

# Wabash.

M A G A Z I N E



## THANK YOU, SENIORS:

The Class of 2025 walked under the Arch, solidifying their place in one of the highest-ranking alumni networks in the country. Read their stories beginning on page 32.

**SING THY PRAISES** THE ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING HITS PLATINUM STATUS.  
**PAGE 15**

**WINS AND LOSSES** CAMDEN SCHEIDT '25 REWROTE RECORD BOOKS BUT ONE BIG LOSS HIT HARD. **PAGE 40**

**GOWER AND SNOW** MEET THE NEWEST TENURED PROFESSORS.  
**PAGE 80**









**Hang on to your hats!** Here comes the Class of 2025! On a windy May afternoon, 186 seniors processed into Little Giants Stadium and recessed out as the newest class of Wabash alumni.

photo by Julia Moravec



# CONTENTS



# 16

## Commencement

The energy was palpable at the 187th Commencement Weekend at Wabash College. With two honorary degree recipients and 186 graduates, there was much to celebrate.

## DEPARTMENTS

5 **From the Editor**

6 **From Center Hall**

7 **From Our Readers**

9 **Moments**

57 **Season in Sports**

62 **Class Notes**

Thank You, Class of 2025!

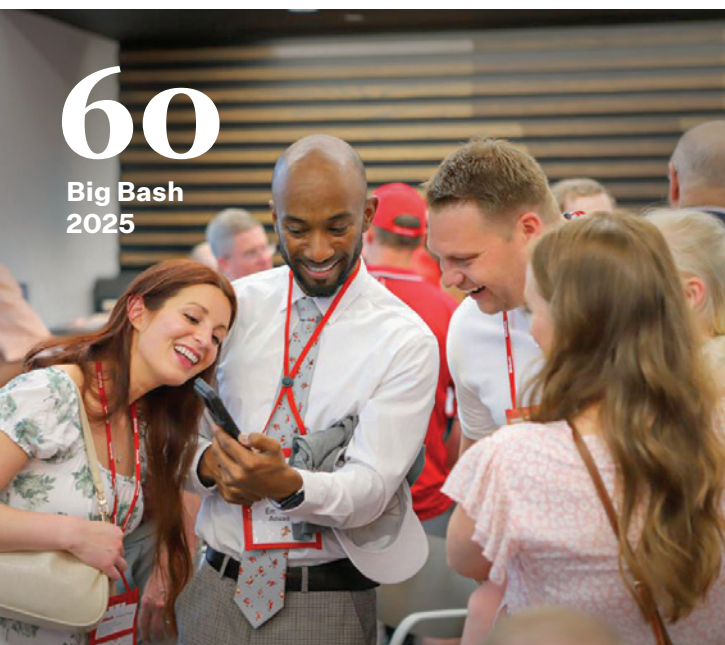
*by Nolan Eller '11*

The Strength of the NAWM

*by Jim Hawksworth '95*

79 **Faculty and Staff Notes**

88 **Last Glance**



# 60

Big Bash  
2025

## FEATURES

### 22 Redemption

Mawuli Nevis '25 used his time at Wabash to rewrite his story. He shares, "The story that says where you start doesn't determine where you end up."

### 26 Ethan's Pool Rules

While Ethan Johns '25 may have followed his brother Elliott '16 to Wabash, his presence in the pool left its own legacy.

### 30 The Outdoorsy Kid

Environmentalism and conservation have guided Matt Lepper '25 over rivers, through woods, and across litter-strewn streets. His next stop is graduate work in an aquatic ecology and fisheries lab.

### 34 Asking Why

Podcaster and voice of several Wabash sports livestreams, Noah McRoberts '25 listens more than he speaks.

### 36 Redefining Leadership

Oscar Jacome Huesca '25 knew he didn't like public speaking, so he sought opportunities on campus to stretch himself, learning the power of his voice to cultivate identity.

### 38 Empathy and Humility

Immersion learning and internship opportunities launched Jacob Ramirez '25 several steps closer to reaching his goal to become a pediatric physical therapist.

### 40 Dive In

A student athlete from Long Beach, New York, Keane Albright '25 has a "bias toward action" that brought him new opportunities and a chance to impact others.

### 42 Wins and Losses

In four years, Camden Scheidt '25 rewrote the baseball record books, but a loss just days before he began his Wabash career profoundly shaped his collegiate experience.

### 46 Faith and Confident Hope

Noah Kent '25 said, "No" to Wabash. God had different plans.

### 50 Third Time's the Charm

Three schools in three years. Wabash proved to be the right school at the right time for Aidan Geleott '25.

### 52 Growing Leadership

Olivier Tuyishime '25, a refugee from Rwanda, turns to education and involvement as a pathway to success.

### 55 You Belong Here

Finally free from injuries, Brayden Curnutt '25 had a solid summer of training leading to a breakout senior year.





22



40



26



42



30



46



34



50



36



52



38



55

## From the Editor

# Just Another Senior

**E**VERY YEAR the communications and marketing office does a series of stories we call “Senior Spotlights.” As we started interviewing students earlier in the year, the office was bubbling with energy about the great things our students were accomplishing in their four years at Wabash. But more important, I kept hearing how thoughtful, articulate, and passionate the men in the Class of 2025 are. I was enjoying listening to the team in Hovey Cottage share what they were gathering so much, I decided to dedicate an issue of the magazine to our seniors—now our youngest alumni.

One thing I love about Wabash is that we never run out of great stories to tell. The outstanding individuals in this issue are just another example. Let me assure you there is nothing “just another” about these young men. From future physicians to All-Americans, from budding coaches to great brothers, musicians, and environmentalists, this group stands out from the average 22-year-old male. But we could have chosen any of the 186 grads this year and told similar stories of achievement.

The most difficult thing about my job isn’t finding stories to tell, it’s narrowing down which stories get printed in each issue. If you would like to read more stories like these, visit [wabash.edu/news](http://wabash.edu/news). We update this page regularly with new features, photos, podcasts, and videos.

**A SPECIAL SHOUTOUT** to all the readers who sent notes after the Winter 2025 “Community” issue of WM mailed! It was nice to hear the variety of responses and memories. I appreciate the honesty and sincerity in your words. I also appreciate those of you who took me up on my offer to talk. The conversations I had with you, agree or disagree, reminded me that Wabash is a place where civility and dialogue are valued.

Like what you read? Have something to share? I look forward to hearing from more of you!

**Kim Johnson**

Editor | [johnsonk@wabash.edu](mailto:johnsonk@wabash.edu)



# The Resounding Sounds of Brotherhood

**A**T GATHERINGS OF COLLEGE PRESIDENTS, I find myself a member of a few informal affinity groups—for example, fellow leaders of Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) and NCAC schools, and former chemists. The most interesting is the group of small-college presidents who began their presidencies during the summer of 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. We share a strong bond.

In the week prior to Commencement, our informal group exchanged emails to arrange dinner at an upcoming conference, and it got me thinking about the Wabash Class of 2025 and their journey to and through Wabash during COVID-19.

In some ways, they are our first fully post-pandemic graduates, arriving in August 2021. Showing maturity and resilience, this group of young men led us out of that difficult period in ways that no one could have imagined when they arrived on campus.

Perhaps the most distinctive aspect of the Class of 2025 is that they made the choice to attend Wabash having never spent a night on campus! When I ask most alumni how they decided to attend Wabash, the story invariably involves an overnight visit during Honor Scholar Weekend, Monon Bell, or any number of the key events that anchor the College calendar. But our overnight-visit calendar was completely blank during the spring semester of 2021.

In retrospect it should have been no surprise that the group of men who enrolled then—deprived of chances to authentically experience Wabash—was the smallest it had been in about 20 years. These men taught us something before they even arrived by reminding us how important visits to campus are in demonstrating the Wabash value proposition.

That motivated Dean for Enrollment Management Chip Timmons and his team to rethink and reinvigorate our visit programs. Working across campus with faculty, coaches, staff, and students, they have developed best-in-class programming typically featuring our current students front and center.



The payoff has been huge, with the majority of this fall's entering class having visited campus three or more times.

The small but bold group of young men who formed the Class of 2025 immediately got to work. Their achievements in the classroom were many. Despite being a small class, they produced a record number of Fulbright Fellowships this spring (nine semifinalists and six finalists). And they graduated with the second-highest four-year graduation rate in the modern history of the College.

Contributing to campus life, however, is where the Class of 2025 really shone. While I remain proud of the ways in which our campus adapted to maintain in-person classes and minimize disruptions to

students' academic progress, there is no doubt that much of what makes Wabash special was put on hold in the early years those men were on campus. We lost concerts, sports, clubs, and countless opportunities for fellowship to COVID-19. As the pandemic waned, it became clear that the disruption had left us out of practice and had interfered with the ways in which traditions are passed down.

A great example is the publication of *The Bachelor*. During COVID-19, a small band of students managed to push out a weekly PDF of varying lengths. Under the leadership of this year's seniors—Sam Benedict, Ethan Wallace, and Logan Weilbaker, specifically—the 12-page newspaper earned the state's top honor for small-college newspapers three years in a row.

My favorite way to measure the work of the Class of 2025 is in decibels. I am a big believer that the best antidote to the cold, dreary Indiana winter is to gather under Chadwick Court's bright lights to yell and scream one or two nights a week at home basketball games. When DePauw came to town in late January, two seniors led us to resounding victory—Vinny Bucilla scored 20 points and Noah Hupmann blocked five shots—and the energy that shook the gym kept us going for days.

Cheers by and for the Class of 2025 returned at the end of this semester as well. Joy, laughter, and loud applause filled the Wabash Chapel on awards night in April. That decibel level was then topped two weeks later as the graduates cheered on each other at Commencement, filling Little Giant Stadium with the resounding sounds of brotherhood.

*Scott Feller*

**Scott Feller**

President | [fellers@wabash.edu](mailto:fellers@wabash.edu)



## From Our Readers

### International Connection

I used to work for Wabash Notes from 1985 to 1988 and I have to commend you on an amazing issue. You managed to pack in so much about students, activities on campus and in town, and even the passing of so many alumni. Surprisingly, writing an obituary, thanks to then-editor Brad Rodebeck, taught me so much about compassion and appreciating the little things in one's life. Keep up the excellent work.

I was saddened to hear about the passing of **Mitsuya Goto '55**, who, in my time, was seen as the ideal international student who had "made it," but still kept in touch with students. I was also saddened to hear that my friend, and dorm floor mate, **Paul Christian '88**, had passed away. We were an odd couple, from two very different worlds, but our time at Wabash taught us that college is where you can make some of the most interesting connections. RIP.

**Angelos Niozas '28** was visiting Washington, D.C., recently. It gave me a chance to catch up with **Greg Castanias '87** and experience his brilliant speakeasy. Sadly, **Adam Price '88**, who failed at teaching me how to swim, could not attend. It was nice to see that Angelos, an international student too, has settled in nicely and reached out to me prior to his visit.

—**Arun Muralidhar '88**

### Where are you reading?

I am reading Wabash Magazine with my darling princess, Lesley Naa Yemotele Aba Yemofio. She is extremely unlikely to attend Wabash, but as daddy's girl, she'll certainly have her own Wabash journey.

—**Godfred Yemofio '01**



 Where and with whom are you reading this issue? Send us a photo at [johnsonk@wabash.edu](mailto:johnsonk@wabash.edu).



### Let's Talk

Your "Let's Talk" editorial was a thought-provoking read, and I found your definition of community particularly insightful.

As the editorial draws to a close, you invite readers to let you know if you have said something hurtful so that you can "do better" going forward.

Generally speaking, I don't like to play language police, but as I have spent much of my 35-year career as an English teacher explaining to students that every word has a meaning and that meaning and context matter, I'd like to take you up on that invitation.

"Preference" is the perfect word to refer to how you like your steak cooked or whether you feel more at ease in a window or aisle seat on a plane. When it is used to describe an essential part of a person's identity, it is offensive.

Merriam-Webster.com provides a succinct explanation:

*The term sexual preference as used to refer to sexual orientation is widely considered offensive in its implied suggestion that a person can choose who they are sexually or romantically attracted to.*

The GLAAD Media Reference Guide goes into greater detail:

#### TERMS TO AVOID

##### "sexual preference"

The term "sexual preference" is typically used to inaccurately suggest that being attracted to the same sex is a choice and therefore can and should be "cured" or "changed."

#### BEST PRACTICE

##### sexual orientation or orientation

Sexual orientation is the accurate description of a person's enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to people of the same gender and/or people of a different gender, and is inclusive of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and pansexual, as well as straight people.

I've been amazed at the progress achieved by the LGBTQ community at Wabash since my long-ago days there, but it's not time for complacency yet.

Thank you for your hard work in producing an excellent magazine and above all, thank you for having an open mind.

—**Matthew Brown '88**

**Editor's Note:** Thank you, Matthew, for your response! You were not the only person to bring this to my attention. I confess, it did not occur to me to avoid "preference" until it was pointed out but it was immediately obvious after. I appreciate your note and will do better moving forward!



## From Our Readers

### Sparks Center Memories

Sparks Center was a great, easy to find, central place to meet family and friends during my four years at Wabash. I spent many hours in the outstanding and unique Scarlet Inn. What a treasure of a place! Just what a student needed. The Scarlet Inn had its own personality...pure Wabash: comfortable, personable, engaging...and, pretty good food and drink, too! It was also a great place to bump into a professor and have an informal, yet worthwhile conversation.

Visiting the Bookstore was always a joy as well. It was hard to go in there without buying something! (I think I have three Wabash chairs!) I don't remember ever buying an actual book there.

Since graduating in 1972, the only times I have visited the Sparks Center were to stop by the "Fobes Lounge," established and named in honor of contributions made through the years by my dad, **Don Fobes '34**, and my grandfather, **Bill Fobes W1910**. In 1972, my dad headed up the capital campaign. My grandfather still lived in Crawfordsville and was very active in the Wabash community. Since I happened to be graduating in 1972, someone at the College (maybe Thad Seymour) had the idea of honoring our family by dedicating a room in Sparks Center, with a special plaque, and calling it the "Fobes Lounge." Our family was deeply grateful. I didn't do anything personally to deserve this honor but graduate. It was my dad and grandfather who earned the recognition.

