, until Deanna's death in 1991.

In his own words, he was "blessed a second time" when he met and married Rebecca J. Daehler in July of 2000. Together and with friends, they enjoyed operas, symphonies, and foreign films. They also enjoyed traveling with family to places across the globe.

Schwarz's greatest passion was sailing. He started sailing as a very young boy in the Waukegan Harbor and became a skilled and competitive sailboat racer. He was a lifetime member of the Waukegan Yacht Club and served as commodore in 1986. He was very involved in the junior and adult sailing programs at the yacht club. He also enjoyed many seasons of "Frostbite Sailing" in the frigid Waukegan Harbor waters. He was the epitome of good sportsmanship and was greatly admired and respected by all of his fellow sailors. He ended his last sailing season with an overall first-place finish in his section.

After growing up in north Chicago, Schwarz spent the remaining years of his life in Waukegan. He took great pride in his hometown and dedicated his time and talents to the community in numerous ways, most notably his 30 years of teaching in the Waukegan Public Schools.

He helped found the Waukegan Historical Society in 1968. He was a big supporter of the arts and served as president of the Jack Benny Center for the Arts.

His love for choral music began in his college Glee Club. He then went on to sing with the Waukegan Symphony Chorus for 47 years. His tenor talents were also appreciated through his participation in the Christ Episcopal Church (Waukegan) and Church of the Holy Spirit (Lake Forest) choirs for many years.

Schwarz was preceded in death by his first wife, Deanna (Palm) Schwarz; parents, Joseph and Adelaide Schwarz; and brothers, Joe and David Schwarz. He is survived by his second wife, Rebecca J. Schwarz; sister, Margaret Schwarz Kraus; four children, Quentin G. Schwarz, Julianna Schwarz McCormack, Jamethon W. Schwarz, and Sally Schwarz Stephenson; and stepdaughters, Jennifer Jones, Christina Wizceb, and Deborah Davies. He is also survived by his 11 grandchildren, who affectionately knew him as "Papa," and his seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Jon Alfred Stuebe '57, 88, of Rancho Bernardo, CA, died Sept. 22, 2023.



He was raised in Indianapolis and graduated from Shortridge High School and Wabash College.

An officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, Stuebe served in Okinawa, Japan; Korea; and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He also served two tours in Vietnam, as well as Quantico, VA, and Camp Pendleton, CA. He retired in 1980.

He received his master's degree at the University of Kansas and National University. He was self-employed after the military as a wholesale jeweler with Fashion Treasures in San Diego for 20 years.

He loved his family, his dogs, Idyllwild, wildlife, nature, his backyard, the Marine Corps, the flag, and his country.

Survivors include his ex-wife, Donna; sons, David and Alan; sisters, Colette Bangert and Karen Elvin; and five grandchildren.

Wilbur A. Webb Jr. '58, 89, of Jonesboro, IN, died unexpectedly April 10.



Webb was born in Elwood, IN, in 1936, son of the late Wilbur and Thelma Mae (Widner) Webb. He graduated from Mississinewa High School in 1954 as the salutatorian and class president.

He played on the 1953-54 basketball team that went to semi-state and became a member of the Grant County Hall of Fame.

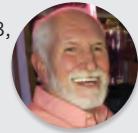
Webb graduated from Wabash College, where he received his bachelor's in 1958. He was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He married Helen "Kay" Human in Gas City, IN, in 1954. He owned the Webb's Variety Store in Jonesboro. This led to Wilbur and Kay becoming the owners of the Hallmark Stores in 1967, growing to include Marion, Kokomo, Peru, Fort Wayne, and Elwood.

As an active and faithful member of the Fairmount United Methodist Church, Webb served on several committees, including the new addition building committee, was a liturgist, and was a member of the men's Bible study.

Webb was a respected member of the Jonesboro community, serving as president of the Jonesboro Historical Society and the library board. He also served on the Mississinewa School Board, as well as the Community Foundation board. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge #109 and the Marion Elks. In his free time, he enjoyed golfing, reading, and fishing. He was a Mississinewa sports fan and an IWU women's and men's basketball fan, and he loved watching his grandkids play sports.

Webb is survived by his wife of 70 years, Kay; six children and their spouses, Cathy and Gayle Shaw, Melinda and Robert Holloway, Nita and Curt Hosier, Susan and Joe DeVore, Wilbur and Lori Webb III, and Scott and Stacey Webb; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Saundra Smithson and Rosalyn Smith. He was preceded in death by his parents and granddaughter, Lindsey Shaw.

William John Wightman II '58, 88, of Millville, NJ, died Dec. 22, 2023. He was born in 1935 in Washington, PA.



Wightman was a huge NASCAR fanatic, and he loved taking his RV with his buddy Walt Lore, chasing the NASCAR circuit. He enjoyed spending his golden years in the Florida Keys. He was a loyal lifetime member of the Elks Lodge, the International Moose Lodge, and the American Legion. He was an avid fan of the World Champion Pittsburgh Steelers and Penn State Nittany Lions, and was a "phan" of the World Series Champion Philadelphia Phillies. A wildlife enthusiast who loved fishing, Wightman will be greatly missed by his cat, Cookie, and also his buddy, Cupcake.

He retired as a tank foreman at Wheaton Glass. Wightman also volunteered for the Army Reserve and the New Jersey Wildlife Management Service and Preservation.

He was the loving father of William "Chip" Wightman III, Amber "Gator" Wightman, and Autumn Corson, and the loving grandfather of two. He is predeceased by his parents, William John Wightman and Emma (Boyles), and sister, Rebecca "Becky" C. Wightman.

James Doggett Price '60, 86, died March 28. He was born in 1938 in Logansport, IN, to the late Wayne and Josephine Price.



After graduating from Logansport High School, he attended his father's alma mater, Wabash College, where he played basketball. Price retired from Wells Fargo after working 55 years as a financial advisor for the same company as it went through different acquisitions. He was a generous and beloved son, brother, uncle, husband, father, grandpa, and great-grandpa.

Price married Charlotte Bolles and she immediately became the stepmother to his four children: Stacy Wright, Lori Zoller, Amy Beck, and Jay Price. Jim and Charlotte enjoyed bragging that they had 11 grandsons, a great-granddaughter, and a great-grandson. They also cherished time with his sister Joanne's five children and their families.

The Energy of Belonging

BREATHE A DIFFERENT KIND OF ENERGY every time I step foot on the Mall. It's in the smiles, the handshakes, and the stories that start with, "Do you remember when ... ?" It's in the collective heartbeat of a community that, year after year, finds ways to thrive while so many other colleges are struggling to sustain.

For me, that spark comes from longtime friendships and connections forged during my own time as a student. Those bonds haven't just lasted, they've grown stronger. Each time I return to campus, I'm recharged when I see familiar faces and meet new ones who share the same goal: to help Wabash endure and excel. It's a reminder that we're part of something far bigger than our own four years here.

As president of the National Association of Wabash Men, I'm fortunate to witness this energy in action. I see alumni giving of their time, talent, and treasure. I hear about classmates meeting for mini-reunions,

mentoring young alumni, or simply picking up the phone to check in. They power the College forward.

Wabash is not only sustaining enrollment, but growing. That doesn't happen by accident. It happens because the Wabash network is alive and active. Our alumni support is a renewable resource, constantly replenished by shared experiences, mutual respect, and the desire to see future generations have the same transformative opportunities we did.

Sustainability in the Wabash sense means leaving the College stronger than when we were students. We do that through scholarships that open doors for young men who might not otherwise be able to attend. We do it through internships and career connections that help new graduates launch. We do it by showing up—at games, at Big Bash, or simply for coffee when a fellow Wabash man passes through town.

Our energy is contagious. Seniors feel it when they shake hands at Commencement, knowing they are joining a brotherhood that stretches across generations. Faculty and staff are buoyed by it when they see alumni returning because they believe in the mission and the men of Wabash.

The Wabash energy source is inexhaustible when we stay connected.

So the next time you think about energy and sustainability, think about what you get from reconnecting with Wabash. Think about how you can keep that current flowing for others. And most of all, think about how, together, we can ensure that Wabash will not just survive but thrive for generations to come.

Wabash Always Fights.



Tony Unfried '03

President | NAWM



Follow us on social
@nationalassociationofwabashmen

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In Memory

James Doggett Price '60 continued

When Price married Charlotte, he became part of the larger Bolles family as a beloved brother-in-law and uncle. He loved sharing his "rock house" with his nieces and nephews. He also participated in the NFL football pick'em pool with both the Bolles and Price families.

As the children were growing up, Price loved family traditions such as singing in the car, creeking, Christmas parties, rock collecting in Lake Michigan, family vacations, cheering on favorite teams (University of Michigan, Michigan State, and Purdue), contentious sports brackets, and Daughter-Dad's Day Luncheon with just the three daughters and the daughter-in-law. These memories will forever be etched in our minds, and his dedication to family will forever be in our hearts.