We will miss you, Sparks Center! But the idea of a new, modern community center, serving today's Wabash men and community, is very exciting.

—**Rick Fobes '72**

The Great Hall has many stories to tell. From Abbie Sparks having to be told that it was not a good idea for "the boys" to eat with real silver to a multi-day Scarlet Masque production staged in the south end of the hall. From a swing concert with the south third filled with bleachers and the rest of the floor open for dancing, to many banquets and celebrations, none grander than my first Christmas dinner with oysters on the half shell.

And the unique spaces—the elegance of the PDR with its adjacent garden to the upstairs south room split with a collapsible divider where I had my interview lunch. To the campus switch board (all calls to the College were routed through the switchboard) in the lobby to the adjacent candy machine with the related photo of a squirrel inside looking out.

—**John Zimmerman H'67**

The executive committee of the Wabash College Glee Club met regularly in that "room completely devoid of anything resembling décor." I served as tour manager my junior year and president and tour manager my senior year. As I recall, if one sat in the correct position, one could see out the "too small" windows and follow the meandros pattern of the grill on the outside. Sometimes I allowed my mind to meander a bit in that room as well.

Fobes Lounge is where the annual campus-wide blood drive was set up. I had given blood regularly since high school (and continue to), so I decided to go following my afternoon senior religion seminar on Immanuel Kant. The seminar was a three-hour event once a week. The participants in the class were the religion faculty and the other senior majors. Each week a different student led the class. That day was my turn. The material was way above me. There sat my colleagues along with **Raymond Williams H'68**, **Eric Dean H'61**, **Bill Placher '70** (my advisor), **Hall Peebles H'63**, and a visiting scholar.

After that experience, which I was convinced ruined my chance of graduating, I went to give blood. After the normal questions, they took my temperature and blood pressure. Then they invited me to sit on the long couch for a while. I asked why. They said my blood pressure was so high that they were concerned I might collapse! They asked if I had done anything that might precipitate this, and I told them about the senior seminar. My blood pressure did come down, but they deferred me to the next blood drive. That was the only time I ever sat on any of the furniture in Fobes Lounge.

—**C. Davies Reed '85**



## Wabash Wrap-up: A Look Back



### **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Attorney **Angela B. Freeman** delivered the keynote address at the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day event.



### **“AMEN” Art Exhibition**

Community members gathered for the opening of “AMEN,” an exhibition by 2025 Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust Artist-In-Residence **Julian Jamaal Jones**. “AMEN” explores the experience of an evolving faith rooted in the artist’s affinity for the Black church—a communal space housing a subset of Black expression and spirituality.



### **Celebration**

To kick off the spring semester, 102 students presented 33 talks and 33 posters or exhibitions at the 25th Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work. Students shared a variety of topics showcasing the breadth and depth of knowledge achieved in their Wabash education. The psychology department also hosted a research celebration of their students’ work at the end of the semester.



## Moments



### WPLP

The Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program (WPLP) hosted its annual cohort reunion. WPLP is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and hosted by Wabash College. It exists to affirm the high calling of early-career Indiana pastors and to expand pastoral imagination.



### Lunar New Year

The Asian Culture Club hosted a Lunar New Year celebration with food, games, and conversation to welcome the Year of the Snake.



### Family Day

Students, friends, and family celebrated Wabash Family Day with activities, sports, and more.



### President's Distinguished Speaker Series

Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, president and CEO of Do Good Work Consulting Group, delivered his address, "The Belonging Imperative: Creating Conditions for Connection, Community & Success," as part of the President's Distinguished Speaker Series. He also hosted a workshop for faculty and staff.



### Wabash Leaders Scholarship

Several students, prospective students, and alumni met at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to celebrate the Wabash Leaders Scholarship and Program, established by **Steve '63** and **Connie Ferguson** and supported by **Mark '76** and **Helen Miles** and others. Now in its fifth year, the Wabash Leaders Scholarship provides the full cost of tuition and room and board at the College for up to four years to select students who exhibit a high probability of becoming a leader within their communities.



### Hall of Fame

Former Swimming and Diving Coach and Assistant Director of Athletics **Gail Pebworth H'91** was inducted as a member of the Class of 2025 into the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America Division III Hall of Fame. Mayor **Todd Barton '00** presented a proclamation in her honor.





### Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies

The Malcom X Institute of Black Studies hosted a full lineup of events during the spring semester. Black History Month events included lunch talks, art shows, a wellness conversation, Brother-to-Brother conversations, and the formal Red Velvet event featuring food, music, comedy, and camaraderie. Later in the spring, MXIBS hosted the Essence Fashion Show (pictured) with a runway event full of color and style.



### Leadership Breakfast

Hosted by the Wabash Club of Indianapolis, the 2025 Leadership Breakfast focused on “Bridging Gaps: Leadership in Transforming Healthcare Accessibility.” Featured speakers included **Mike Braun ’76**, 52nd governor of Indiana; **Dr. Lisa Harris**, CEO of Eskenazi Health; and **Dr. Juan Carlos Venis ’09**, assistant professor of clinical family medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine. The WCI also presented its Man of the Year Award to **Dr. John Roberts ’83** and **Dr. Scott Douglas ’84**.



### National Act

**BigXthaPlug** performed as the main act at the National Act concert. Several student organizations, including Student Senate, Brewing Society, DJ Club, MXIBS, IMA, and WAR Council, partnered to provide food, beverages, and activities ahead of the event.

### Boat Races

The boat races were among the favorites of the many activities during Admitted Student Weekend in March.



### “12 Angry Men”

The Wabash Theater Department’s production of “12 Angry Men” was directed by **Logan Weilbaker ’25**. Weilbaker says, “‘12 Angry Men’ is a play about the kind of conflict that occurs when people with different beliefs are forced into conversations that challenge those beliefs. In my experience, that’s exactly what happens at Wabash. Whether within the confines of a jury room, a small discussion-based class, or the close quarters of the Experimental Theater, it is difficult to come face-to-face with new ideas. That’s also what the world desperately needs right now: the ability to challenge the ideas we hold dear, especially when it is hard.”

Pictured above is **Tom Oppman ’25** who played Juror #8.





### ◀ The Sound of Music

The Wabash Glee Club (pictured) performed multiple concerts this spring, including a variety of musical genres and styles from its Spring Break Tour. Piano students highlighted their talents in a spring student recital. The Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Ensembles held their spring concerts as well.



### Ribbon Cutting

A ribbon-cutting for the Montgomery County Early Learning Center took place on March 5. The Center, with support from Wabash College, Lilly Endowment Inc., city, county, and private industry, provides high-quality childcare for infants through age 5.



### ◀ Peck Lecture

“The nation’s most widely read and influential legal commentator,” **Jeffrey Rosen** (pictured), came to Wabash as the 2025 recipient of the David W. Peck Senior Medal for Eminence in the Law. The Junior Peck Medal winner was **Andrew Dever ’25**.



### ◀ Thin Walls

Over the course of the semester, Professor **Heidi Winters Vogel**’s theater class wrote, devised, and staged the play “Thin Walls: Men(tal) Health.” The ultimate performance will take place this summer when the class travels to Scotland to compete in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe during a one-of-a-kind immersive experience. Members of the cast included students in the course, **Sean Bledsoe ’26**, **Eamon Colglazier ’28**, **Alejandro Cruz ’27**, **Brody Frey ’26**, **Tyler Horton ’27**, **Dane Market ’26**, **Preston Parker ’26**, **Alex Schmidt ’27**, **Gabrien Smith ’27**, and **Carson Wirtz ’26**. The stage manager was **Xavier Cienfuegos ’27**. The students chose the title of the play, “Thin Walls,” to emphasize its central themes—the thin walls that separate men, the veneer men create for themselves when expressing their masculinity, and the thin walls they use to hide the choices they make in their lives.

**The ultimate performance will take place this summer when the class travels to Scotland to compete in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe during a one-of-a-kind immersive experience.**





### Coloring Contest

Members of the Sphinx Club painted the Senior Bench as designed by **Isla Fishero**, the winner of the 2024 Homecoming “Design the Bench” competition. Fishero is the great-granddaughter of **Max Servies ’58**.

Scan to enter this year's contest.



### TGIF

Phi Gamma Delta celebrated the opening of its new patio by hosting the semester's final TGIF.



### Spring Festival

La Alianza held a Spring Festival with food trucks, soccer, and activities.



### ◀ Shabazz Visit

**Ilyasah Shabazz**, daughter of Malcolm X, spoke on campus about “Growing Up X.” She also took part in a panel discussion (pictured) with **David J. Garrow** (second from right), **Julian Whitney** (right), **Garrard McClendon ’88** (left), and **Jamal Watson**.



### Korean Tea

Asian Studies hosted a Korean tea event led by Associate Professor of Economics **Christie Byun**.



### ◀ Quilt Day

The Wabash College art department and Sugar Creek Quilters hosted a Community Quilt Day to celebrate Montgomery County's quilting heritage and future. Features of the event included an exhibit titled “A Quilted Legacy,” works by Wabash Artist-in-Residence **Julian Jamaal Jones**, and a quilt block workshop.



### Soccer

The soccer team had a busy spring. Players hosted a multi-week youth soccer clinic at the Montgomery County Boys and Girls Club. Then Wabash soccer alumni hit the pitch in Mud Hollow for a friendly matchup with the current soccer team.



## Moments



### ◀ Pi Day

Wabash physics and mathematics faculty and students provided various demonstrations and activities at the Carnegie Museum's annual Pi Day celebration. The physics department also hosted local first graders for a demonstration day in Goodrich Hall and went to the Carnegie Museum again for a "Physics of Catapults" lesson (pictured).



### Senior Artists

Art majors **Nathan Allen '25**, **Seth Holtsclaw '25**, **Noah Pendleton '25**, and **Victor Polanco '25** dazzled the Eric Green Gallery walls with their senior art exhibition.



### Phi Beta Kappa

Twenty-three seniors and juniors were initiated into Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious academic honor society in the U.S.



### Roman Festival

The Classics department hosted the Roman Festival during the baseball doubleheader against ancient rival DePauw. The festivities featured games, food, and Roman-themed entertainment. Appropriate Roman attire was highly encouraged.



### Earth Day

In celebration of Earth Day, the student and faculty Environmental Concerns committees hosted a variety of events including a speaker, campus and community cleanups, a native gardening workshop, and an afternoon of music and relaxation on the mall (pictured).



### Snodell Scholars

Wabash College celebrated its newest group of Snodell Scholars at a gathering in Oak Brook, Illinois. The reception honored a group of incoming freshmen who will make up part of the Class of 2029. Snodell Scholars come from the Chicagoland area. The scholarships are a gift of **Walt '68** and **Kathy Snodell**.



### Awards Chapel

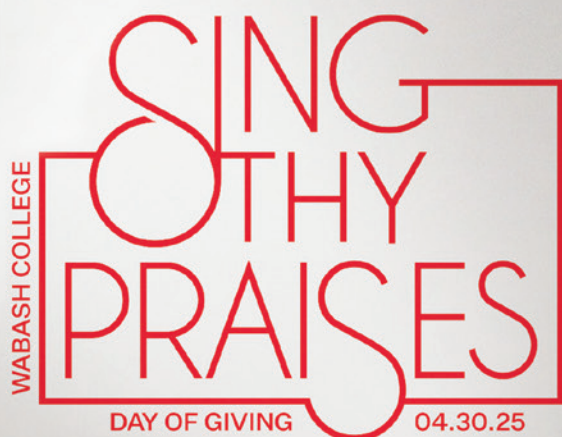
The annual Student Awards Chapel celebrated the accomplishments of dozens of outstanding Wabash students, including those seniors achieving distinction in their comprehensive examinations (Division I pictured) and the George Lewes Mackintosh fellows.



### Mystery Reader

Wabash College President Scott Feller stopped by Rainbows and Rhymes Preschool at First United Methodist Church to be a mystery reader. He told the children about his other job as a farmer and read a book about farm animals taking a ride on a tractor.





### Top Challenges by Gifts

Delta Tau Delta	794
Phi Gamma Delta	407
Class of 1991	319
Phi Delta Theta	309
Class of 1983	283
Beta Theta Pi	274
Lambda Chi Alpha	249
Sigma Chi	242
Phi Kappa Psi	237
Football	235
Basketball	233
Kappa Sigma	208
Class of 2016	195
Glee Club	178
MXIBS	175
Global Health	160
Tau Kappa Epsilon	159
Class of 1987	156
'shOUT	156
Sphinx Club	156

This year's Day of Giving raised

**\$1,825,622**

**\$2,138** per student

**\$817,000** raised by individuals, couples, and groups as lead and surprise challenge dollars

**3,460** unique donors made a record-setting **8,335** gifts

**448** donors have given on all 12 Days of Giving

**61** affinity challenges and **27** class challenges sponsored by **421** challenge donors

**307** first-time donors to the College

**554** student donors

### Top 10 Alumni Class # of Donors

1991	86
1989	53
2019	49
2018	49
1987	47
1977	46
2015	45
2005	45
1994	45
2013	44
2004	43
1990	43
1988	43
1985	43
1983	43



# CLASS OF 2025 COMM ENCE MENT







**“If we are created in the image of a God who wants to dwell with us, who over and over again chooses to run toward us, then it is also good for us to want to dwell with each other and to turn and reach for each other, to close the gap. We people only can thrive with each other. We live out the divine image when we shelter each other and create community that is about people and our thriving.”**

**Rev. Zachary Hoover '01 ▶**  
 excerpted from the Baccalaureate address







**“Let me remind you: The world we are entering into does not exist yet. It is waiting for young men who have been taught to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely to come forth and invent it. Wabash students are proven creators. When we venture beyond these classic halls today, we have the choice to create the world we want to inherit. I look forward to sharing that world with you.”**

◀ **Logan A. Weillbaker '25**  
Commencement Speaker







**“My fellow members of the Class of 2025, I ask—what will you grow with the seeds Wabash has given you? Will you choose what’s easy or what’s right? Because the world won’t always make it obvious when you’re doing the right thing. It won’t always clap for you when you lead with humility. And it won’t always make space for the kind of integrity this place has tried to instill in us. But that’s exactly when it counts the most. Don’t harden. Don’t turn away. Lead with conviction. But lead with compassion, too. Let the way you love people be the loudest thing about you.”**

◀ **Luis Rivera III '25**  
Commencement Speaker



**“Gentlemen, you have received a liberal arts education imbued with empathy and compassion. You are critical thinkers, effective communicators, and problem-solvers. You have built stores of resilience that will get you through the hard times ahead. And you are equipped with the knowledge and virtues to change the world. Our charge to you is simple: go forth and do exactly that.”**

◀ **President Scott E. Feller**  
to the Class of 2025 at Commencement







"It seems only a short time ago that I stood on the mall, accepted my diploma, and delivered a Commencement address. The thesis of that address was that the future does not belong to those who are content with today or apathetic about tomorrow, those who are timid or fearful of change, but rather, the future belongs to those who have dreams and the courage, the vision, and the dedication necessary to turn those dreams into reality. I confess it was a pretty heady statement then, but my life had changed because of my time here at Wabash and more change was to come."

◀ **Robert P. Chamness '75**  
Honorary Degree Recipient



"My four years at Wabash were the first time that anyone whose last name was not Clifford took an interest in me, an interest in my future, and explained to me the possibilities of life and what things could become. Watching the Baccalaureate exercise and thinking about my same experience almost 50 years ago, I could not have predicted that I'd be here today. I want to thank Wabash for teaching me to honor and understand history and the role it plays, and most important, how to learn from it and apply it. Wabash taught me to live in the present with enthusiasm and look forward to the future with confidence. When Wabash took a chance on this kid, the third oldest of 11 from the south side of Chicago, it took a big risk. If in some small way, the efforts of my family and me have made a difference in the lives of Wabash students and their families, I think we're going to declare victory and say, 'Mission accomplished.'"

◀ **Kevin G. Clifford '77**  
Honorary Degree Recipient











# REDEMPTION

by **Mawuli Nevis**,  
Senior Chapel Talk, April 23, 2025



## **ALMOST FAILED FRESHMAN TUTORIAL.**

My first semester at Wabash was tough. If I was at any other college, I would have dropped out and wouldn't be here today. In second grade, at the beginning of my education in the U.S., I felt like an outsider. I was in ESL classes, I spoke differently, I learned differently, and I acted differently than my peers. I had some successes in high school, but they were mostly at the expense of my morals and it's safe to say that out of high school I knew I wasn't on the path I wanted.

Coming to Wabash was never about athletics, academics, or a degree—it was about rewriting a story. The story that says where you start doesn't determine where you end up. This is what I call the redemptive spirit of Wabash: the power of transformation, grit, and grace.

I still make plenty of mistakes to this day. Redemption isn't about perfection, it's about grace. It's about the space to struggle without shame, and the courage to keep building, piece by piece, the person I want to become. Each activity I have done at Wabash has been part of my greater goal of becoming a man I can be proud of and making a difference in the world.

The mentorship I received at Wabash taught me what it feels like to not know the answer, and how to keep showing up anyway: to troubleshoot, to ask questions, to fail, and to try again. My confidence as a scientist doesn't come from my innate ability—it comes from my willingness to admit when I am wrong and to work through solutions until I get it right. I learned mistakes aren't the end of the process—they're part of the process.

Without Wabash, I wouldn't know how far I could push myself—physically and mentally. As a wrestler, there were days I wanted to quit, when the pain felt like it outweighed the purpose. But those days taught me what mental toughness means—not loving every moment, but choosing to show up anyway.

My last season, my body was falling apart—I had back pain, shoulder pain, and

knee pain—and in those moments, the question always crept in: Why am I here? Those thoughts can take a toll on your mental health. But if wrestling has taught me anything, it's that perseverance isn't about the absence of doubt—it's about learning to wrestle with it. To stand up, battered but unbroken, and step onto the mat again.

Without Wabash, I wouldn't know what it is to be part of a brotherhood. My fraternity brothers at Kappa Sigma showed up—not just to my wrestling matches or poster presentations, but to my life. From the day we moved in, I could have never predicted how much my longtime roommates, Ethan Bednarczyk '25, Phenix Carney '25, and Neal Laymon '25, would come to mean to me. It took some adjusting to the chaos of fraternity life, but through four years of ups and downs, they have been my constants. Their families have taken me in and given me a place to stay when I couldn't make it home.

“

**My confidence as a scientist doesn't come from my innate ability—it comes from my willingness to admit when I am wrong and to work through solutions until I get it right.”**

Despite coming from different backgrounds, these are the people I feel closest to. Brotherhood isn't about where you're from or what you look like—it's about showing up for each other, about mutual respect, about choosing to share life together. Because of these friendships, I know that no matter where life takes me after Wabash, I'll be able to find connections, build community, and feel at home.

The experiences I gained through the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS) and through applying for fellowships taught me how to advocate for myself. During my sophomore year, there were long discussions about the true role of the MXIBS on campus. One of my biggest regrets is that I stayed silent. I didn't trust my voice enough to speak up. Like I had done many times before, I chose silence as a way to avoid the sting of rejection. Fortunately, the MXIBS has become an organization that I can say I am proud to be a member of to this day.

My redemption at Wabash came unexpectedly during my study abroad semester, when I made a spontaneous decision to apply for the Truman Scholarship. I didn't win—didn't even get close. At first, it felt like this confirmed my fears about putting myself out there. But this time, I made a different choice. I decided I wasn't going to let that defeat linger. Instead, I kept building my story, I kept writing, and I kept asking for help. When the time came to apply for the Fulbright Research Fellowship, it felt like the biggest, scariest application—and somehow, I did it.

Well, not somehow. My gratitude goes to Susan Albrecht, fellowship advisor, for not giving up on me. I submitted my application with only minutes to spare. The months leading up to that moment were some of the most stressful I've experienced, but the feeling of crossing that finish line was unforgettable. Being named a semi-finalist was a win that I needed. More than anything, that process taught me how to advocate for myself, even when the odds or outcome is uncertain. Since then, I've become a “serial applier,” always looking for the next application—in each of them I learn more about myself. Working with Susan improved my writing exponentially, but more important, it helped me find my voice. That's a skill I will carry with me into every fellowship application, every research grant, and every personal statement I write on my path toward medicine.



I wouldn't know what it feels like to be truly loved if not for the personal relationships in my life—the unbelievable loyalty of my roommates, the intentionality and care of my girlfriend, and the deep interconnectedness I feel through the many friendships, organizations, mentors, and communities I am part of. These relationships have taught me how to open up, how to listen, and how to show up for others in ways I didn't think I was capable of. I am the man I am today because of the people around me and the way these interactions have shaped my outlook on life. I am a better listener, a stronger advocate, and, I hope, a more reliable friend and partner—qualities I believe reflect what a man should strive to be.

Which brings me back to the beginning of my Wabash story.

In another timeline—one where I didn't come here—I don't know who I would be, but I'm certain it wouldn't be this version of myself. Because Wabash is a place that gives you the space to struggle and still succeed. It's a place where the "redemptive spirit" lives in its people—the faculty who believed

in me, the teammates who pushed me, the communities that gave me room to grow into my own voice. I won't pretend it was easy. I am far from finished and still have plenty of flaws to work through. What I've learned here, though, is that with hard work and persistence, you can accomplish just about anything. It doesn't matter what's in front of you or how far behind you feel.

My generation likes to say "LOCK IN" as a joke—but there's wisdom in that. Lock in to your purpose. Lock in to your growth. Lock in to the belief that you're capable, even when it feels like you're not.

Back in Ghana, there's a saying:

"Mma nea wuntumi nye nsiw wo kwan wo nea wubetumi aye"

Which roughly translates to: "Let not what you cannot do deter you from what you can do."

For me, that has meant getting back up when I've fallen. It has meant choosing to belong, even in the face of imposter syndrome. It has meant having the courage to step into spaces where I didn't always feel like I belonged and trusting that hard work

could carry me where confidence sometimes could not. I'm never the most talented in the room. I'm not always the most confident. But if there's one thing I know I have for sure, it's my work ethic. That's something my upbringing gave me. Here at Wabash, I learned how to shape that raw drive into something meaningful.

Back to where I started: I almost failed freshman tutorial.

I say that again because it matters. Failure here didn't mean the end of my story—it was the beginning of learning what redemption looks like. Wabash is the kind of place you can fall behind and still catch up, you can lose yourself and still find meaning, you can be shaped by hardship but never defined by it. The redemptive spirit of Wabash isn't about never falling—it's about what you do when you hit the ground. It's about the people who surround you, the communities that hold you accountable, the professors who refuse to let you settle for less than your best, and the friends who keep the door open and the light on. ■





# WRESTLING

by Richard Paige

**MAWULI NEVIS '25 HAS A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP** with wrestling. The sport has given him drive, discipline, and an appreciation for hard work. The choice to compete at the highest levels possible often requires a sacrifice and determination that forces other life choices to take a back seat.

Now that his wrestling career is complete with four varsity letters, 70 victories, and a trip to the national championships, Nevis, the 2025 Arthur Ashe Jr.

Wrestling Sports Scholar of the Year, knows the reward isn't about the accolades.

"It's more about the journey than the goal," he says. "I'm probably the hardest working person in any room. I'm not necessarily going to be the smartest or the quickest, but I can always rely on the memory that I put in the work."

He didn't make it easy on himself. When he arrived on campus in the fall of 2021, the Cincinnati native joined too many clubs in addition to his wrestling, found himself overextended, and had a miserable freshman year. A "trial by fire kind of thing," he calls it, but he used it as a learning experience. It taught him to better handle stress and manage his time.

**"I am not necessarily trying to be perfect, but rather I am always trying to be my best self. We only have one life, so I want to make the most of it."**

To hold himself and those close to him accountable, Nevis convinced his roommates to agree to a simple deal: anyone who skipped class had to buy dinner for the roommates that night.

"Oh, I guess I can't miss any more 8 a.m. physics classes," remembers roommate and friend Phenix Carney '25. "Mawuli's mindset is consistent growth. He's definitely rubbed off on me in that way, too, just attacking what you can and working hard toward your goals."

That drive can be seen in other ways as well. Nevis isn't simply a wrestler or a fraternity member. He's a biology major, an organic chemistry tutor, and worked in a National Science Foundation-funded lab. He worked for a local non-profit and has studied abroad in South America.

All these facets point him toward the goal of medical school and becoming a physician—after he spends the next year in Lima, Peru, as a Fulbright research fellow. He is even considering an M.D./Ph.D. program post-graduation because he likes the research so much.

"I think of him as speaking multiple languages," says Kurt Knochel '84, an emergency medicine physician in Cincinnati and a mentor to Nevis. "He speaks the language of science, the language of faith, the language of compassion, and the language of selflessness. These are the kinds of things that are going to make him a good clinician. A lot of doctors are smart and proficient, but not all are great clinicians because they don't have the interpersonal skills that he does."

Knochel tells a story of the first email he received from Nevis, who was looking for a mentor. In it was the admission that "I am as lost as I can possibly be when it comes to my future."

Knochel used it as a starting point for conversations that Nevis now credits for strengthening his faith, his focus, and his future.

"I am someone who can never be complacent about the current state of my being," Nevis says. "I am not necessarily trying to be perfect, but rather I am always trying to be my best self. We only have one life, so I want to make the most of it." ■



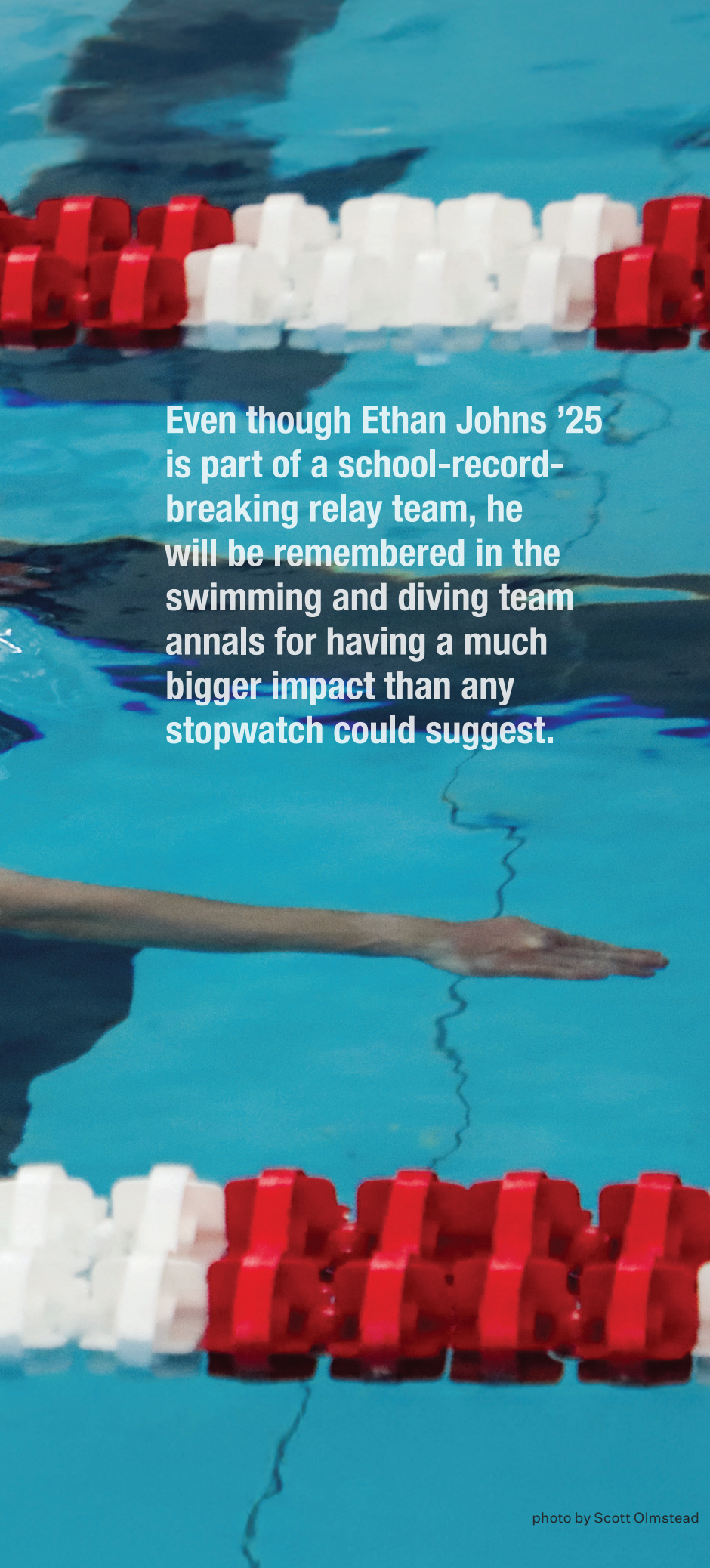
A full-page photograph of a swimmer in a pool. The swimmer is in the center, wearing a red swim cap and goggles, with their arms extended forward. The water is a vibrant blue. Two rows of lane lines, alternating between white and red floats, are visible above and below the swimmer. The title 'ETHAN'S POOL RULES' is overlaid in large, bold, white and blue letters.