He was a blessing to all who knew him because he had a wonderful ability to make others feel cherished and valued. His philosophy for life was simple: "Maintain the Balance" ... spiritual, mental, social, and physical. He leaves behind a world made better by his presence and an example of how to live a life full of love, charity, and purpose.

Price was preceded in death by his sister, Joanne Gordon; brother-in-law, George Gordon; and brother, John Price, who died serving his country in the Korean War.

Charles "Charlie" Robert Quillin '60, 87, died May 4 in Pittsburgh. He was born in 1938 in Crawfordsville, IN. He was the son of Walter Leverett Quillin and Mary Mildred (Krug) Quillin.

A man of proud intellect and unwavering principles, Quillin was respected by his peers and cherished by those who knew him. His professional career started in 1960 when he received a bachelor's in botany and zoology from Wabash College. In 1965 he received a Ph.D. in cell and cellular molecular biology at Brown University.

From 1965 to 1970, Quillin was at Colby College in Waterville, ME, where he held the positions of instructor, assistant professor, and associate dean of students.

He graduated from Michigan State University in 1971, earning

a postdoctoral degree in higher education and higher administration. From 1972 to 1975, Quillin was dean of students and administrative assistant to the vice president of student affairs at Marshall University in Huntington, WV.

In 1975, he joined the Point Park University as dean of students, retiring in 2002 as vice president of student development and dean of students. He then joined the Office of Institutional Advancement at Point Park as a university relations associate.

Quillin's former memberships include Sons of the American Revolution, Botanical Society of America, Harvard-Yale-Princeton Club of Pittsburgh, and the Rotary Club of Fox Chapel.

He was a volunteer at the Neighborhood Academy in Pittsburgh, tutoring and conducting seminars for seniors in college orientation and preparation, and found this volunteer experience very rewarding. He was a board member for 25 years at St. Peter's Child Development Center and Early Learning Institute.

Quillin was a member of Calvary Episcopal Church, serving as a lay reader, chalice bearer, confirmation teacher, and Christian education teacher. He was appointed by the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh to the Commission on Ministry and Board of Examining Chaplains (Presbyterian) and chairman of the Board of Examining Chaplains (Diaconate).

Upon retirement, he was honored to "adopt by rescue" miniature schnauzers Franklin and Madison, who each served as companion and loving housemate.

Quillin is survived by two nieces, Mary Beth Quillin and Shawna Marie Quillin Bayati; grand-niece, Margaret Elaine Hansen; and great-grand-nephew, Oscar B. Hansen. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Donald M. Quillin and Richard K. Quillin.

Larry Vincent Souders '60 died peacefully surrounded by his family on May 15, in his Muncie, IN, home of 53 years.

Born in 1938 to Robert and Tressa (McKee) Souders, he was a Muncie resident for the majority of his life. He cherished his hometown and the people in it.



Souders graduated from Muncie Central High School in 1956.

He continued to meet monthly with several of his Central and Riley Elementary classmates throughout his lifetime. He was an honored recipient of the Storer Scholarship and a 1960 graduate of Wabash College. During his Wabash years, he was a proud member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and enjoyed playing intramural sports on campus. Souders loved his Wabash years and continued his support throughout his lifetime.

Upon his graduation, Souders managed a family-owned furniture store in Fairmount, IN, and then worked as a purchasing agent at Warner Gear. In 1964, he joined Twoson Tool Company as vice president of purchasing and administration; he spent the remainder of his career there.

Souders was an accomplished private pilot, and he enjoyed every opportunity to take to the skies. Always active, he was an avid golfer, fisherman, and bird-watcher. A member of the Audubon Society, Souders participated in their annual bird count for more than 50 years. He loved to travel and had many adventures fishing and traveling with family and friends. Whenever possible, he was outside taking care of his trees and gardens or mowing the grass.

A lifelong member of Riverside United Methodist Church, Souders served as a trustee and treasurer for many decades. He was an active member of the Muncie Exchange Club, where he also served as treasurer. Exchange Club meetings were always the highlight of his week.

Souders is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Jeanine Etchison Souders; children, Betsey Souders Erwin, Andrew Souders, and Christopher Souders; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Gary Souders; brother-in-law, Michael Etchison; sister-in-law, Julie Etchison Jones; and many nieces and nephews he loved dearly.

Austin Edward Brooks Jr. '61 died

May 11 at home, surrounded by his family.



He was born in 1938, in Fort Wayne, IN, to Austin Edward Brooks Sr. and Gertrude (Wilson) Brooks. He graduated from Northside High School in 1957. When he arrived on the Wabash College campus in the fall of 1957, he had no idea he would return to Wabash to spend his entire academic career and Crawfordsville would become his home.

After graduating from Wabash in 1961, he attended graduate school to study biology at Indiana University Bloomington, earning a Ph.D. in 1965. He married Eva Lucille (Lucy) Clark in 1963. After IU, he accepted a postdoctoral fellowship to study at Brown University in Providence, RI, where the couple's first child, Timothy Austin, was born.

In the fall of 1966, they returned to Crawfordsville, where Brooks taught biology at Wabash for 38 years before retiring in 2004. During that time, their second child, Laura Beth, was born. While at Wabash, Brooks pioneered many innovative teaching techniques, including organizing, with colleague and dear friend Bill Doemel, the Wabash aquatic biology program. For four summers, this program provided 15 students the opportunity to spend six weeks in a different wilderness setting, including Yellowstone, the Boundary Waters and Northern Wisconsin, the Florida Keys, and the Northeast Coast.

In Memory

Brooks also developed a patented technique that allowed a blind student to feel microscopic images. Additionally, he eagerly supported the use of technology and computers as teaching tools and pursued research worldwide with sabbaticals and research trips to such diverse locations as Hamburg, Germany; Bangkok, Thailand; Johns Hopkins University; and the Pacific Northwest.

After retirement, Brooks became involved in several community organizations, including Friends of Sugar Creek, Youth Service Bureau, and the Park Board, and he served as both an elder and a deacon for his church, Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church. In retirement he was able to pursue his many hobbies, which included fly-fishing with his buddy, **David Hadley H'76**; wood carving, especially song birds; turning wooden bowls; traveling; and biking.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Lucy; two children, Tim and Laura; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, sister, and a great-granddaughter.

"Dear Old Wabash, thy loyal sons shall ever love thee." Brooks most certainly did!

A remembrance

I'm saddened to share the news that Dr. Austin Brooks '61 passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer. Aus taught biology at Wabash from 1966 until his retirement in 2004. His students referred to him as a "gentle giant; a careful, patient teacher with high expectations."

When Aus arrived at Wabash in 1957 as a pledge in the Delt house, he was planning to study history and politics. An upperclassman in the house—**Tom Cole '58**—steered him to biology. Both Wabash men would go on to earn Ph.D.s and return to their alma mater as biology professors.

Decades later, when Cole was in the final stages of pancreatic cancer, Brooks picked up Cole's research and—with the help of a team of former "T. Coli" students and colleagues—completed and published the research.

Aus earned the Fredrick J. Urbaska Civic Service Award from the National Association of Wabash Men for his unwavering commitment to the Montgomery County community—as a board member, president, and CASA for the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau; as an active leader of Friends of Sugar Creek; and as an iconic deacon in Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church.

—**Jim Amidon '87**

Paul D. Olexia '61

died April 1. He was born in 1939, in McKeesport, PA, the son of Paul and Gladys Olexia.



Olexia grew up in western Pennsylvania and graduated from Clairton High School. He received his bachelor's from Wabash College, where he majored in zoology and played varsity football. He received his M.A. from the State University of New York at Buffalo and went on to get his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee in botany (mycology), working under Dr. Ronald Petersen, with whom he maintained a lifelong friendship.

Upon completion of his doctorate, Olexia served a one-year appointment as a sabbatical replacement at Colgate University. In 1968, he took a teaching position at Kalamazoo College, where he taught until retirement in 2002. His primary courses were botany, evolution, and environmental science, along with occasional courses in freshwater ecology, plant ecology, mycology, and plant and animal diversity. He served as chair of the biology department and subsequently as chair of the division of natural sciences and mathematics.

During his time at Kalamazoo College, he collaborated with researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Argonne National Lab, and the University of Rhode Island. His main area of research interest was mycorrhizal fungi, which grow mutually with the roots of most plant species. He also collaborated with his good friend Ahmed Hussen, initiating an interdisciplinary concentration in environmental studies. He was an initial faculty leader for the land/sea program.

Olexia enjoyed assisting with announcing football games as well as being an official scorer for Kalamazoo basketball games. Through his long-standing interest in sports, he remained active in pickup basketball, recreational bicycling, and especially playing handball until his early 60s. After his retirement, he was active with both the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy and the Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones. He served as president and board member of both organizations. An area of special interest to Olexia was the Wild Ones Community Projects Committee, which implemented and managed native plant projects at a number of locations throughout the city. His conservation efforts resulted in a diverse, notable collection of native plants, mostly spring ephemerals, at his home in Kalamazoo. Throughout his life he remained interested in fungi, plants, nature, conservation, and environmental protection.