# ETHAN'S POOL RULES

by Kim Johnson

WV



A photograph of a swimmer's arm reaching out horizontally in a pool. The water is a deep blue. In the foreground and background, there are lane lines made of red and white plastic floats. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Even though Ethan Johns '25 is part of a school-record-breaking relay team, he will be remembered in the swimming and diving team annals for having a much bigger impact than any stopwatch could suggest.

**E**VEN BEFORE ETHAN JOHNS '25 COULD SWIM, he knew he wanted to be fast.

"All my siblings swam," says Johns, the youngest of four children. "When I was 2, my parents said I wanted to be faster than my brother. I've always wanted to be like him and live up to what he's done."

Johns learned to swim when he was 3 years old and began swimming competitively at 6. He chased his older brother Elliot '16 and his speed all the way through Wabash. While Elliot still holds the 200-meter freestyle record at the College, Ethan made his own mark on the record board as a member of two of the current fastest relay teams.

"It was a celebration of all the work we put in and everything we'd done throughout the season, all the hard sets, all the early mornings," says Johns. "It was really rewarding to see that pay off in a huge way."

But as great as it is to see his name beside a record, he has continued to ponder something his high school coach said frequently.

"He said, 'You won't remember the times you swam but the times you had,'" recalls Johns. "All the memories I've made through the past 15 years of swimming, especially the ones at Wabash, are going to stick with me."

Wabash swimmers and divers for years to come will feel his impact on the pool deck as he worked to build moments the team would remember.

"He does the right thing every time," says teammate Mason Gilliam '28. "If you're looking to know what to do, you look to him. He doesn't even have to say it. He just has a commanding presence."

Johns is known as a good friend too.

"He always cares about what's going on and he knows what to say," teammate Nicholas Plumb '27 says. "My freshman year, I was struggling adapting to college training. He told me, 'You're here for a reason; you're going to get better here.'"

"I genuinely believe he made the team what it is today," Plumb continues. "We are culture centered, and we care a lot about the quality of the person more than how fast they are."

Johns admits the current culture is the result of intentional work.





photos by Scott Olmstead



photo courtesy of Will Bernhardt

“Ethan has helped me so much throughout four years as my swim instructor,” says Liam Bernhardt, who has taken lessons from Johns since he was 7. “He taught me better technique and how to be faster in all the strokes, plus starts and turns, and how to stay straight—if I’m coming in straight, it’s just faster. You have to lock it all in.”

“I’m proud of the guys in my class. We took on building the program up and finding small things we can do,” he says. “Seeing the culture grow is really rewarding.”

Growing into a more vocal leader also took intentional effort. He pushed himself to step into bigger, more active leadership roles through his fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha, and as a team captain. But it came with new challenges.

“Ethan was elected a team captain his sophomore year,” says Will Bernhardt, head swimming and diving coach. “It’s the first time in 25 years coaching I had a sophomore captain. It was good, but also overwhelming.

“In his mind, he couldn’t struggle because he was the captain—the guy that should have all of his stuff together,” continues Bernhardt. “Through that he learned it’s okay to struggle. Those times he didn’t know the answer helped him grow and become the leader he was his junior and senior years.”

Johns is grateful for the opportunity to lead in a variety of ways but realizes the challenges that come with greater responsibility.

“I was able to take on a lot of roles across campus. At times, it stretched me a little thin,” he says. “In my sophomore year, I was rush chair of my fraternity, captain on the swim team, and had a large course load. Managing all those responsibilities was very tough. Scarlet Honors Weekend was right before finals and also the DePauw dual meet. I was trying to delegate things in Lambda Chi to make sure all of the prospective students were taken care of while focusing on my academics and athletics.

“It was a nerve-racking day, and the meet was very close,” Johns says. “I personally didn’t have a great meet, but it reminded me that swimming is a team sport. A lot of my teammates stepped up and did way better than anyone would have thought they could, and that made the difference. Those challenges help you grow as a person and remind you that you can go through hard things.”

Serving as a captain for three years allowed him to grow into the type of leader he envisioned.

“I’ve been able to understand how to work through interpersonal relationships, to make sure everyone is in the best headspace and is

taken care of as a person. Then the whole team can thrive,” Johns says. “Leading by example helped me become a captain. As a captain, I worked on using my voice to help motivate people. There are so many ways you can impact a team other than scoring points. You can be a great teammate by encouraging others, being there when they need it, and giving words of wisdom.”

Bernhardt appreciates the consistency Johns brings to the team.

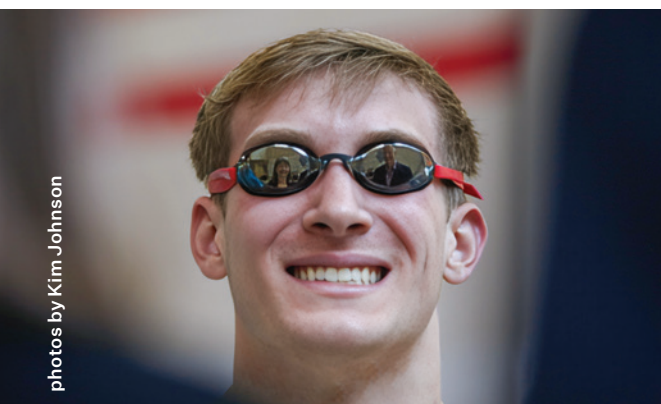
“The thing that impresses me most about Ethan is his constant work ethic and his pursuit of being the best person he can be,” says Bernhardt. “Every day he comes in with a goal. He comes in ready to tackle whatever is on the docket for that day. He is committed to not only making himself better, but how he can make everyone else around him better.”

Johns has learned to persevere even through the off days and the losses.

“One lesson swimming has helped me understand is you can put in all the work and still come up short of your goal,” Johns says. “There have been seasons that I’ve trained as hard as I thought I could and come up short. But secondary to that is you have to keep going back to it. You can’t let that get to your head; you’ve got to keep putting in the work and focusing on your process. There’s no guarantee, but it’s worth going for it, rather than just giving up on a goal.”



One example was beating his brother's 200-freestyle record. Johns had one last-chance meet after the NCAC conference meet. He missed it by .10 seconds. Not reaching the goal taught his teammates as much as setting records.



“

To see the growth in Ethan since arriving at Wabash and now graduating, it's phenomenal," says Keith Johns, Ethan's father. "Coming to Wabash pulled him into leading people in a different way. He was more cautious and reserved through high school. He has learned a lot of lessons on what it takes to meet people where they are, lead, and contribute."

"It was silent when he touched the wall," Plumb recalls. "I knew this was going to be the greatest season of his career, because he worked so hard last summer. Ethan was not going down without a fight. Even though he didn't get there, the message was he was not giving up. It was his senior year, his last swim ever, and he still left it all in the pool. He gave me so much confidence just from who he is as a leader and as a swimmer."

Above all, Johns likes to keep it light on the pool deck.

"He just likes to have fun," Plumb says. "He knows having fun is how he is going to do the best."

His secret is simple.

"I always smile before my races," Johns says. "My mom is a dentist. She loves to see my smile. She says you swim faster with a smile. I've done all the preparation. I have done so many strokes, so many laps, so many races already. My body knows what to do, so I just get excited. My parents make sure they are at my meets. With Mom in the stands, I have some extra incentive to smile before I race. That helps me calm down and kick any nerves I have."

Left: Ethan Johns '25 with his father, Keith Johns, and mother, Ellen Johns.



Ethan Johns '25 and his brother Elliot '16

photo courtesy of Will Bernhard

As he leaves Wabash and heads to Indiana University School of Medicine, he takes with him the times he shared with teammates in and out of the water. He hopes the unofficial record book reflects his impact on the team for years to come.

"This has been the most important part of my Wabash career," Johns says. "I hope it remains the most important part of all their Wabash careers—put in effort and take pride in that, make it a home for you and many others for years to come. I just want them to keep pushing the boundary on what Wabash swimming and diving can do in the pool and in the community." ■



photo by Scott Olmstead





# THE OUTDOORSY KID

by Allie Northcutt

**W**HILE HE WAS FLOATING in St. Lucie, surrounded by Florida's beautifully diverse ecosystem, it hit him.

"I want to be doing something in the water for the rest of my life."

Matt Lepper '25 had an epiphany on a boat his junior year. It was during a spring break immersion experience with Biology Professor Brad Carlson's advanced ecology class in the Florida Everglades.

During that experience, the biology major and environmental studies minor assisted in gopher tortoise research, collected data for an independent research project, gave a presentation in a cypress swamp, and, ultimately, discovered his niche.

"My passions lie in aquatic ecology," says Lepper. "That's what I'm going to do."

Carlson recalls Lepper soaking in every moment of the immersion trip.

"He's clearly at home in the wilderness. He is eager to see, touch, and talk about living things, and quick to make connections with people everywhere," he says. "I remember the joy and curiosity on his face as he helped remove a gopher tortoise from its burrow for examination, and him giving a bear hug to a guide who led the group on a boat tour along the Florida coast."

"There was no doubt from watching him on that trip that a career in fish ecology would be perfect for him."

Lepper has been accepted into graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB), where he will study environmental science and policy.



Starting this summer, he will join UWGB's aquatic ecology and fisheries labs and will begin conducting research on fish species as part of a four-year project funded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assess the success of prior conservation efforts.

"I'll be examining things like the reproduction of a few fish species, their population dynamics, and what their movement is like," says Lepper. "We'll be looking at big fish species, mainly yellow perch, all the way up to large apex predators like lake sturgeon and northern pike."

**Matt Lepper '25** enjoys an afternoon of fishing on Lake Waveland in southern Montgomery County near Turkey Run State Park.

photos by Julia Moravec



**DUBBING HIMSELF** “the outdoorsy kid,” Lepper recalls his summers growing up being spent wading through a creek or hopping on a boat to cast out a line.

“I’ve been a fisherman for as long as I could hold a rod,” says the Fort Wayne, Indiana, native. “That’s been my life blood outside of academics and athletics.”

Lepper took all the earth science classes offered in middle school, thrived in advanced biology and chemistry in high school, and wanted to attend a college where he could explore careers in the field.

At Wabash he joined the Sphinx Club, became a Global Health Initiative fellow, worked as a biology department research assistant, served as president of the Independent Men’s Association, and chaired the Environmental Concerns Committee.

“Once I saw how much you’re able to do here and how much this place will support you in being involved, that was when I knew this is the place for me,” says Lepper, who

took advantage of opportunities to attend cultural and sporting events as well as hear speakers and lectures on campus.

**LEPPER IS PARTICULARLY** proud of his work with the Environmental Concerns Committee, from leading community cleanup efforts and serving veggie burgers at Sphinx Club social events to partnering with Carlson on a recycling project that led to Wabash being awarded a \$34,920 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for new campus recycling bins.

“My mom and grandpa came for a visit last semester, and as I was taking them on a tour of campus, I gleefully pointed out all the recycling bins,” Lepper says with a laugh. “It was exciting to see the work we put in that stemmed from a passion for trying to preserve, to protect, and to revitalize turned into a tangible thing having a positive impact.”

Biology Professor Amanda Ingram says she is inspired by Lepper’s efforts to educate and get his classmates excited about ways they can create a greener environment.

“I’ve really appreciated how Matt never seems frustrated and works to find projects he feels the community can get behind,” says Ingram. “The energy he brings to projects just fires up everyone around him.”

**LEPPER’S DRIVE** impressed the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Maryland, which hosted him as a Terrestrial Ecology Lab intern for two summers.

Lepper investigated how microbes and environmental stressors can affect soybean growth. He also got to be a part of BiodiversiTree, the largest tree study in the country, which investigates more than 14,000 trees and studies how tree biodiversity affects ecosystem function.







**“There’s a form of leadership that happens even when there are not others to lead, like leading yourself through a situation. At Wabash, that’s been ingrained into my mentality. I approach things as a leader whether there’s a group of people or I’m leading myself.”**



**Matt Lepper '25 and classmates during spring break in the Florida Everglades as part of Biology Professor Brad Carlson's advanced ecology class.**



“The first summer was a ton of bolstering my lab and field techniques, and the second time around I was like, ‘I can really do this thing,’” says Lepper. “It gave me the confidence and reassurance that I’ve been around the block before. I’m getting good experience, and I’m prepped to take on whatever’s next.”

The internships also gave Lepper an opportunity to show off his leadership skills.

“In both summers there were tons of instances where I had to think critically, then trust my gut and preparation to move forward,” he explains. “There’s a form of leadership that happens even when there are not others to lead, like leading yourself through a situation. At Wabash, that’s been ingrained into my mentality. I approach things as a leader whether there’s a group of people or I’m leading myself.”

SERC is home to some of the most productive and respected researchers in the field, Carlson explains, and it’s clear to him Lepper was able to hold his own and represent Wabash well.

“Matt must have made an impression on them, because even though we provide support to send one student per year to SERC, it’s the first time since I’ve been here that we were asked if we could find a way to send a student back,” says Carlson. “The opportunity to be embedded in an entire community of scientists and to be given an important role was central to maturing him and enculturating him into the world of ecological research.”

“You learn a lot in your first summer research experience, but you learn a lot more when you can go back and bring the skills you’ve already learned and the understanding of how science is a team sport,” adds Ingram. “SERC is an amazing environment for someone who wants to immerse themselves in ecological research. I am so glad Matt got to be a part of that.”

**AFTER HE EARNS** his master’s degree, Lepper has dreams of becoming a biologist with the DNR, focused on fish and wildlife, or of continuing to pursue aquatic ecology research.