Surviving are his wife, Sally Olexia; and their son, Michael. Also surviving are his daughter, Deborah (Olexia) Stilley, and her family. Olexia was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Gary Olexia; and daughter, Julie.

William Ross

Racey '62, lovingly known as "Uncle Bill," died April 5 in Syracuse, NY. He was born in 1940 in Albany, NY, to Charles R. and Mary G. Racey. Though he spent his retirement years in Florida, Racey always considered himself a proud Syracusan, and he returned home in his final years.



A graduate of Wabash College with a bachelor's degree, Racey served two years in the U.S. Army before beginning a long and respected career in banking. He joined Merchants National Bank (which later became OnBank and then M&T Bank) in Syracuse, retiring in 1998 as a vice president and commercial loan officer.

Racey was deeply engaged in civic and economic development. He was appointed to the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council by Gov. George Pataki and served on the board of the Syracuse Economic Development Corporation and the Loan Committee of the Greater Syracuse Development Corporation. Previously, he was a board member and treasurer of both the Boys and Girls Club of Syracuse and the Upstate Chapter of the American Heart Association. He also served on the board and executive committee of the New York State Affiliate of the American Heart Association.

He was a member of the advisory board of Francis House and a trustee of Oakwood Cemetery. He was also a member of the Skaneateles Golf and Country Club, where he enjoyed time with friends and neighbors.

After moving to Florida, Racey embraced a more relaxed pace of life and discovered new creative passions. He took up watercolor painting, in which he especially excelled in landscapes and house portraits. He, along with his partner, Ann, also enjoyed attending performances at the local Venice Community Theater and the symphony, becoming a devoted supporter of the arts in his retirement.

Racey is survived by his sister, Elizabeth R. Epstein; five nieces and nephews; and eight grandnieces and grandnephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved partner of more than 40 years, Ann Keeney; parents, Mary Garver Racey and Charles R. Racey; and brother, Robert Garver Racey.

Harvey E. "Butch" Rogers III '63

died July 16, 2023, at his residence in Rushville, IN. He was born in 1941 in Indianapolis to the late Harvey Rogers II and Ruth (Repschlager) Rogers.



Rogers attended Wabash College and went to Indiana University School of Dentistry. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He moved from Indianapolis to Rushville to practice dentistry for 30 years. He retired to be with the things he loved the most, his trees, dogs, and family.

In Memory

Harvey E. "Butch" Rogers III '63
continued

Rogers married Donna S. (Humphrey) Rogers in 1967 and they spent 56 wonderful years together. They had three children and two grandchildren. He loved his rescue dogs, Dottie, Parker, and Angel, and his cat, Ugly.

Rogers was the past president of Rotary. While in Rotary, he hosted five exchange students and one set of businessmen from India. He was a past member of the Order of the Elks. He went to Gundy for several years. He loved the kids and helped form a football league and coached Little League for three years. He was also on the health board for several years, where he enjoyed the board members and serving Rush County.

Rogers will be dearly missed by his wife and three children, Scott Alan Rogers, Tiffany Rogers, and Charles K. Rogers. Also missing him are his sister, Susie; brother, Nicholas; and two grandchildren.

James Richard Allen '64, Ph.D., 82, died March 5 in Herndon, VA, from complications related to Parkinson's disease.



Allen was born Oct. 25, 1942, in Indianapolis, the only child of Ralph and Anna Dorothy Allen. Insatiably curious, he was a lifelong learner. He attended North Central High School in Indianapolis and then graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Wabash College in 1964. He followed his love of learning to Purdue University, where he met Sheila Peacock, a fellow grad student and the love of his life. He earned his doctorate in psychology in 1974.

As chief of management analysis within the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Allen dedicated his professional life to the health and safety of the American people, but his proudest accomplishments were as a husband, father, and grandpa.

Allen leaves a legacy of exceptional kindness, honor, and service to others. He lived his faith all his life. He was a member of the United Christian Parish for 50 years, where he was best known as a giver of hugs. He took every opportunity to teach his children about science and the wonders of the world. Want help with a science project? Looking for a slightly too-detailed explanation of the physics behind a favorite toy?

Richard Allen was the man for the job. He relished cracking up an audience almost as much as he loved to laugh. If you knew a good joke, he wanted to hear it. If you knew a bad joke, he wanted to hear that too.

He rose to life's challenges bravely. As he lost his sight, he refused bitterness. In spite of the Parkinson's disease that robbed him of his health, he lived with gratitude. Even as his voice failed, he repeated the most important words he could say: thank you, and I love you.

Allen is survived by Sheila Peacock Allen, his loving wife and partner of 53 years; children, Janet, Richard, and Joy; and five grandchildren.

Dean Kukral '64, 80, died July 2, 2023. He was born in 1942 to Herbert and Verna (Zahn) Kukral in Gary, IN.

Kukral earned his undergraduate degree at Wabash College and graduate degrees from Indiana University Bloomington. He taught mathematics at Wichita State University and worked at NCR for 10 years. Dean enjoyed attending WSU basketball games with his wife, playing bridge, and building computers.

Kukral is survived by his wife of 59 years, Betty Kukral; and sister, Rae Bentley. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Ron Kukral.

James Michael "Mike" Langenfeld '64, 82, a cherished member of the Tifton, GA, community and retired dentist, died April 3. He was the son of Jim and Mary Alice Langenfeld.

Born in Centralia, IL, Langenfeld graduated from Wabash College and later earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Indiana University. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corp from 1968 to 1971. He then started a practice in Tifton, where he retired in 2010.

Langenfeld was a pillar of the community, known for his gentle hands and compassionate approach to patient care. He was a lifelong golfer and found joy and camaraderie on the course. He was a member of Springhill Country Club and enjoyed many rounds with his friends, the \$2 Boys. His love of the game took him to Hawaii, Scotland, Ireland,

the Dominican Republic, and Mexico, in addition to many courses in the U.S.

Langenfeld is survived by his wife, Becky; children, Angela Davis (Bonner), and Marisa Hulin; three grandchildren; and great-granddaughter. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Andrew Glass; and brother, Thomas Eugene Langenfeld.

He will be missed by his family, friends, and the many patients whose lives he touched. His legacy of kindness, compassion, and dedication will continue to inspire those who knew him.

Thomas L. Bose '66,

76, died Sept. 2, 2020, in Chicago.

He was born in 1944 in Indianapolis, and had been living in Libertyville, IL, for the past 39 years.



Bose was formerly the assistant United States attorney for the southern district of Indiana and a former lawyer in the pharmaceutical industry. He was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity. He was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, enjoyed fishing and boating at the family vacation home in northern Wisconsin, and was an avid automobile enthusiast.

Surviving are his wife of 50 years, Barbara E. Bose; two daughters, Susan McGowan and Julie Bose; and two grandchildren.

Lahi Armand Luhahi '66,

born June 16, 1940, in Djundu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), died peacefully on May 12 after a life richly lived in service and kindness. He was at home surrounded by loved ones.



Papa Armand, as he was affectionately known, was a shining light in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. His journey on this earth was one marked by love, compassion, and unwavering faith in God. His passing has left a big void in the hearts of his family, friends, and many more whose lives were touched by him.

After his graduation from high school, Luhahi left his country, DRC-Congo, and embarked on a lifelong journey in the United States of America to focus on

his education. He obtained his bachelor's in mathematics from Wabash College in 1966. In 1969, he obtained his M.S. in mathematics from Ohio University. He returned to his native country and obtained his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Kinshasa in 1975.

Luhahi held various positions within the University of Kinshasa, including director of the mathematics department, vice dean and dean of the faculty of sciences, and academic advisor for the University of Kinshasa. He was called by his country three times, by three different ministers of education, to serve as an academic advisor to each minister of education. Within his time in academia, he published many books and publications.

In 1993, Luhahi found his purpose in missionary work. He was recruited by the United Methodist Church of America (UMCA) to assemble a team of educators to start, from the ground up, the University of Meru in Kenya. He became vice chancellor of the university until his retirement. His dedication to his faith and his desire to bring education to those in need epitomized his joyful and generous nature. Once retired from missionary work, Luhahi returned to academia as a board member at Africa University to pave the way for the next generation of young African men and women leaders.

Those who knew Papa Armand will remember him for his infectious smile and overwhelming selflessness, his deep-rooted faith in God, and his unwavering commitment to spreading love and kindness to everyone he encountered. He had a rare gift for making others smile and laugh, leaving a lasting impact on all who crossed his path.

Luhahi is survived by his loving wife, Yema (Museu), whom he married on June 16, 1972; and his three children: Shutshe, Ndjeka, and Akaki (Kividi). Luhahi is cherished by his five grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Mama Uhandju, and younger brother, Ndjeka Paul. He also leaves behind nieces and nephews who adored him dearly and a host of cousins who shared in his joyful spirit. He was preceded in death by three siblings.