Carlson says he will miss having his lab assistant and advisee around Hays Hall to share boisterous laughs in class and heart-to-hearts in his office.

“I’ll miss the enthusiasm and the can-do spirit,” says Carlson. “Matt was always ready to do the heavy lifting, to make things happen, and to deliver on promises.”

As he reflects on his last four years, Lepper says he’s thankful for all the opportunities and people at Wabash who helped him figure out where he belonged in the world of science.

“I really found myself at Wabash,” says Lepper. “Coming here is the best decision I’ve made. I wouldn’t trade these experiences with peers, faculty, and staff for anything else in the world.” ■

**Matt Lepper '25** helped organize multiple campus clean-up days, including one during the spring semester.







# Asking Why

by Adam Phipps '11



# S

torytelling  
comes naturally  
to Noah McRoberts '25.

“If there’s a universal human thing, it’s storytelling,” says McRoberts. “Everyone has a background, a lens through which they see the world. Music, theater, film—they all influence that.”

Noah colors in the world with his voice. In addition to his involvement as a reporter for *The Bachelor*, McRoberts produces the “Keepin’ Up with the Theta Dels” podcast, which features current students and alumni of Theta Delta Chi fraternity.

Associate Professor of Religion Jonathan Baer is unsurprised by McRoberts’ talents behind the microphone, having also seen him in action as the play-by-play announcer for the Wabash College Video Network’s home sporting events.

“He’s a skilled conversationalist,” says Baer, one of McRoberts’ mentors and a faculty advisor to Theta Delta Chi. “He’s become quite captivated with the power of narrative to shape our worldviews. He’s developed a real love for stories.”

Playing the easygoing conversationalist wasn’t always simple for McRoberts. Being homeschooled didn’t initially match up with his experience of the campus’s fraternity life. He lived as an independent and served as a resident assistant during his first two years at Wabash.

“The culture shock initially scared me,” he says. “By my junior year, independent life started to get a little bit disenchanting. I was looking for a new group.”

All it took was an invite from Theta Delta Chi’s president for McRoberts to find a new story to tell about himself.

Comparing student life as an independent with his time in the fraternity, McRoberts finds value in both chapters of his four years on campus. What he struggled to foster in the residence halls suddenly became unavoidable in the fraternity—learning to live in community with others.

“To encounter people you disagree with is 100% a good thing,” he says. “The number one thing you’ll always be doing in life is working with people and trying to make relationships better. When you’re having every single meal with the same group of guys, you get to know them pretty well.”

McRoberts has sought to find common ground with friends in diverse circles, and he appreciated talking with those who held differing viewpoints leading him to write new, more complex stories.

McRoberts remembers long talks early in his Wabash career with friends at the Newman Catholic Center.

“We would shoot (ideas) back and forth,” McRoberts says. “There were informal nights sitting on the Newman Center porch, where we would just talk for hours. I enjoyed the give-and-take of sharing different theologies. That was one of the first pure liberal arts experiences I had at Wabash.”

Connecting with others and considering new ideas fascinate the religion and Classics double major. He is curious about what influences people and links them to something bigger.

“It’s the why, rather than the what,” he says. “I’m trying to understand how people work, partially to understand how I work and how to live best in the world. What are we here to do? What helps us improve? What helps us be better friends, better parents. I’m a person here on Earth, and I want to do it well.”

Baer appreciates McRoberts’ approach.

“I like that distinction,” Baer says. “In the humanities, we emphasize that question: Why? Noah understands that deeper than many students. He is hungry to learn and grow in ways that are enlivening. He has a restless, searching spirit that pushes him to dig.”

The restless spirit identified by his mentor is evident in McRoberts’ plans following graduation. He is keeping his options open and considering teaching, film, script writing, and even architecture.

One certainty for McRoberts is his desire to utilize what he has gained from telling people’s stories at Wabash in whichever community he finds himself.

“Something I’ve learned about myself is I want to be intentional about the story I see myself in,” he says. “That’s the whole liberal arts thing—you take ideas from this domain or that domain, and you add them together. That’s what a Wabash education does best.” ■



# REDEFINING LEADERSHIP

by Allie Northcutt

## **H**OW MUCH POWER DOES ONE VOICE HAVE?

It was a question Oscar Jacome Huesca '25 posed in an audio essay four years ago after completing the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP) summer institute.

In his essay, the first-generation college student shared that much of his childhood was spent “being reserved and keeping to myself.” Fear kept him from developing closer relationships with friends and asking questions when he did not understand something.

He came to Wabash and signed up for courses that forced him to participate in public speaking as a way to challenge those anxieties.

“I’ve learned that speech has the power to cultivate an identity,” Jacome Huesca shared in the essay. “My voice is an extension of who I am, so I should take pride in speaking. I hope this knowledge will help me continue to develop a voice that is fully mine.”

Now, Jacome Huesca can’t help but smile when thinking about how far he’s come.

While he may not be the loudest student vocally, his

actions and involvement across campus speak volumes about his influence and growth.

“I am not the same person I was four years ago, and I am very proud of that,” Jacome Huesca says. “I put myself out there and strive to involve myself in as many things as I can.”

The music major and art minor sang with the Glee Club and played the saxophone with the Jazz Ensemble, Pep Band, and Mariachi Pequeños Gigantes. He has served in leadership roles with 'shOUT and La Alianza; he worked as a stitcher in the costume shop; and spent a summer studying abroad in Salzburg, Austria.

“I found a passion in performing I didn’t quite have before,” says Jacome Huesca, who was a member of Crawfordsville High School’s concert and marching bands.

“I’ve become more confident, especially when it comes to performing music,” he says. “I still experience some nerves leading up to a show, but once I’m onstage and the music starts, my mind goes somewhere else and everything naturally falls into place.”

Assistant Professor of Music Mollie Ables recalls the first time

she saw Jacome Huesca perform. His stage presence stood out in contrast to what she had experienced in the classroom.

“He’s what I like to call a classroom sniper,” Ables says. “He waits with this endless patience, and then when you least expect it, he delivers something big that makes me say, ‘Oh, I hadn’t thought of it that way. Thank you, Oscar!’”

“I watched a shift happen when he performed with the Jazz Ensemble, which naturally has a very loud presence, one that prioritizes improvising and constant, dynamic collaboration,” she continues. “What he doesn’t always do in speech, he is able to flawlessly do in his performances. Watching him have those musical conversations with people is fascinating.”

Ables has admired Jacome Huesca’s drive to challenge himself to try new things, like learning how to play the soprano saxophone as part of his senior seminar project.

“He didn’t have to do that,” she says. “He could have stuck to repertoire that he already knew, but without anyone asking him to, he sought out the thing that was going to challenge him the most.”

With her office located down the hall from practice rooms, Ables got to hear the progression of Jacome Huesca figuring out the new instrument.

“It was very satisfying to hear him improve his intonation and technique,” she says. “When students are first learning a new instrument, it’s about the technique and fundamentals. What’s really fun is, at a certain point, you hear them starting to make music. You can hear their voice in it. You can hear them putting themselves into it. By the end of the semester, I could tell Oscar was not just playing notes, he was vibing.”

Art Professor Matt Weedman says Jacome Huesca is “one of the bravest students we have at Wabash,” specifically recalling watching the senior lead Mariachi Pequeños Gigantes at La Alianza’s Posada last semester as he sang while wandering through the crowd of celebration attendees.

“He’s clearly naturally quiet and feels uncomfortable in front of people, yet he constantly puts himself in that place. And to me, that’s as brave as you can get,” Weedman says. “When we talk about teaching students to push themselves—there’s nobody pushing harder in that realm than Oscar. I really respect how much of his comfort he’s willing to give up in order to have a fulfilling Wabash College experience.”

Weedman says Jacome Huesca has also challenged him as an educator by demonstrating that student success can come in many forms.



“Oscar helped me be more in tune with possibilities of students, especially the ones who are a little quieter, who maybe sit in the back of the room and don’t make it all about themselves,” Weedman says. “He understands a way of being successful that isn’t the straightforward, linear way we usually assume. He’s taught me to continue to not assume we understand students before we actually get to know them.”

Ables appreciates Jacome Huesca’s quiet leadership.

“It’s easy to associate getting involved with being vocal. He’s demonstrated there are ways to be vocal and loud through service, actions, and devoting your time and attention to people and causes that matter to you,” Ables adds. “He doesn’t talk about doing it, he just does it. It’s impactful in the work itself, but it also shows there doesn’t have to be one type of person that can have this kind of presence on campus.”

Jacome Huesca, who plans to pursue a career in music, shared advice for his freshman self and any other students who may be struggling to find their voice.

“Don’t be afraid,” he says. “Whether that be with joining a new club, trying something new, or meeting new people—just put yourself out there.” ■







# Empathy & Humility

by Allie Northcutt

**T**HE SON OF TWO NURSES, Jacob Ramirez '25 knew he wanted to pursue a career in health care, but he was originally unsure what exactly.

His father encouraged him to set his sights on medical school, but Ramirez wanted to keep his options open as he began at Wabash intending to major in biology.

"I had physical therapy in the back of my head coming to Wabash," Ramirez says. "I knew there were other doors within health care that would be open for me; I just wasn't confident in how to get there."

He took the advice of his fraternity brother, Francisco Jimenez '24, to check out Wabash's Global Health Initiative (GHI).

"Francisco was also a biology major, interested in medical school, and was from Texas—roughly 20 minutes from where I'm from. It was like we were walking in the same shoes," says Ramirez, who is from Alamo, Texas. "He was passionate about the GHI and I valued his opinion, so I decided to give it a chance."

The GHI is a collection of opportunities that allow students to learn about and work in public health through coursework and service in communities locally, regionally, and internationally.

GHI students have served in various roles, including working for public health organizations like the Montgomery County Health Department, Franciscan Health, Crooked Creek Food Pantry, Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, and Shaping Our Appalachian Region Inc. (SOAR).



“Jacob came in with this real sense of pride and wanting to give back. He recognized the reality of how difficult it can be for some communities to access health care and was really drawn to the work we do in Peru.” **Eric Wetzel**



“The students shared stories about their internships and how those experiences left a positive impact on them, the communities, and the people they served,” Ramirez says. “I thought that was inspiring.”

Ramirez joined the program his sophomore year and spent three weeks that summer providing health assistance to impoverished communities across Peru, South America, alongside GHI-Peru.

He enjoyed participating in Corazones Excepcionales (“Exceptional Hearts” or COEX), one of GHI-Peru Association’s programs that teaches speaking, reading, and fundamental life skills to children with Down syndrome.

Having grown up with a sister who has Down syndrome, Ramirez felt a personal connection to the families he met.

“When I was working with the kids, I kept thinking about my sister,” he says. “I loved seeing the smiles on their faces. When they had smiles on their faces, I had a smile, and when they didn’t, I worked to change that.”

Professor of Biology and GHI Director Eric Wetzel was with Ramirez the following summer when he returned to Peru as part of Wetzel’s global health class.

“Jacob came in with this sense of pride and wanting to give back,” Wetzel says. “He recognized the reality of how difficult it can be for some communities to access health care and was drawn to the work we do in Peru.”

Wetzel says Ramirez stood out as a leader while providing a range of services to Peruvians, including tutoring and translating.

“It felt like a big homecoming,” explains Wetzel, who has been leading the Peru immersion experience for more than a

decade. “Jacob is beloved by all—the health care workers, program leaders, women in the community, the kids.

“There’s a group photo that was taken after one of our workshops that summer. He’s standing in the center, with a big smile on his face, holding hands with one of the older ladies who receives services,” Wetzel says. “That image perfectly captures the trust, relationships, and connections he made within the community. There’s so much empathy and humility there.”

Thanks to a collaboration with Scott Rathgaber ’84, CEO of Gundersen Health System, Ramirez spent last summer as an intern at St. Clare Health Mission in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The local free health clinic provides care for underserved and uninsured residents in the region. Ramirez assisted in reception and social work and was responsible for a wide range of tasks, from digitizing patient information to visiting rural farms and underserved communities with physicians.

“Jacob’s work at the clinic expanded his experience of the challenges of health care for those who are underserved,” says Rathgaber, who also housed Ramirez in his home for the duration of his internship. “He saw the challenges and barriers these souls navigate to gain access to care. It helped deepen his compassion and empathy.”

During his time in Wisconsin, Ramirez also had the opportunity to shadow various departments at Gundersen Health System, including physical therapy, which he had grown more curious about as a health care career option. That experience solidified his plans post-Wabash.

“The high-quality care, strong provider-patient relations, and emphasis on continued education I observed during my shadowing periods all emboldened my goal of continuing my education in a physical therapy program,” says Ramirez, who is specifically interested in pediatrics.

“The time I got to spend with the kids while shadowing the therapy department brought me the most happiness,” he says. “Watching their progression week-to-week and seeing the patients excited to see me when they met with their therapists was rewarding. I realized this is where I need to be.”

Associate Professor of Biology Heidi Walsh watched Ramirez interact with children last year when her physiology class hosted Brains and Bodies Day at Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County. Each student in the class came up with activities and demonstrations about the human body to showcase to local kids.

“He was completely at ease with the kids,” Walsh says. “He always had a smile on his face and knew how to talk to them in a way that made them feel comfortable and confident.

“Those interpersonal skills are where he really shines,” she continues. “As you can imagine, it is probably scary for some kids to have to go through any type of medical challenge. I’m confident having a physical therapist like Jacob will bring ease to those kids and their families.”

Ramirez is spending his summer with family in Texas, where he will brush up on anatomy at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He then hopes to devote a year working as a physical therapy aide while applying to physical therapy graduate programs in Texas and Indiana. ■





# Dive In

by Richard Paige

**C**URIOSITY HAS BEEN A DRIVING FORCE for Keane Albright '25, shaping nearly every choice he's made at Wabash since his recruiting visit.

A swimmer from Long Beach, New York, Albright made a lone campus visit consisting of conversations with the swim coaches and a quick pass through the Allen Center due to COVID-19 restrictions on campus at the time.

Still, something resonated with Albright as he worked through his college choices.

"Coming out here meant I had to grow up a little faster, which is something I wanted," he says. "I wanted some independence, which made coming here exciting, but I didn't understand what liberal arts meant. Wabash allowed me to dip my toes into each thing and that makes it a little easier to learn."