In Memory

William Allen

Summers '66 died March 25.

Summers was born to William and Catherine (O'Neill) Summers in Atlanta. When he was two months old, the family moved to Indianapolis.

He graduated from Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, distinguishing himself as a curious, studious student with a streak of smart aleck. A pitcher, he enjoyed baseball and hoped to play in college. Playing trumpet, he also formed a jazz-swing combo that entertained at dances and events among the Indy metro high school crowd.

At Wabash, Summers ran track and was a tight end on the football team. He majored in chemistry and graduated with honors. He regarded his four years of undergraduate school as a course in human and civil rights. Along with science, he immersed himself in the cultural arts of music, literature, world history, philosophy, and fraternity pranks. He was a lifelong Wabash booster.

Summers sought a graduate assistantship at Northwestern University in chemistry. Awarded a doctorate in chemistry in 1971, Summers and his first wife, Lucinda, and daughter moved to Tulsa for his postdoctoral assignment at the University of Oklahoma. He dutifully reported for his draft physical during the Vietnam era but was grateful to be rejected due to lingering childhood asthma.

The family grew to four with the birth of a son, and they moved to Terre Haute, IN, where Summers worked as a bench chemist for International Minerals & Chemicals. An early mentor encouraged him to earn his M.B.A. (1981) from Indiana State University at night and on weekends. Summers and his first wife divorced in 1988.

Summers traveled internationally, representing products addressing hoof-and-mouth disease in cattle. Then he became team leader for porcine somatotropin as a lean-muscle-promoting application for hogs. That work provided new opportunities for Summers, particularly meeting his wife of 34 years, Robin Kline. They married in 1990.



He launched a successful consulting business, Management Solutions, after he moved to Des Moines, IA, in 1991. He assisted both existing and startup businesses in animal health, organic gardening, agriculture seed treatment, organic pest control, and culinary product development and marketing. Summers's last business venture involved his travel to India to license a promising new technology for biofuel production from the National Chemical Laboratory in Pune.

Summers loved films, baking, theater, museums, bird-watching, creative gardening, and sitting on the deck with a nightly cocktail. He enjoyed entertaining friends for dinner with Robin. His love of opera, symphonic and chamber music, choral classics, chanting Taizé, thundering organ, bluegrass, folk, jazz, steel drum, and R&B reflected his diverse, inclusive tastes. Summers worked at playing the banjo for more than 30 years.

Summers practiced centering prayer—Christian meditation—for 20 years, was a graduate and member of Illuman, and was a 2016 cohort of the Living School. He read widely and deeply from many spiritual teachers, from Hildegard of Bingen to Parker Palmer, Rumi, and Wendell Berry. He was a member of the Episcopal Church (USA) and the Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community.

He advocated for justice for all marginalized people and non-human beings. Standing up, speaking up, and showing up were real practices for him. He donated blood regularly for close to 50 years and always urged others to give a pint.

As a board member of The Bridge—a coalition of four churches—Summers was part of a team that founded the Connection Café in 2004. This free lunch program in downtown Des Moines serves guests daily. He served there regularly and enjoyed any chance to serve dinner at the Central Iowa Shelter. Visiting with many guests gave birth to enduring relationships.

A seasoned and intrepid traveler, Summers always enjoyed new cultures, food, sights, and people. He visited Hungary, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, China, Russia, Ireland, India, and the U.K. Northern New Mexico was a

magnet for Summers and his wife for 30 years.

In his later years, Summers was writing haiku every day and read volumes of poets. Classes at the Art Center had him pick up brushes for watercolor and pencils for drawing. He loved volunteering at the Faith & Grace Garden in West Des Moines.

Besides Robin, the love of his life was Daisy, a lab-retriever mix given to him by a friend. Daisy stole his heart, leaving him quite bereaved when she departed at the age of 14.

Diagnosed with short-term memory loss in 2019, dementia, and eventually late-onset Alzheimer's, Summers navigated this journey with dignity and cheer. Through his dementia years, he loved talking about owls, bread baking, and Daisy. He still enjoyed opera and the pre-performance lectures.

He was an emeritus member of the American Chemical Society. He also maintained memberships in the American Institute of Chemistry, International Association of Culinary Professionals, Southern Foodways Alliance, the Cloud Appreciation Society, Audubon Society, International Owl Center, and the Museum of New Mexico Foundation.

Summers is survived by his wife, Robin; son, Charles William Francis Summers; daughter-in-law, Ginny McDaniel; grand-dog, Bud Wiser; daughter, Elizabeth Huff; and sister, Anne Summers. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; his brother, Richard; and his first wife.



David Kasting '67

died Jan. 25 at his home in Lone, CA. Officially retired since 2021, he is survived by his wife, Ann; and two adult children.

A remembrance

David and I were Phi Psi pledge brothers and had remained close friends for all these years since then. He was a nationally recognized neonatologist who served in various positions at Stanford University, UCLA Medical Center, and Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. David and Ann had spent most of their married life in California, quite a contrast to his birthplace in Seymour, IN.

—Steve Coons '67

David Carl Hagen '68, 77, died April 8, 2024, in Eugene, OR, from complications of progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP).

Hagen was born in 1947 in Indianapolis, and grew up in Bloomington, IN, where his father, Charles William Hagen Jr., was a professor of botany at Indiana University, and his mother, Mary Margaret Swan Hagen, was a teacher and a homemaker. He had an older brother, Charles ("Chuck") W. Hagen III, and a younger brother, Ronald "Ron" E. Hagen. Hagen attended Bloomington University High School, where he was strong in academics, athletics, and leadership.



After high school, Hagen attended Wabash College, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1968, majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry. He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and was selected as a Woodrow Wilson Scholar designee. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for his doctoral program, where he studied biology under Boris Magasanik. While a graduate student, he met his future wife, Lois Marie O'Connor, through mutual friends. They were married in 1973.

From 1973 to 1978, Hagen was a postdoctoral scholar at the Stanford University Medical Center. In 1978 he took a research position at the Institute of Molecular Biology in Eugene, OR, where he worked from 1978 to 1992. His son and only child, Daniel Scott Hagen, was born in 1983. In 1993 the Hagen family lived in Melbourne, Australia, where Hagen worked as a visiting scientist at Monash University and Chiron Mimotopes.

Upon returning to the U.S., Hagen briefly worked as an independent computer and technology consultant before taking a job at Molecular Probes Inc. (later a wholly owned subsidiary of Invitrogen Life Technologies). He was hired initially as an executive technical support person to the president and worked his way through various positions, including assistant biosciences director and head of new product introduction. He retired in 2006.

In Memory

David Carl Hagen '68 continued

Hagen was a lifelong naturalist and avid outdoorsman. He loved fly-fishing, backpacking, canoeing, and bird-watching. In retirement, he dedicated many volunteer hours in the local community, including as a nature guide at Mount Pisgah Arboretum and as a leader in the Eugene-Springfield chapter of the North American Butterfly Association. He also welcomed into the world two grandchildren. He loved puzzles and had two of his own published in the MIT Tech Review Puzzle Corner (Nov/Dec 2007 and May/June 2009).

Hagen's friends and family remember him as a remarkable man who was kind, gentle, brilliant, and irreverent. He was a rigorous scientist, a committed naturalist, and a devoted father and grandfather.

He is survived by his younger brother, Ron; wife, Lois; son, Dan; and grandchildren.

John Joseph Wiley '69 died peacefully May 18 at Bethany Pointe Health Campus.

Wiley was the son of Joe and Lois (Ellis) Wiley. He was a 1965 graduate of Highland High School, where he was drum major and class president. He graduated in 1969 from Wabash College and was a great supporter.

Wiley proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971 and was a strong patriot of his country. He retired in 2008 as a sergeant of the Department of Corrections.

Wiley is survived by his wife, Paulette, whom he married in 1988; son, Edward Wiley; two sisters, Amanda Ramaswami and Margaret Hicks; son, Pete Phillips; three grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Harriet; and stepson, Andy Phillips.

Randall Bruce Waitman '70, 75, of Evansville, IN, died April 13, 2023, at Deaconess/Midtown Hospital. He was born in Evansville in 1948 to Earl C. and Mildred S. Waitman.

Waitman attended Stanley Hall Elementary School, along with his younger brother, Earl Jr. (Gabriel). He excelled at academics and was one of the fastest members of the track team. He then attended Benjamin Bosse High School, where he continued to achieve

the highest academic honors and was a member of Bosse's record-holding mile relay team.

After graduating from high school in 1966, Waitman moved on to Wabash College, receiving his bachelor's degree in history and political science. After graduation from Wabash, he enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis. There he received his master's degree in political science.

After returning to Evansville, Waitman held various jobs until his employment at PAR (Product Acceptance and Research). He stayed there until his retirement a few years ago.

Waitman was an avid New York Yankees and Chicago Bulls fan. He also enjoyed bowling in leagues for many years, some of those on teams with his mom and dad. He carried a 200 or near average for most of those years. He also was a cat lover. His cats Gershwin, Yuri, and Sasha were loving friends. His only surviving cat, Sasha, took ill and passed away the same day as Waitman. He was a quiet and private man during the last years of his life. He enjoyed his spare time watching the Yankees and the Bulls. He even managed to turn his mom into a crazy Bulls fan during the last decade of her life.

Waitman is survived by his only sibling, Gabriel Waitman. He was preceded in death by his dad and mom; both sets of grandparents; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Hayden Wetzel '72 lost his battle with cancer on June 21, 2023.

Gregory A. Coldiron '78 died July 2, 2024.

Dr. Brice Allen Guckien '79, 68, a cherished husband, father, physician, and friend, died at home in Zionsville, IN, on May 2. He leaves behind a legacy of love, service, and dedication that touched countless lives.

Born in 1957 in Logansport, IN, to Daniel Joseph Guckien and Virginia Lee Guckien, he grew up swinging bats, shooting hoops, and reading encyclopedias. Along the way, he earned the nickname "Goose"—a playful echo of his father's own moniker. A proud valedictorian of Logansport High

School, he carried his love for learning to Wabash College, where he joined Beta Theta Pi fraternity and met some of his dearest lifelong friends. His next journey took him to Bloomington, IN, where he collected more friends and memories, and he ultimately earned his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine.

For more than 41 years, Guckien practiced anesthesiology with a sharp mind, a playful sense of humor, and a devotion to patient care that made him the cornerstone of his work family. He delighted his colleagues with stories of his wife and children—his pride and joy.

Guckien also enjoyed the stock market and often treated it as a second career. He loved classic rock, often glued to YouTube videos of his favorite bands, and cheered fiercely for the Indiana Hoosiers. But most of all, his favorite sports teams and music were those that his kids were involved in.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Noelle; children Tyler, Logan, Zoe, Alex, Will, and Jack; one granddaughter; siblings, Dan Guckien and Lou Ann McAdams; in-laws, Anne Hakes and Bruce Hakes; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Steve and Meridith Black and Joel and Kristen Hakes; several nieces and nephews; and a wide circle of friends.

William "Bill" A. Eastridge '82, 65, died March 6. He was born in 1959 in New Albany, IN, to Edward Harry Eastridge Jr. and Alamae (Allstott) Eastridge.

Eastridge was a proud member of Lambda Chi Alpha and a graduate of Wabash College and the University of Dayton Law School.

Eastridge is survived by his loving sister, Elizabeth "Betty" Porter; nephew, Matt Porter; and many friends and chosen family. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Eddie Eastridge; and brother-in-law, Jim Porter.

Kurt Frank

Lightcap '83, 63, died unexpectedly in Chicago on April 22.



He was born in Valparaiso, IN, in 1962, to Frank and Evelyn Lightcap.

Lightcap attended Valparaiso High School and Wabash College. He studied abroad at Oxford and London and later received his M.B.A. at Northwestern University. He played football throughout high school and college and took great pride in his senior year at Wabash, when the team went undefeated. His love and enthusiasm for sports continued throughout his life. He most recently was an assistant coach of the men's rugby team at Loyola University and enjoyed fishing and hunting. He also took great pride in supporting his nieces and nephews in their sports and activities.

Lightcap had a diverse career in commodities and finance that spanned multiple locations and companies. He most recently was the head of operations at Plus500 US Financial in Chicago. Through his career he also worked in the financial districts in New York and London. He was well known and well respected in this industry.

Lightcap cherished spending time with family and friends and loved traveling. He was deeply loved and in touch with a great number of friends from around the country and abroad. He and his wife of 28 years, Stacy, enjoyed traveling to Alaska, Fiji, Hawaii, and Mexico.

Lightcap is survived by his wife, Stacy Lightcap; sisters, Gail Schurman, Carol Little, and Deborah Roberts; mother-in-law, Susie Robertson; sisters-in-law, Wendy Solberg and Teresa Phillips; 11 nieces and nephews; 11 great-nieces and -nephews; and 3 great-great-nieces and -nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Evelyn Lightcap; father-in-law, Paul (Denny) Robertson; and niece, Ashlee Duttlinger.

In Memory

Thomas Lee

Seaton '83, 63, of Oakland, CA, died Sept. 27, 2024, from complications of cancer. He was born in 1961.

Seaton was a graduate of Lake Central High School, Wabash College, and San Francisco State University. He spent decades teaching students at James Logan High School in Union City, CA, who were fortunate to count Seaton as friend, mentor, and advocate. Outside the classroom, he read voraciously, worked on his own writing, and celebrated nature's magnificence on hiking trails.

His life served as a testament to the best of this world, imbued by wonder, by love, and by generosity. All who knew him are forever to remember his infectious laugh, his perpetual compassion, and his courage to lean into our shared humanity.

Seaton held true to the admonition he gave to others: "Hold your loved ones. Spend more time with them than is convenient or prudent. Love like it's your last day on earth."

May his memory be both eternal and a blessing.

Seaton was preceded in his journey by his father, Thomas; and son, Thomas (T.J.). He is survived by his mother, Patricia; beloved daughter, Colleen; two cherished grandchildren; incomparable son, Spencer; devoted sister, Cheri; and nieces, Brittany and Brooke.

John Hilward Rhodes Jr. '85, 61, died suddenly May 22 in Schenectady, NY.

Rhodes was born in 1963 at St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady and grew up in Niskayuna. He attended Saint Helen's and graduated from Niskayuna High School. While at Niskayuna, he played basketball for both freshman and JV teams.

As a history and economics major, Rhodes attended Wabash College, where he excelled academically, making the dean's list numerous times. He was also a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and did a semester abroad at Oxford University.



Rhodes was always seen as a friend to all and was extremely gifted and talented. He truly had a beautiful mind. He could ace an exam without even cracking a book, was well-versed on many subjects, and enjoyed keeping up with current events.

He had a zest for life and enjoyed being out and about around town. His mother dubbed him the "country gentleman" because of how he carried himself, his generosity, and how he treated others. He was lighthearted, mild mannered, and soft-spoken, and enjoyed dressing for the occasion.

Growing up, Rhodes excelled at most sports. He was especially gifted at baseball, beginning with the Niskayuna Little League through the Majors, Babe Ruth, and Connie Mack, as well as other local baseball and all-star leagues. He truly loved the sport, enjoyed going to the batting cages when he could, and loved his Yankees.

Rhodes enjoyed family outings, backyard BBQs, Sunday steak dinners with his mother, and traveling to places like Maine, the Jersey Shore, and Texas. He looked forward to West Point football games, shooting hoops, listening to '80s music, and flying to visit his mother, whom he loved and cherished, after she relocated to Plano, TX.

He will truly be missed by all who knew him (especially his siblings). He'll be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humor, and amazing personality.

Rhodes was a communicant of North American Martyrs Roman Catholic Chapel, Hudson Fall, NY.

He is survived by his siblings, Olivia R. Rhodes, Arthur E. Rhodes, and Christopher M. Rhodes; aunt, Anne R. Swartzman; and many loving cousins and friends. He was predeceased by his loving parents, John H. and Marion Rhodes.



Patience Plummer Barnes

Barnes died at home on March 31. Her husband, James "Jim"; son, Geoff; and daughter, Jennifer, were with her.

Barnes was born in 1932 in New York, the daughter of Charles and Elinor Plummer. Her early life was enriched by summers spent at Ogontz Camp in the mountains of New Hampshire. Barnes enjoyed tennis, golf, softball, and skiing.

She attended Smith College in Massachusetts, where she met her future husband, James Barnes. They each sang in their college choirs and shared a love for music. She played the piano, and he played the guitar. In 1955, they set sail on the ocean liner the Queen Mary across the Atlantic to go to Oxford University, where Jim was completing his studies as a Rhodes Scholar. Barnes loved life in England, and they returned many times throughout their lives to pursue research and renew friendships.

Throughout their 69-year marriage, Barnes was the editor for her husband's 12 books. Wabash College designated her a research associate. She valued her many years of participation with the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. A member of St. John's Episcopal Church, she started a children's choir. She remained an avid tennis player who, as she aged, traded physical strength for finesse and was still playing in her 80s.

Barnes and her husband have a summer cabin in Minnesota, a gathering place for family and friends over the years. Even in their 90s, they continued to love the woods, the lake, and sleeping on the porch.



Ronald Bowerman, 83, of Waynetown, IN, died April 21 in his home following a lengthy illness.



He was born in 1941 in Crawfordsville, IN, and was the son of the late Edgel and Doris Wilhite Bowerman. He was married to the love of his life, Orville Sue Douglas, and they enjoyed 57 years together. She survives.

Bowerman graduated from Perington (Texas) High School in 1960 and then moved to Montgomery County, IN. He was a proud veteran and served with the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967 at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, and later was stationed in Germany. He was employed by United Service in Crawfordsville for 12 years and finished his career by being employed for 30 years at Wabash College as the storeroom manager.