There was plenty on his plate initially, from adjusting to campus life and making friends, to finding a place on the swim team and deciding what to study.

Suddenly, scheduling was at a premium and it was stressful to find his footing.

"He always seemed incredibly tired and drained," says Will Bernhardt, head swimming and diving coach. "Keane wasn't getting enough rest outside of the pool and that was carrying over to his performances when the workload piled up. We had talks during his freshman and sophomore years to help him better process things, and eventually he was able to break through."





The first step was simply to get out of his room and find his focus.

"I changed my mindset," Albright says. "I wanted to find people who have the same interests as me."

He dove into a number of clubs to see what connections he could make, including the chess club, computer science club, and mixed martial arts. Albright changed his major and became a resident assistant. He also became active in the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS).

Albright's involvement in the MXIBS played a significant role in his mindset shift. The organization provided a space where he found camaraderie, mentorship, and a sense of belonging.

There, his leadership style began to grow. Albright prefers not to lead from the top, but rather from within. His roles in the MXIBS are a testament to this. Rather than

pursuing the highest leadership titles, he co-chaired the membership process, helping new brothers integrate into the organization.

Under his guidance, the MXIBS reinstated the tradition of reading "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" as part of the initiation process, encouraging personal reflection and meaningful discussions about identity and community. His ability to connect with people from different backgrounds and perspectives strengthened the organization, increasing engagement and participation.

"Keane has a bias toward action," says Kim King '99, assistant director of the MXIBS. "He found a way to use that text to help our members think about what it means to be the best version of themselves, of self-reliance and allyship."

He also demonstrated his selflessness and adaptability as a key member of the Wabash swim team. When he was a junior, the team got deeper and stronger competitively. Albright saw an opportunity to contribute in a different way—by diving, something in which he had never formally trained.

Under the guidance of Diving Coach Alistair Frost, Keane took to diving quickly.

"Keane is a smart diver," Frost says of the switch from experienced backstroker to novice diver. "He maximized his efforts to build an 11-dive competition list. He always puts the team first. He made that transition to help us meet our goals. That says everything about Keane's character."

Albright has a sense of humor he's not afraid to show. During the swim team's training trip to the Florida panhandle in December 2023, he was to attempt a back one-and-a-half somersault for the first time. On a particularly frigid morning, he watched a teammate try it and land hard on his back.

Frost turned to Albright and asked whether he was ready to try.

"Keane turned to me, grinned, and said, 'Not today, coach.'" Frost chuckles at the memory. "Discretion before valor is always a smart move."

Albright firmly established his groove and made an undeniable impact.

He leaves behind a strengthened MXIBS, a more competitive swim and dive team, and a spirit of perseverance, selflessness, and action—a reminder that leadership is about the willingness to serve and uplift others.

As he prepares for the next chapter—graduate school and, eventually, owning his own business—Albright carries with him the lessons learned at Wabash. More important, he leaves knowing that his presence mattered.

"I'm proud of the leadership skills I've developed," he says. "I also appreciate the resiliency and the ability to roll with the punches. Once you get this education, you're going to be in a great spot. Sticking it out through the rough periods proves there are definite rewards on the other side." ■



photos by Julia Moravec



# WINS AND LOSSES

by **Richard Paige**

**S**TANDING IN THE WABASH DUGOUT at Estadio Juan Alberto Ozoria in the Dominican Republic, I watched Camden Scheidt '25 occupy the left-handed batter's box in the top of the seventh inning. He crushed a pitch into the left-center field gap and sprinted toward first base.

The sound of bat on ball—particularly his bat on that ball—sent a jolt of energy through the dugout, drawing everyone to their feet and closer to the field, as big hits often do. If there is a quintessential Scheidt moment, this is it.

The dude can play. He's the kind of guy who can roll out of bed and get two hits. The ball off his bat just sounds different. That pop commands attention.

The most impressive reaction in this scene, however, came from the opposing team's dugout. On a day when the Wabash baseball team faced a team of current minor-league-level professional players, Scheidt's ringing double grabbed the attention of every Dominican player. Eyes darted, necks craned, guys moved to get a better view of the ball in flight.

It was the only time in the four games on that trip such rapt attention was paid to the visitors from Crawfordsville, Indiana. It was the ultimate show of respect.

Scheidt walked off the diamond in May for the last time as, statistically speaking, the greatest player in Wabash College history. He closed his career as the all-time leader in seven offensive categories in a sport played at the College since 1866. And all of that pales in comparison to what he's accomplished off the field.







Three days before he was set to move to campus in August 2021, Camden's older brother, Tyler, then a rising junior at Wabash, was killed in a traffic accident while crossing the street in his hometown of Highland, Indiana.

This came just as Camden was making a huge life transition into college. Before his death, Tyler had introduced him to Wabash and the fraternity—Delta Tau Delta—that he would soon call home. No one would have questioned him if he had decided not to come.

For Camden, there was never a doubt. Just days after Tyler's passing, he was in Pioneer Chapel to be rung in.

"College is tough," Camden explains. "Leaving home for the first time is tough. Losing my older brother and my best friend all in one was the hardest thing I've ever experienced. Being at this place, which has become so special to me and was so special to him, was the best thing for me."

Like many on campus, I wondered how anyone could handle the transition and the tragedy. Scheidt says what helped then, and what still buoys him, is that he wasn't alone with his grief. In the Delt house were 60 brothers who knew and loved Tyler. They, too, were mourning.

There was something special in Delta Tau Delta that fall as the house collectively grieved the loss of one brother and welcomed another.

"The way the house came together in the face of tragedy, and coming together specifically for Cam, is something I'll never forget," says Eric Dunaway, assistant professor of economics and Camden's academic advisor. "Seeing a group of guys who were hurting, but were making sure that Cam was welcomed, was touching. The acknowledgment of love, grief, and welcoming is something Cam hasn't forgotten."

Camden's pledge brothers say job one was simply treating him as a regular guy. They heard of Tyler's passing and Camden's arrival in a group chat, and those 17 guys decided that treating him like anyone else would be the best course of action.

"When I learned not only was he still coming to Wabash, but still joining Delt, I was immensely surprised by the strength of that decision," says pledge brother Owen Hauber '25. "I don't know if I could make that decision, but I was impressed by the courage for him to come. We wanted to treat him as any other pledge brother and help him get his mind off things in those first couple of weeks of school."





Dunaway also points to his sports analytics-based freshman tutorial that semester, For the [Outcome] of the Game, as another essential support group for Camden. Both he and Hauber, also a member of the tutorial, remember great conversations and in-class discussions, as well as a class trip to Cincinnati for a baseball game that brought the group very close.

“That was a really fun class,” Hauber says. “Dr. Dunaway pushed us to have conversations, to get closer, and that helped Cam’s situation a lot. It was a great group of guys who got lucky in what we signed up for. We still talk a lot as a group.”

Dunaway agrees.

“They were all hugely supportive of him,” he says. “One of Wabash’s greatest strengths is how the guys can come together. While I wish it wasn’t tragedy that did it, they were really good in this instance.”

Scheidt also found comfort in baseball. He’s had a bat or ball in his hands since he was 3 years old. It shows on the field, as he carries a .336 career batting average and holds the Wabash career records for at-bats, runs scored, hits, doubles, triples, and walks.

“There is something about being in the (batter’s) box and the one-on-one battle with the pitcher,” says the three-time all-North Coast Athletic Conference performer. “I love the cat-and-mouse game. There is no better feeling than squaring up a ball and seeing it go into the gap for a double or triple.”

That takes me right back to the moment in the Dominican Republic.

Even a casual observer like me can see that Scheidt loves to hit, but it’s his adherence to the daily grind of baseball that makes him exceptional. His routine gives him structure—the work in the weight room, the batting cage, watching video, always staying sharp. His routine positions him to get the high-level results he craves.

Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin ’03 appreciates what Camden brings to the field every day: energy, attitude, and effort.

“When I hear the word consistency, I think of Camden,” says Martin. “He shows up every day setting an example for others on exactly what’s needed to be successful.”

Dunaway sees similar things in Scheidt’s approach in class. He’s always willing to help. Dunaway didn’t hesitate to pair Scheidt with a struggling freshman in an economics class last year because he knew Scheidt would help the student find success.

“Cam does that because he is the ultimate teammate,” Dunaway says. “He understands he’s part of something bigger and he always wants the team to succeed.”

Sophomore outfielder Caleb Ellsperman ’27 saw that firsthand as he adjusted to college baseball last season.



**Camden Scheidt '25** breaks for home during a December game in the Dominican Republic; **left:** Scheidt hits a double to the left field gap in Estadio Juan Alberto Ozoria. He led the team in hits at games played during the immersion experience.

Scan the code to learn more about Wabash Baseball’s time in the Dominican Republic on the **Wabash On My Mind Podcast** (episode 378).



photos by Richard Paige



"He helped me through a time last spring when I was down in the dumps," says Ellsperman, a native of Evansville, Indiana. "He was one of our best players, and he treated me like I had been on the team for years. We talked through a lot of things: making adjustments, competing, keeping an even keel. You don't forget those kinds of conversations. It's something leaders do naturally."

With his Wabash career now capped, Scheidt is proud of what he's accomplished particularly given his circumstances.

"I shock myself sometimes," he says. "To go through such a terrible loss and a terrible experience, while also balancing school, baseball, pledgeship, and everything else, I'm proud of that and it's something I don't give myself enough credit for."

"Everyone goes through day-to-day hardships. Some days are easier than others, but this has given me a greater outlook," Scheidt continues. "Getting a bad grade on a test isn't the worst thing in the world. My experiences have definitely shaped my outlook and given me some perspective. I don't have to be perfect to please anyone."

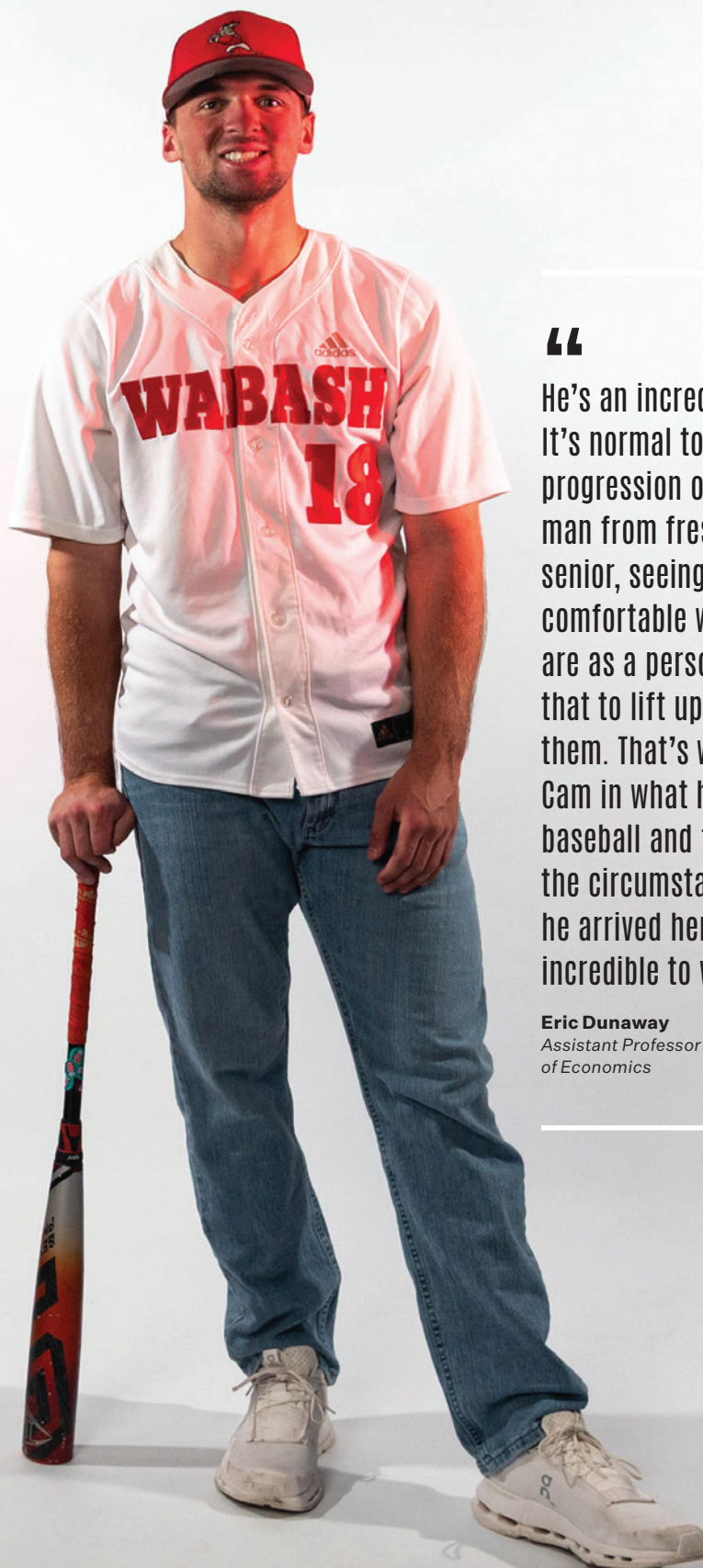
Somehow, through connections of those around him, Scheidt is positioned to handle whatever curve balls life deals.

"At such a big transitional time to have your world turned upside down, I worried about him and his grief," says Martin. "He had every excuse not to succeed, but he is a phenomenal human and worked hard to find success on his terms. I don't know how he did it, but I'm super proud of him and the person he's become." ■



**Scheidt** sees reminders of his brother every day in his fraternity. He still sees the "Fly High Ty" wristbands on campus and the "42" buttons on some Sphinx Club

pots—42 was Tyler's high school basketball uniform number. Delta Tau Delta pledges wore 42 on their T-shirts at Chapel Sing; the final score of the Monon Bell Game that fall was 42–21; teammate A.J. Reid '24 switched his uniform number from 15 to 42 to honor Tyler; and following Camden's Ringing In ceremony, he and his family went to Arni's for dinner, and after ordering, the Scheidts were given placard 42.



“

He's an incredible guy. It's normal to see the progression of a Wabash man from freshman to senior, seeing someone get comfortable with who they are as a person and use that to lift up others around them. That's what I see in Cam in what he's done for baseball and for Delt under the circumstances in which he arrived here. It's been incredible to witness.”