Bowerman had a deep love for the simple joys in life—especially fishing with his grandson and son, the excitement of a good auction, and repairing and selling cars. He loved his grandkids more than anything and seldom missed any of their sporting activities. To know him was to love him, and the way he showed up for the people he loved will never be forgotten.

Surviving, along with his wife, Sue, are his daughter, Tammy White; son, Tim Bowerman; and two grandchildren.

David Dobbs Britt, 89, died unexpectedly in Roanoke, VA, on June 7.

The previous week, he had completed a road trip to Ohio to celebrate the wedding of his granddaughter Lindsey, and was surrounded by members of his family. He extended his visit to Indiana and enjoyed an afternoon boating on the lake followed by a pizza party at the home of his granddaughter Lauren and her husband, Alex.

Britt was born in Wiggins, MS, in 1936. He married Mary Hart Richardson in 1965. She preceded him in death in 2015.

Britt went to Wake Forest University for a B.A. and then on to Emory University in Atlanta for a Ph.D. He first taught in the humanities department at Morehouse College in 1961 (when Martin Luther King Jr. was a visiting lecturer there), and became chairman of that department just two years later. Stops at Wabash College and the University of Wisconsin brought teacher-of-the-year awards, more department head positions, and a postdoctoral fellowship in Black studies.

In Memory

David Dobbs Britt continued

Britt became a Hokie in 1976 when he and Mary moved to an 1860s farmhouse in Riner, VA, to teach English at Virginia Tech. Several years later, he had a unique opportunity to lead work at the Reynolds Homestead in Patrick County, VA. He and his wife worked together to create new programming for the community, including the arts, literature, music, educational programming, and travel abroad. In the early 1980s, Britt took special pride in organizing the first local computer camps for kids when personal computers were just becoming common. The Britts returned to Blacksburg in 1999 to teach English at Virginia Tech for several years before retiring.

Britt had very recently moved to Hermitage in Roanoke, where he had quickly found great new friends, a caring staff, rich

programming, and an active beehive that brought back many memories of the family's time at the farmhouse.

Britt focused on building friendships while dedicating time to advocating for civil rights, lobbying for what he thought was best for his community, and improving his tennis game. Known for his sense of humor, he took great joy in telling long and elaborate jokes, which usually resulted in laughter but also the occasional, "David, David, David!"

He is survived by his son, Tim Britt; brother, Robin Britt; two granddaughters; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary; and sister, Bubbles Marlowe.

Danny Marshall, 87, of Crawfordsville, IN, died May 9 at home, surrounded by his family. Marshall was born in 1937. He was a wonderful husband to Kathryn Marshall. They shared 66 years of marriage together.

Born in Crawfordsville, Marshall was the son of Harold and Dorothy Russell-Marshall. He graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1956. He retired from Wabash College as supervisor of the maintenance department.

He was a longtime member of the Mount Zion Church. He enjoyed being part of the clown ministry and racing go-karts. Once he put away the go-kart, he could always be found taking leisurely drives in his free time.

Marshall loved spending parts of his winter down south at Orange



Beach with his family. His favorite thing was being involved in his family's lives. He was constantly traveling in order to attend children's, grandchildren's, and great-grandchildren's events. It didn't matter if it was a ball game, a dance recital, or whatever else they enjoyed, he was always their number one supporter. He will be remembered as a kindhearted man who would do almost anything that was asked of him.

He is survived by his spouse, Kathryn Marshall; four daughters, Vicki Hoskins, Brenda Marshall-Kuhn, Kristi McKinney, and Jana Minks; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and sister, Janene Plunkett. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Sheila McLaughlin.



photo by Kim Johnson



by **Jeremy Wentzel '14**

WABASH IN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

AS CONSUMERS, we generally don't think about our utilities unless something goes wrong, we have a question about our bill, or we encounter an outage. Yet, we all need power, water, and waste management.

Climate impacts in our global society are resulting in increasingly fragile communities, and one tragic event can turn them upside down in a moment. Further, the United States is faced with a pending crisis as it relates to aging infrastructure, a maturing workforce with waning succession, exponentially increasing demand for power, and supply that is struggling to keep up.

Through my work in consulting services at KPMG, I lead large-scale transformation programs that address challenges in the power and utilities sector, often ranging from \$100 million to multi-billion-dollar initiatives. This work spans modernizing customer-facing processes and systems, back-office optimization, field operations, and complex regulatory transformation.

Utility transformations are as much about navigating policy as they are about deploying technology. Large utilities are regulated entities, operating within strict oversight from public utility commissions, nonprofit and government environmental agencies, and legislative mandates.

Regulatory bodies often move more slowly than market conditions demand.

Policy commonly lags innovation in the utilities industry. That's one of the core tensions. Utility companies are eager to invest in grid modernization, storage, and renewable integration, but they have to justify every dollar to regulators with a clear cost-benefit story. And consumers generally see a portion of the cost in their electric bills. At the same time, regulators are under pressure to keep rates low, ensure reliability, and meet ambitious clean energy goals.

The industry faces ongoing challenges in meeting modern demands. Bottlenecks in permitting often delay critical transmission projects. In many service territories in America, the transmission lines you see over the highways are more than 50 years old. Rate structures and state-level regulations add additional complexities, yielding different realities for customers living in different areas of the country. Federally, the stop-and-go approach to tax credits and renewables investment hinders progress toward a diversified and resilient energy future.

The U.S. continues to be a leader of energy in the world, but the future of power and utilities depends on our ability to effectively transform.

I partner with utility executives and technology providers to lead transformations that reimagine how utilities serve their customers and communities. These programs often involve large-scale operating model redesigns, digital enablement, workforce re-skilling, and system integrations across multiple business lines. These aren't just IT projects. They're cultural and institutional transformations. When millions are being spent on a program, success depends not just on engineering excellence, but on aligning diverse stakeholders around a common vision.

I credit Wabash with teaching me not just how to think, but how to lead. At Wabash, I learned to stand, to speak my mind, and to take responsibility. Those are the traits that matter when leading in ambiguity, under pressure, and with competing priorities.

As the energy industry undergoes a profound transformation, Wabash continues to be a place where future leaders are forged. We need thinkers and builders, but we also need questioners, communicators, and bridge-builders. Wabash prepares students to meet complexity head-on. That's exactly what the global energy transformation demands. ▀

First-Generation Voices in Leadership

by Kim Johnson

SCOTT BROWN AND JIM PEEPLES are both first-generation college students who call their undergraduate experiences transformative. They also credit others around them for seeing potential they didn't see in themselves and guiding them into careers in higher education. From opposite sides of the country, they met in the Midwest where they both stepped into administrative roles at Wabash this summer. Both recognize the importance of the College's mission, the Gentleman's Rule, and the role alumni play in student outcomes.

Brown, originally from Los Angeles, has worked around the country at a variety of institutions, including Mount Holyoke College, Colgate University, the College of Wooster, Northern Arizona University, Sterling College, and Dartmouth College.

"All those opportunities have prepared me to be here at Wabash, which seems to be the right position at the right institution at the right time for me," says Brown, a member of the 25th graduating class at University of California Irvine. "When I see a place like Wabash where alumni are coming back 20, 30, 40, even 70 years later, because of something that happened over four short years—it's powerful."

"The kinds of things I really value are intensive, transformative education, in a community that is very intimate and relational," he continues. "It's everything I love in one place. You can't get a Wabash education online. You couldn't get it in a city. It's really about the sense of place and the people here."

After earning his master's degree in higher education and student affairs from Indiana University, Brown went on to get his Ph.D. in student personnel administration from the University of Maryland.

"My research was on how colleges facilitate the development of wisdom—thinking about the ways in which a place in total looks at the holistic student experience," he says.

"Wabash is the most platonic ideal distillation of that," Brown continues. "I have not seen a place that has internalized such a living mission. The Gentleman's Rule is unusual, unique, and desirable in terms of high expectations, and then challenging and supporting of students in and out of class. I've seen it as platitudes, but not in a place that it's the defining North Star."

In his career thus far, Brown has seen a shift toward greater understanding and thoughtfulness regarding the life experiences students have had before arriving on a college campus.

"There is a lot more sensitivity to the kinds of things we need to be aware of so students can meet our high expectations," he says. "We're not changing the road for the student; we're preparing the student for the road. What kinds of things are we doing to meet them where they are, but to make sure they can

meet our high expectations, both in the class of students and as citizens within the community?

"I see myself as fulfilling a role in collaboration with a much larger community, and I'm excited to do that with alumni," Brown continues. "I consider them the proof of concept. Involvement from alumni is powerful—we can point to the cooler older brothers or uncles who have a lot of street cred."

PEEPLES GREW UP IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

PEEPLES GREW UP IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, the son of a boilermaker. "Pretty much everybody I grew up with was blue-collar," Peeples says. "Most of our dads either worked at the power plant, in one of the steel mills, or they were a miner. There were also a handful of families that were dairy farmers."

While Peeples says most young people around him did not have an idea of what a college degree could do for them, working with their fathers in the summer was good motivation to pursue postsecondary education.



Scott Brown

"We're not changing the road for the student; we're preparing the student for the road."

—Scott Brown

“My motivation to coach was because, as I went through my time at Westminster, people pouring into me and seeing things in me that I did not see in myself was life-changing. I wanted to do that for other people.” —Jim Peebles

“A lot of us didn’t really have any idea what we needed to study because we didn’t have any frame of reference for that,” he says.

Peebles’ father passed away when he was a teenager. It was his mother who encouraged him to pursue athletics and later walked beside him through the college recruiting process.

“I had an astute mom who identified my passion for sports and realized I needed to be involved,” he says. “She went on every recruiting visit with me. I remember walking out after a visit to Westminster—mom said, ‘I don’t know what you’re thinking, but this is where I want you to go to school because (football) Coach (Joe) Fusco and the rest of the coaches will make you a better man, and that’s what I care about.’

“It was probably the best decision of my life,” Peebles states.

Having been influenced and mentored by his football coaches, Peebles saw coaching as the route to pay that forward.

“My motivation to coach was because, as I went through my time at Westminster, people pouring into me and seeing things in me that I did not see in myself was life-changing,” he says. “I wanted to do that for other people.”

Again, being guided by a coach, he moved to Slippery Rock University to pursue his master’s degree.

“I thought I would always want to coach,” Peebles says. “One of my mentors said, ‘At some point you’re not going to want to coach. You need to get your degree in athletic administration.’ Slippery Rock has a good program, so he helped open doors there. The power of mentorship has stood out in my life. It’s critical to have good mentors every step of the way.”

Peebles went on to serve in coaching and administrative roles at Slippery Rock, Ohio Wesleyan University, Methodist University, and, most recently, Piedmont University, where he served as baseball coach and associate director of athletics until 2016, when he became the school’s director of athletics.

“Every step on my path is about relationships and people opening a door,” he says. “I’m living proof it’s all about relationships.”

It did not take long for Peebles to figure out the caliber of the student-athletes at Wabash.

“It’s been impressive to me how polished our students are,” he says. “When I get to talk to them one-on-one about how it’s going and what they’re learning, it’s remarkable what they articulate.”

He also appreciates the enthusiasm the alumni bring to the institution and the importance of their presence in the student experience.



Jim Peebles

“I am amazed how the alumni care about this place,” says Peebles. “I’m not sure people outside of Wabash understand most alumni groups don’t have the same passion for their institutions as Wabash alumni. This place can operate, but it operates even more effectively because of the passion the alumni have.”

Peebles credits divine intervention for setting the people, places, and life experiences in line for him to be at Wabash at this time in his journey.

“The Lord put a calling on me, like it was time to take on a new challenge,” he says. “My heart is to serve. We need people to pour into the coaches, and we need people to pour into the student-athletes. I feel like I’m the right person for this time in Wabash athletics.”

“What an honor it is at this point in my career to be at Wabash. “It’s really cool that God has given me this opportunity. I take it seriously. I want to have impact that excites the people who love this place.” ▀

Authentic

by **Richard Paige**

FIRST IT WAS CRYPTIC. Then it was surreal. Finally it was humbling.

Those were the thoughts of Jeremy Hartnett '96, the Charles D. and Elizabeth S. LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, at Awards Chapel as Dean of the College Todd McDorman read the description of the 2025 McLain-McTurnan-Arnold (MMA) Excellence in Teaching Award winner.

"Oh no, it's me, isn't it?" Hartnett recalls saying to himself in the moment. "I'm not sure I deserve this. Partly because of the esteem I have for my colleagues and the very high standard I have for teaching."

For Hartnett, the essence of his work is helping students define what college can be.

"Our students are hungry to learn," he says. "If you tell them we have daily homework and quizzes in Latin 101, they say, 'OK,' and rise to the challenge."

He thrives on teaching anywhere and everywhere—lecture halls, museums, and archaeological sites—and guiding students to see for themselves. A visit to a Frank Lloyd Wright house in Lafayette, Indiana, for instance, becomes a lesson in how space shapes human interaction, a skill students can later apply to ancient Greek and Roman contexts.

"Years from now, they may not remember the floor plan of a Greek house, but they'll remember learning to look closely and think critically," he says.

Hartnett's fascination with the ancient world began long before his teaching career. When he was 12, he traveled to Italy with his mother, who was an administrative assistant to Bill Cook '66, for a National Endowment for the Humanities seminar. The group studied the life of St. Francis through text and art, spending two transformative weeks in Siena.

"I grew up in Geneseo, New York, a town of 6,000 people, so Siena with its festivals, crowded streets, and long tables of neighborhood dinners was unlike anything



I'd ever experienced," he says. "It sparked my love of Italy and my interest in social history—seeing how the past is still present in daily life."

Those neighborhood dinners, staged in preparation for Siena's famous horse race, the Palio di Siena, left a lasting impression.

"Long tables, grandma's pasta, everyone kicking in to fund the neighborhood association," he says. "It was authentic, face-to-face community. That feeling has stuck with me."

As a Wabash student in the mid-1990s, Hartnett took Roman Art and Archaeology with John Fischer in his freshman year, learning more concretely about layers of Italian history he had seen previously.

Returning to Wabash as a professor in 2004 solidified his teaching identity. Initially, he felt the weight of the Classics department's storied legacy—from Fischer to Joe and Leslie Day and David Kubiak. He felt honored to continue, but also challenged.

"At first, I was following my professors' methods even when it wasn't authentic to

me," he admits. "It took time to grow into my own scholarly skin. The key was to keep the spirit but change the style. I still challenge students, but I'm also replicating the sense of community my professors created."

That community often takes the form of food. Inspired by those Siena neighborhood feasts, Hartnett hosts long-table dinners after the annual LaFollette Lecture, inviting senior Classics majors to share a meal and conversation with faculty and guests.

"By senior year, students are richer and more complex individuals, and the conversation reflects that," he says. "There's no head or foot of the table—everyone's in it together."

Even in his Latin classes, Hartnett uses food as a bridge. On select Fridays, he moves class to lunchtime, brings in dishes, and blends a meal with quizzes and discussion.

"It shows students attention and affection," he starts, "and it's a metaphor for what we do in class, sharing something you care about and inviting them to try something new."

The impact can be profound.

We're not in the business of producing the next generation of classicists. We're producing the next generation of curious, open-minded citizens.

“Dr. Hartnett brings an unparalleled energy to every one of his class sessions,” says John Schnerre ‘26, a Classics major from Lafayette, Indiana. “In a Latin 101 class, I found myself waiting all day to see if he’d find a new mnemonic device which would stretch our imaginations and our knowledge of ancient language. His energy helps students fully invest in the subject, and his genuine interest in them makes him personable and accessible.”

Asked what he hopes his students take away from his lessons, Hartnett doesn’t mention mnemonic devices.

“We’re not in the business of producing the next generation of classicists. We’re producing the next generation of curious, open-minded citizens,” says the Classics department chair. “If they remember the experiences we shared and the way they were treated, that matters more than whether they can still parse a sentence in Latin.”

Winning the MMA has prompted Hartnett to think about his next chapter. With a sabbatical approaching, he’s planning new research projects, including “25 Romans Not Named Caesar,” which will explore the lives of everyday citizens in ancient Rome. He’s eager to involve students in the work, giving them the chance to create knowledge.

As for the award itself, it’s a motivator. “It’s the best kind of push,” he says, “to keep going, to keep finding ways to connect, challenge, and inspire.” ▀

Special Thanks to the 2025 Retirees

Professor Frank Howland joined Wabash College in 1988. Howland poured hours into building the quantitative and analytical skills of his students. He has been equally generous in mentoring faculty and staff. Howland was a pivotal contributor to two new majors on campus, philosophy, politics, and economics (PPE) and financial economics; a business minor; and other programs, including the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship (CIBE). He has contributed to the College as a department chair in two departments; as faculty secretary, co-chair for senior colloquium, and faculty marshal; and on several committees.

—Professor of Economics Peter Mikek



Larry Hunt’s first job on campus was in the Sparks Center kitchen in 1978. From 1994 until September of 2024, a great majority of Hunt’s hours were between midnight and 6 a.m., as a watchman. One of the most defining features about Hunt is his big heart. He will give the shirt off his back if he sees the need. Through his many years of service, he always cared deeply and sincerely about Wabash.

—Director of Campus Services David Morgan



Catherine “Cathy” Metz began her career at Wabash in October 2003, as the human resource and payroll manager. In July 2005, Metz was promoted to director of human resources, the position from which she retired. In that role, she managed the employee life cycle and supported managers. She brought the human to our humane workplace.

—Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Kendra Cooks



Linda Weaver began her Wabash career in 1979 as the office and textbook manager in the bookstore. Throughout the decades, she served in every corner of campus life—in information technology services, in academic enrichment, where she laid the groundwork for the Community Friends Program, in admission and enrollment, and finally in advancement, where she has been a steady hand and kind heart.