**Eric Dunaway**  
Assistant Professor  
of Economics



# Faith and Confident Hope

by **Kim Johnson**

Noah Kent '25 took a leap of faith to come to Wabash as an injured football player from Tampa, Florida. Now he sees God's hand in the journey all along.

**S**ENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL was a fresh start on the gridiron for Noah Kent '25. He'd had the surgeries. He'd done the rehab for his hip, knee, and elbow. He was finally healthy. The recruiters were calling. He was ready for the payoff.

The last game of the season, he felt a familiar pain rip through his knee. Dislocated—for the third time—the latest surgical repair undone. Suddenly, the phone wasn't ringing quite so often. But Wabash persisted.

"I was the worst recruit possible," Kent says. "I wasn't texting the Wabash coach back or giving him the time of day. I told God, 'I'm not going to Wabash. I'm not doing it.' I heard God say, 'Yes, you will.'"

Five days before his third surgery, Kent, from Tampa, Florida, was visiting a school in Ohio when he received another call from Wabash encouraging him to visit campus. Since he was within a few hours, he decided to take a quick detour through Crawfordsville.

"As soon as I got onto campus, I instantly knew," he recalls. "I hadn't even met anybody yet, but I knew I was supposed to be at Wabash."

Barely into his 13 months of recovery, Kent moved a thousand miles from home to join the Little Giant football team.

"I had zero idea what I was getting myself into. I didn't know anybody. I got to campus, and it was really hard," Kent says. "I was a part of the football team, but because I was injured, I felt distant from everybody. I cried my first day at training camp."

"I remember telling God, 'If you're going to have me here, you have got to give me people,'" he continues. "Within a couple weeks, I met some of my best friends. Those guys kept me afloat."

But in December of his freshman year, Kent was at an all-too-familiar crossroads.

"Am I going to keep playing or am I not?" he recalls asking himself. "I had stayed in football throughout all the injuries because I felt like God wanted me there to make an impact on people. In high school, I asked, 'Why am I still playing? I'm always injured.' I never understood it. I got to the end of my first semester at Wabash, and I was in the same boat."

"My dad told me, 'You should pray about it. If you're going to make a big decision, have some peace of mind,'" Kent continues. "I had peace with not playing the game anymore, but I didn't have peace with leaving it altogether, because I love football. I love it."

In 2021, Kent's first semester, CJ Ramsey '20 was in his first year as a full-time assistant coach at Wabash.

Ramsey had been a student coach for four years and then a volunteer coach for an additional year. Interacting with Ramsey helped Kent realize he could still be involved without playing.

"Noah grew to be an asset on our staff throughout his time at Wabash," Ramsey says. "It seemed like he was starving to consume all things football. He was so easy to work with and always asked great questions. He threw himself at coaching with everything he had."

As Kent gained more responsibility, he felt more and more confident in his new role.

"I started to find my voice on the field, and I loved every minute of it," he says. "As soon as I got into coaching, I knew it was what I want to do with my life."

Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98 quickly recognized the talent and energy Kent brought to the coaching staff.

"We used him in a bigger role last season, which allowed him to flourish," says Gilbert. "He just needed the opportunity to put in the work and take ownership for a bigger piece of the puzzle. We provided that, and he delivered."

That role was coaching a position he hadn't coached before. It meant putting in a lot of extra effort beyond practices and on top of his rigorous coursework.









Noah Kent '25 (center) on the sidelines of the game against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology during the 2024 season.

**“He just needed the opportunity to put in the work and take ownership for a bigger piece of the puzzle. We provided that, and he delivered.”**

Head Football Coach  
Jake Gilbert '98

“He put so much time into learning football and learning how to be a better coach,” says Ramsey. “He drove to countless camps, sat in on meetings he wasn’t required to attend, and spent hours in our offices trying to learn as much as possible.”

Kent also reached out to coaches in similar positions at other schools asking for help. He finally found an assistant coach that would talk with him—Logan McCormick, who is currently the defensive line coach at South Dakota State University (SDSU). Kent spent hours on the phone asking questions of the patient coach.

Kent’s friends call his relentless pursuit of knowledge “Noah vision.”

“He just grinds,” says former roommate Justice Wenz ’25. “Some people tell you their lofty goals, ‘I want to be an NFL coach.’ You’re like, ‘OK, cool.’ I have no doubt in my mind that Noah will get there.”

“He is always connecting with people. He would talk to literally anybody he could,” Wenz continues. “He would be in Twitter groups, and he would talk to graduate assistants or other low-ranking coaches that others would pass up. He would connect, listen to their stories, and see value a lot of other people missed.”

After Kent finished his Wabash coursework in December, he knew he had the skills and passion to start his career as a coach. He just needed the offer. He went home to Florida and packed his entire life in the back of his car.

“I told myself as soon as I got the first job, I was going to go pursue the dream God put on my heart,” he says.

He returned to Wabash to work part-time as an assistant coach while continuing to make connections, send out resumes, and interview for positions. After one particular interview at a small Christian school that “went really well,” Kent felt confused.

“I was pretty confident I was going to get the job, but I got in the car, and as I was praying, I felt like God said, ‘No.’ But it felt like everything else made sense,” he says. “It’s a great program at Christian school and has a great staff. I didn’t know why God was saying no. I felt like he made it abundantly clear on that drive home, ‘There is more.’ He put on my heart to ‘Go in faith and confident hope that I will move.’”

Kent called his brother, Josiah, to help him gain clarity.

“What do you want? What are your goals?” Kent recalls his brother asking. “I told him I wanted an opportunity to get into Division I.

Josiah said, ‘What’s stopping you from trying? Go volunteer somewhere.’”

Kent had grown up enamored with the University of Iowa’s football program so, he reached out to a coach there that he had met at a conference. Days went by with no response. Wenz reminded Kent of God’s call for confident hope.

“He kept talking about how he was waiting on a response from this guy,” Wenz says. “I told him, ‘Just go to Iowa. I believe in you. The worst that could happen is they tell you no, but you make a lasting impression on the head coach.’”

The next morning, Kent loaded his belongings and drove to Iowa City.

“I was so nervous about it. It seemed like the craziest thing to do—pack up my life and go to Iowa City hoping I could just get a foot in the door.”

With still no response from the coach three days later, at 6 a.m. he sat outside the football facility waiting. He reached out to another coach and another until he finally got a response and a meeting at a nearby coffee shop.

That coach relayed that, while volunteer coaching was not an option at University of Iowa, he’d make a few calls to other schools in the area to see about possibilities. Again, Kent waited.



Several hours passed. Still sitting in the coffee shop in Iowa City, Kent received a text from McCormick as SDSU. He had heard through the grapevine that Kent was in the area.

South Dakota State just had a position come open. Would Kent be interested?

That afternoon he had three phone calls with various SDSU coaches. He woke up at 4 a.m. the next morning, drove to Brookings, South Dakota, and had mid-afternoon meetings and introductions with support staff. Then, 10 minutes into his conversation with the head football coach of the South Dakota State Jackrabbits, Kent had a job.

Wabash brothers (left to right) **Justice Wenz '25**, **Jacob Ransford '25**, **Noah Kent '25**, and **Sam Shockley '25** at Commencement rehearsal. "I had prayed really, really hard for a good, God-fearing community and guys who were going to make me better. Meeting Noah was the beginning of an answer to a very long prayer," says Kent's roommate, Wenz. "Before Noah left for Iowa City, our other roommate, Sam, and I wrote Noah notes thanking him for being a great roommate—just speaking some life into him. We both gave him \$50 for gas money to get there, and off he went. We believe in him."

"The coach said, 'Since your life is in the back of your car, want to get started right now?'" Kent recalls. "I got up, shook his hand, he walked me straight into a defensive staff meeting, and I hit the ground running."

A few months into "a whirlwind of learning a lot of football," Kent feels like he is exactly where God wants him.

"I was with one of our coaches on staff and had a pretty awesome realization. I said, 'We get to coach football every day. We just do football, that's it,'" Kent says. "I love what I do and wouldn't trade it for anything."

As he reflects back to the path from Tampa to Brookings through Wabash College, Kent realizes that even in high school God was planting coaching seeds in him.

"When I was injured, I was coaching—I didn't even think about it being coaching but I'd hold an iPad on the sideline and walk the guys through plays, train them during practice," Kent says. "I went to a small school. I thought I was just helping the team. In hindsight, all those moments prepared me for what I'm doing now."

"Going to Wabash was a step of faith for me, but look at what God did. I figured out what I'm called to do for the rest of my life: develop young men into great husbands, fathers, and community leaders. I've met people who have changed my life. Even in the moments of discouragement in my football career, God showed up, put people in front of me, and put me in rooms I should have never been in. I never imagined this is what would happen by me saying yes to God." ■



photo by Kim Johnson





photos by Julia Moravec

# THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM

by Julia Moravec

**W**ABASH WAS NOT THE FIRST CHOICE for Aidan Geleott '25. It was actually his third.

The Spanish major and education studies minor started his journey as a swimming recruit studying economics at DePauw University. With high hopes for his swimming career, the college freshman soon found himself desiring a greater focus on academics and his passion for Spanish.

He transferred to Butler University for his sophomore year. Despite a promising vision of a bustling city atmosphere, he faced the difficult reality of a disconnected community amid the pandemic that stifled his ability to make friends.

"I thrive in an environment where I have a sense of community and comfort and an ability to pursue challenging things," says Geleott. "I knew I would not be able to be as happy at Butler."

He finally found what he was looking for at Wabash.

"Even as a two-time transfer, my campus visit felt special. I got a one-on-one tour, met with professors, and even met my advisor, Professor Rogers," says Geleott. "Through the conversations I had that day, I knew this is where I was supposed to finish."

Professor of Spanish Dan Rogers shared that same energy as the prospect came to his office one spring morning.

"Sitting with Aidan, it became apparent that a close connection to the community was important to him for his educational experience," says Rogers. "I could see he would find his place here and would thrive."



Rogers saw the benefit of a student with a unique path and a deep academic maturity joining the Wabash community.

"I knew landing him as a transfer student would be a huge asset to Wabash in all that he had to offer," Rogers continues. "He was the star recruit everyone wanted."

**IN HIS TWO YEARS ON CAMPUS**, Geleott has made good use of the resources, engaging in everything from La Alianza to 'shOUT. Geleott is also a brother at Phi Gamma Delta and a founding member of Mariachi Los Pequeños Gigantes.

"After I arrived, I got involved in some organizations on campus," he says. "I quickly realized that this is home."

Although Geleott began his Wabash career alongside his brother, Zach '27, he quickly had more than just one brother on campus.

"People always talk about your biological family and your chosen family—I think about my brothers at Wabash who are always going to be a part of my life, no matter the distance and no matter the time," Geleott says. "I have found my chosen family, people who bring me peace and comfort. That's all I wanted in my college experience."

Members of his fraternity and the clubs he joined became an extension to his family. Similarly, he found comfort in his classmates, who challenged him both academically and socially.

"Something I love about the Wabash education is the emphasis on discussion-based learning," Geleott says. "The class sizes are never going to be too large for active participation. It made it easy to get to know the other students and professors on a personal level."

Rogers recognizes the value Geleott adds to this discussion space.

"Aidan is a value-added participant. If you ask him a question, he's not going to immediately blurt out the first thing that comes into his head," says Rogers. "He's not there to impress you, but he is going to listen to what you said and give you a thoughtful response."

Geleott's engagement and desire for connection grew during Rogers' Spanish Literature and Culture course. The course included an immersion component in which students completed the last 100 miles of the Camino de Santiago, a trek across the northern countryside of Spain.

He describes the days as hard but rewarding, with many moments fostering a profound relationship with his friends and a love for the Spanish culture.

"Above all, I loved the amount of fun conversation we had together as a group," he says. "The laughs we shared each day of the journey are something I'll never forget."

While his time at Wabash was shorter than most, Geleott values what he gained along the way.

"I have grown so much here in two years. I attribute my transformation to the people who have served as advisors and friends, but also people who pushed me in the right direction," he concludes. "I'm sad to only have two years here. But I have learned to trust the process and realize if you live and lead from the heart, you'll end up in the right spot. For me, that was my two years at Wabash." ■



**Aidan Geleott '25** joined the Wabash community the same time as his brother, **Zachary '27**. The pair, in their own clubs and respective houses, Phi Gamma Delta and Lambda Chi Alpha, find time to spend small moments together. "It's just the nature of Wabash; there's always someone to walk with to and from class," says Aidan. "Wabash is special because that 'someone' can be my brother."





# GROWING LEADERSHIP

by Stephanie Cain

photo by Julia Moravec



# AT A YOUNG AGE, OLIVIER TUYISHIME '25 SEIZED THE NOTION THAT EDUCATION IS THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS, AND HE HAS NEVER LET THAT IDEA GO.

**I****N 2012, OLIVIER TUYISHIME '25**, his mother, and his younger brother and sister came to the United States from Rwanda. They didn't speak English. They didn't know the culture. Just eight months later, as they were still settling into their new lives, Tuyishime's 6-year-old sister drowned.

The loss was a turning point for Tuyishime, the eldest child, who was 9 years old at the time.

"Up to that point I got into a lot of discipline issues, struggled academically, and struggled to adjust to the culture," he says. "(My sister's death) was the start of me realizing that, if I don't change and start to mature, things could be bad and get worse. My mom needs me.

"We had found a home at First Baptist Church in Indianapolis," Tuyishime continues. "We've always had people to support us, and we made them our family."

Tuyishime became more involved at the church, especially through the youth sports programs. There, he met Kip Chase '03.

"Nicole and I took our boys to participate in flag football and basketball programs at First Baptist Church Athletics," says Chase.

"We noticed this high school kid seemed to be there every time we were there. He coached teams and refereed the games he wasn't coaching. It was impressive to see that type of commitment and maturity. I was so happy when he chose Wabash."

Choosing a place where academics came first made sense to Tuyishime.

"I have always had the desire to better myself intellectually because that's how I learn about who I am," the political science major says. "I leaned into education because it was the clearest path to pursue my future and to make the greatest impact in our country and the world."

Tuyishime's career at Wabash began the summer before his freshman year when he participated in the monthlong Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP) summer institute.