—Dean for College Advancement Michelle Janssen



In the fall of 2019, **Associate Professor of German Gregory Redding ‘88** began serving as dean of students for what was supposed to be one year. About six months later, the world shut down because of COVID-19. He agreed to continue in his role as dean. Redding grabbed wellness as his mark to leave on the College. His biggest contribution was to individual students who are going to have a Wabash diploma only because of the work he did. He has given back to alma mater in a way that few Wabash men can say they have. Redding will return to teaching in Fall 2026.

—President Scott Feller, excerpted from remarks given at an on-campus celebration of Redding’s service as dean of students.



Freedom, Virtue, and Politics

by **Richard Paige**

THE STUDENTS SIT AT FOUR ROWS OF TABLES with blue folding chairs.

There is chitchat going on, small talk about fraternity life, banter back and forth, head nodding, laughter. The scene looks incredibly average given that half of the students in the room are housed in the Putnamville Correctional Facility (PCF).

Modeled on the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program in partnership with the Putnamville Correctional Facility in Greencastle, the special topics course taught by Associate Professor of Political Science Lorraine McCrary met in the correctional facility with incarcerated individuals. The students read political theory and discussed the relationship between freedom, virtue, and politics.

The presence of Wabash President Scott Feller, an invited guest, along with a few other such guests, is an indication that something is different this day.

"I'm very sad today that the semester is ending," McCrary says with a quiver in her voice.

With that, she asks the students for their thoughts on their shared classroom experience inside the PCF on their last afternoon together.

"I'm going to miss you guys," one starts.

"It's been a journey," says another.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed this class," says someone else. "This is one of the best classes I've taken. I hated reading Aristotle, but it's been a great experience."

"One of the reasons there is a divide in politics is that no one sits around and talks like this," says another.

"I got to see people on the outside," chimes in a voice. "They looked at us like we were human beings. This class pushed me to learn. Aristotle was hard and this class helped me open up and understand."

Fourteen weeks prior, no one was sure how this learning experiment would go. McCrary had her answer.

"It was the best teaching experience of my life," she says.

Before providing each participant with a certificate and a handshake, Feller marveled at what he had witnessed in this space: a cohesive, supportive, and engaged learning environment as strong as any seen on the Wabash campus.

He thanked the incarcerated population for coming to class each period with respect for their fellow students and the professor. Feller praised them for being active learners and for the obvious positive impacts produced.

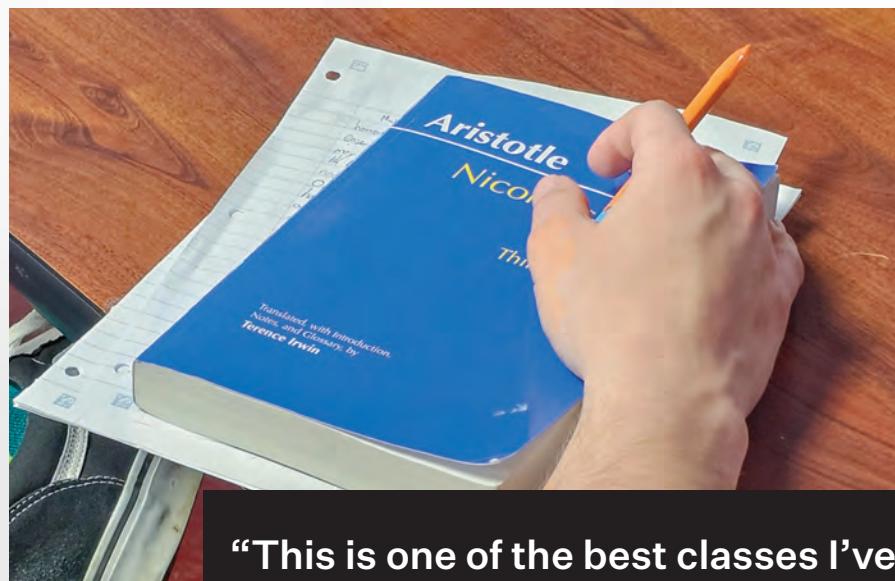
Speaking to the Wabash students, he singled out their appreciation for humility and civility and a willingness to stretch their educational experience far beyond campus.

"Professor McCrary drove this from the beginning with passion," Feller says. "What a gift she's given to each of them."

To arrive here wasn't easy. McCrary's goal from day one was to emphasize community in a nonhierarchical space, not exactly a simple goal when class would be taught weekly in the prerelease building at the medium security prison outside of Greencastle, Indiana.

Hierarchy is baked into the incarcerated community—security gates and razor wire, administration, guards, pat-downs, and multiple security checkpoints.

McCrary started simple with icebreakers and small-group work so the class of 10 Wabash students and 11 incarcerated personnel (one of whom was released during the semester) could get to know each other.



"This is one of the best classes I've taken. I hated reading Aristotle, but it's been a great experience."

She learned that the class loved the small-group work and leaned into it as they dove into Aristotle's "Nicomachean Ethics" and a bit of John Stuart Mill near the end.

"I really encouraged community in a special way, and it's hard as a professor to do so because building community takes time," she says. "We were sometimes focused on content, but we also focused on that community. I loved to see how it grew in the space."

McCravy quickly realized that the students developed a sense of responsibility to the others in the class. They would come to class prepared and ready to participate. Only one or two of the students claimed to love reading Aristotle, but they were doing so for one another each time the class met.

Even on his lone visit to class, Feller picked up on that immediately.

"This classroom has the two pieces of the Wabash classroom that I have always found the most satisfying," he says. "No question, there was a level of comfort, familiarity, and ease with which they interacted with each other, but they also had immense respect for the instructor."

Interestingly, the incarcerated students took charge of making everyone feel welcome and keeping the conversations going. After all, the class was on their turf. The Wabash students were reserved at first, sort of playing it safe, but in the PCF classroom, they were pushed to speak up. "Hey, we want to hear what you think" was a common refrain.

"As strange as it was to enter the prison and go through the numerous security checkpoints, the second our classmates entered the class, the entire atmosphere immediately shifted in a positive direction," says Silas Mills '27, a political science major from Indianapolis. "Their willingness to vocalize their shared experiences and their genuine interest in us made it easy to engage

with the material and with our classmates. I cannot overstate the impact that each of these men had on our lives."

The most transformative aspect for Ryan Whitacre '27, a PPE major from Hoagland, Indiana, was how the incarcerated students applied philosophical concepts directly to their lived experiences, influencing McCravy's approach and encouraging Wabash students to bring their whole selves to their work.

"The Putnamville students constantly related the text to their own lives, which made it impossible not to apply the text to mine," he says. "Whether it was the virtue of courage or the virtue of temperance, we discussed as a group how these ideas applied to our lives and the issues we see."

Feller admits the logistics were challenging, but the rewards were immense for all of the participants.

"Some of those guys got pushed to do things they never would have without such an intense experience," he says. "We moved people out of their comfort zones, took them to a place that lacks any familiarity, and helped them learn in a new environment. You could tell that it opened their minds to learn new things in a different way. They could learn about Aristotle in Center Hall or Baxter Hall, but the upsides were 10 times more than I imagined."

Whitacre agrees, saying, "It was refreshing to hear so many different ideas and perspectives. You only learn so much from people who are like you. This course is the one in which I learned life lessons outside of the course material. The experience was incredibly eye-opening to the reality of others' struggles in the world. I walked away with a lesson and a view into a part of the world I had not seen."



"It was the best teaching experience of my life."

For McCravy, the benefit of the experience lies in what they created together, and her thoughts went back to those incarcerated students.

"Maybe they think of themselves as Wabash students, right?" she says. "We had this transformative experience in which we weren't just ourselves, we were members of this class. The community became something more than us. You benefit from those relationships, that friendship, that community. What do we owe each other for putting ourselves out there in this way? It's a debt you can't repay. All you can do is honor it." ■



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Ron Dostal '92

Chief of Staff and Director of Strategic Communications

Jim Amidon '87

Contributing Photographers

Jim Amidon '87, Anna Barnett, Stephanie Cain, Will Duncan '27, Braiden Foster '26, Kim Johnson, Scott Olmstead, Richard Paige, Brynn Patrick, Jeremiah Runge '29, George Shagley '26, Becky Wendt

Admissions Information

765-361-6405 / 800-345-5385

Wabash Alumni Clubs

765-361-6369

Contact Us

Wabash Magazine is published by the Communications and Marketing Office, Hovey Cottage, P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville, IN 47933-0352.

Contact the editor at 765-361-6209 or johnsonk@wabash.edu. We welcome your comments, criticisms, and suggestions.

wabash.edu/magazine

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



David Thomas '19 added his personal touch to one of the classroom walls in the new Latino Community Center. The mural is a reimagining of the original he painted in the International Center. The Latino Community Center dedication and ribbon cutting took place on September 26, 2025.

Wabash.

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LAST GLANCE