"When I came here that summer, I was able to open up myself and be vulnerable—that's when I really saw the beauty of college," he says. "WLAIP gave me the confidence going into that fall to know I had all the resources and tools to thrive and to be successful."





▲ **Olivier Tuyishime '25** poses at Nyungwe Forest National Park in Rwanda, where he traveled in 2024 as the recipient of a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. While in Rwanda, Tuyishime studied post-genocide restoration and peacebuilding at the School for International Training, visiting historic sites and meeting with survivors of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide against the Tutsis.

What Tuyishime found through his time at Wabash was space to grow and thrive outside the classroom. He is a member of Phi Gamma Delta and the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS). He spent a summer leading the Panther Youth Summer Sports Camps as an athletic director intern with First Baptist Athletics. He has served as an English tutor for WLAIP, helping incoming freshmen develop the tools and confidence to write their first college papers. He was a mentor for the weeklong Pathway to Your Future program for rising sophomores and juniors in high school to learn about the college

application process and tools for success in higher education. And he is a substitute teacher with the Brownsburg Community School Corporation, where he recruited a student to attend Wabash in the fall who wasn't even sure college was in his future.

Becoming a leader wasn't necessarily on his mind, but it's become a huge part of who he is.

"Olivier wasn't sure exactly how he fit in," says Kim King '99, assistant director of the MXIBS and coordinator of the Pathway to Your Future program. "He's been wonderful as a student and as a mentor."

As one of seven Orr Fellowship recipients in the Class of 2025, Tuyishime will spend the next two years as a partnership and outreach associate at the Applied Research Institute (ARI). ARI's mission is to act as a neutral third party in connecting technology innovators with government initiatives.

"The Orr Fellowship is a two-year trial, not only for the fellow but also for the partner company, to see if it's a match," Tuyishime explains. "During the semester, I've been meeting with my supervisor and getting a feel for what topics I want to learn more about. They do a lot of different research and take on projects with various institutions."

He plans to live with his family in Brownsburg, Indiana, for the duration of his fellowship. His younger brother, Fabrigace Gisagara, is a rising junior who is attending Pathway to Your Future for the second summer in a row. Tuyishime wants to be close by.

"It gives me more time with him, time to help him go through the college application process and school visits," he says.

"Looking at the sacrifice that their mom has made to help them get to this point, their success symbolizes a certain amount of victory in the face of that tragedy," says King. "Olivier is seizing the responsibility of, on the one hand, living out the dream for their mom, and also representing the future for his brother." ■





# YOU BELONG HERE

by **Kim Johnson**

**G**ROWING UP, Brayden Curnutt '25 considered a long run a trip around the bases on the baseball diamond. But in middle school, he nervously traded in his cleats for running shoes. "I went out on a whim one night and ran a mile," says Curnutt. "I ran pretty fast, so my dad suggested I try cross country."

Now, the current Wabash record holder in multiple distance events averages roughly 60 miles a week—the distance from his hometown of Kokomo, Indiana, to Wabash College. In the summer off-season, he averaged 75 miles.

While Curnutt still considers himself a "young runner," having only been running competitively for nine years, he knows records are not broken by accident.

"It's a process for sure. Four years of hard work led me to this," he says. "The hardest part of running is getting out the door and taking the first couple steps. Even if it's just for a mile or two, just get out the door. Be consistent, even if you don't want to run."

Tyler McCreary, head cross country coach and associate head track and field coach, saw the effort that took Curnutt from the 32nd-place finisher at cross country regionals in 2023 to first place in 2024.

"Brayden is extremely talented, and he's a hard worker, very coachable," says McCreary. "But there are some things you can't really coach, and that's someone who has that grit, determination, and competitiveness to always put it out there every time out."





photo by Ethan Wallace '25

“Brayden’s competitiveness is the most impressive thing about him,” he continues. “He’s a quiet leader. I always tell the other runners to watch him specifically—how he conducts himself, how he trains, and how he competes.”

It’s an assignment Curnutt understands. His motivation to succeed goes beyond his own wins and records.

“I have lofty goals for myself,” he says. “Writing down my goals and knowing what it takes to complete those goals keeps me rolling, but also helping the other guys reach their goals. The team is a huge part of what we do at Wabash. I want to see the success of those guys too.”

Early season wins can breed anxiety to perform and let self-doubt creep in.

“I tried to keep it pretty low key, not get overly hyped up, or put too much pressure on myself,” Curnutt says. “A couple minutes before race time, I take a second and pray and get all the jitters out. Then it’s go time. Coach put a lot of trust in me to go out there and be able to execute.”

McCreary’s trust came from knowing Curnutt had done the work and could compete with the best.

“Distance running is very difficult and psychologically challenging,” McCreary says. “I reminded him, ‘Now you’re one of the best in the country. You know you belong here, right?’”

The new graduate looks forward to using his rhetoric major and business minor to build a career in sports administration. But he hasn’t put his running shoes away just yet.

“I want to do one marathon in my life,” Curnutt says. “I don’t think I’ll ever stop running completely, but I doubt I’ll ever get up to 75 miles a week again. It’s going to be nice waking up in the summer at 6 or 7 a.m., and if I don’t feel like running, not having to go.”

To the kid he was in middle school—apprehensive to tuck his first “running” shoes in the closet with his glove and bat—he’d say, “Don’t be afraid to give up baseball. Don’t be afraid to take that leap. Don’t be afraid to try something new. Never in my life did I think I would come to an all-male school in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and achieve what I did. Just don’t be afraid of change.” ■



## 2024 Cross Country

- > NCAC champion
- > First team all-NCAC
- > 2024 NCAC Men’s Cross Country Runner of the Year
- > NCAA Division III Great Lakes Region individual champion
- > U.S Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association all-region team
- > 2024 NCAA Division III National Championship Meet 18th-place finisher
- > U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-American

## 2024-2025

### Indoor Track and Field

- > NCAC 3,000-meter champion
- > NCAC 5,000-meter champion
- > All-conference honoree as a member of the second-place distance medley relay team
- > NCAC Men’s Indoor Track and Field Distance Athlete of the Year
- > Set Wabash indoor 5,000-meter record with a time of 14:20.99
- > Set the Wabash indoor 3,000-meter record with a time of 8:22.22
- > 15th-place finish in the 5,000-meter run at the 2025 NCAA Division III Indoor Championships
- > Earned U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association second team All-America honors

### 2025 Outdoor Track and Field

- > NCAC 5,000-meter champion
- > NCAC 10,000-meter champion
- > NCAC Men’s Outdoor Track and Field Distance Athlete of the Year
- > Set the Wabash 5,000-meter record with a time of 14:16.33



## Season in Sports



### Golf

The Wabash golf team continued its ascendance under Coach Justin Kopp '21 by finishing fifth at the NCAC Tournament. **Sean Bledsoe '26** (pictured) tied for first at the NCAC championship with a three-round score of 210 before losing on a playoff hole. Bledsoe earned first team all-NCAC and all-tournament honors after averaging 75.4 over 18 rounds with three top-five finishes. Team MVP **Lewis Dellinger '25** had a round to remember at the NCACs. The senior buried a hole-in-one on the 13th hole and followed it with an eagle on the 14th to card a back-nine 30 en route to a 12th-place finish.

photo courtesy of Sean Bledsoe '26



photo by Elijah Greene '25

### Baseball

Led by the record-setting performances of first baseman **Camden Scheidt '25** and the dazzling glove of **Ben Henke '26**, the Wabash baseball team went 27–15 overall and 12–4 in NCAC play to qualify for the conference tournament. **Scheidt** hit .344 with 12 doubles, five homers, and 43 RBIs to earn first team all-NCAC and team MVP honors. **Henke** earned the conference's Gold Glove Award with a .989 fielding percentage, while hitting .364 with 14 doubles and 39 RBIs. Pitcher **Caleb Everson '26** (pictured) went 6–3 with a 4.09 ERA to earn a spot on the all-NCAC first team, while fellow pitcher **Jarrold Kirsch '28** was named the 2025 NCAC Newcomer of the Year after posting a 4–1 record that included a 4–2 win over third-ranked Denison. Coach **Jake Martin '05** and his assistants **Mac Lozer**, **Caleb Fenimore**, **Caesar Barrientos**, and student assistant **Conner Stidham '26** were named NCAC Coaching Staff of the Year. **Scheidt** capped his stellar career by setting all-time records for total hits (219), runs scored (185), doubles (54), triples (18), and walks (112).



## Season in Sports



photo by Elijah Greene '25

### Lacrosse

The Wabash lacrosse team had two three-game winning streaks, but suffered three NCAC losses to nationally ranked teams to finish 8–8 overall. The eight-wins ties the best mark for Coach Chris Burke's young program, and the sixth-place finish in the NCAC is the best ever—and included Wabash's first win over Wittenberg. The team was again led by **Quinn Fitzgerald '25** (pictured above on left), who was named the team's MVP and earned a spot on the all-NCAC third team. In three years, Fitzgerald scored 193 points (first all-time) and finished second in career goals (122) and assists (71). As a junior, Fitzgerald scored 13 goals against Concordia-Chicago to tie the Division III national record. The future of the program is bright: **Charlie Rafalko '28** was the team's Freshman of the Year after scoring 23 goals with eight assists in 16 games, while fellow rookie **Evan Bair '28** scored 11 goals with 22 assists. Eight of the team's top nine scorers return next year.



### Basketball

Coach Kyle Brumett's Little Giants had another strong year, finishing with a 17–9 record and 13–3 mark in NCAC play. After a slow start to the season, Wabash reeled off two six-game winning streaks and beat DePauw twice—including a 74–48 win in Greencastle. Team MVP **Vinny Bucilla '25** (pictured) averaged 15 points per game and earned his second spot on the all-NCAC first team. Bucilla started 91 games in his career and was a part of three NCAC Championship teams. The 7-foot-2-inch shot-blocking phenom, **Noah Hupmann '25**, was named the NCAC's Defensive Player of the Year after blocking 96 shots—most in NCAA Division III—and averaging nine rebounds per game. **Gavin Schippert '26** earned academic all-district honors for his performance in the classroom and on the court, and he scored a career-high 20 points in a home win over DePauw.



### Volleyball

It was a record-breaking year for Ashaun Baker's vastly improved volleyball team. The third-year coach led Wabash to a 16–10 record—the best in the school's history—with a nine-match winning streak and 4–4 mark in the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League. The Little Giants were especially good at home, winning nine of 11 matches. **Bawithathawng Thang '27** (pictured) earned second team all-MCVL honors and led the league with 374 kills, while team MVP **William Beikes '25** was fourth in the league with 720 assists. Beikes graduates having made 2,432 career assists, while fellow senior **Jackson Leeper** finished fourth all-time with 569 career kills.

photo by Elijah Greene '25



## Swimming

Coach Will Bernhardt's swimming and diving team finished third at the ultracompetitive NCAC Championships, scoring 1,339 points—the most ever by a Wabash team at the meet. Led by MVPs **Ethan Johns** and **Mason Gilliam**, the Little Giants went 5–3 in dual meets, punctuated by a 193–100 win over DePauw. Gilliam set a school record in 1,650 freestyle (15:45.33) to earn all-NCAC honors. **Ryan West '28** was named the team's Newcomer of the Year and broke the Wabash record in the 200 backstroke (1:48.24). The relay team of **Johns, Quinn Sweeney, West, and Nicholas Plumb** set a Wabash record in the 800 freestyle relay (6:44.00) to earn all-NCAC honors.

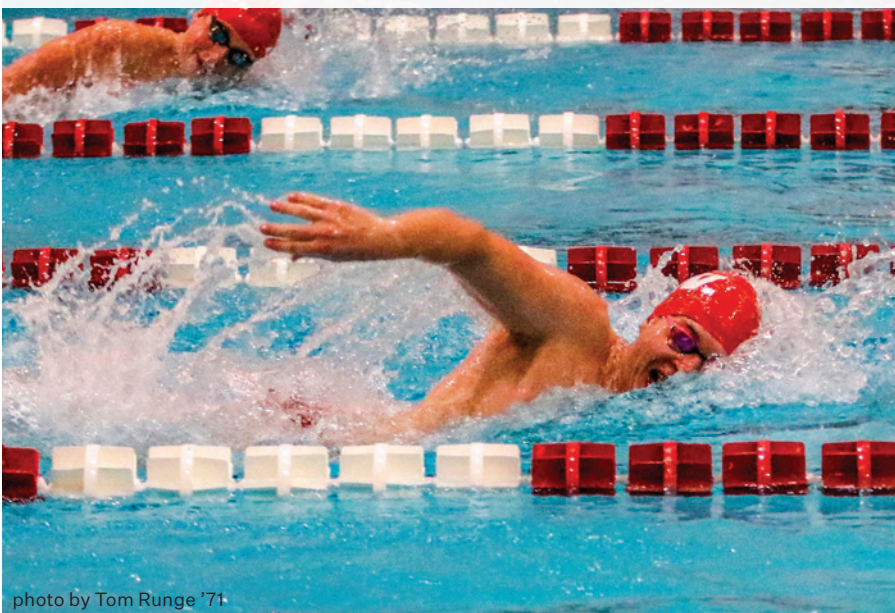


photo by Tom Runge '71



photo provided by the NCAC

## Tennis

The Wabash tennis team posted 15 wins—the most in a decade—and earned the fourth seed at the NCAC Tournament, where they beat Oberlin before bowing out to eventual NCAA Division III champion Denison. Sixth-year Coach Daniel Bickett led his team to a pair of four-match winning streaks, including a 7–0 shutout of Wittenberg on Senior Day, when **Jett Brownlee** and **Christian Zimmerman** were honored. **Rafael Rin '27**, earned team MVP honors after posting a 17–6 record primarily at number two singles. **Murilo Guarniari '28** was the team's Rookie of the Year after putting up a 13–10 record in second and third singles play. **Cole Shifferly '26** was the team's number one singles player and posted 13 wins.



photo by Brent Harris H'03

## Track and Field

Led by the senior distance duo of **Brayden Curnutt** and **Will Neubauer**, the Wabash track and field team won its league-record 11th NCAC Outdoor Championship and 20th overall. Curnutt was named NCAC Distance Runner of the Year after breaking the NCAC Championship records in winning the 5,000 meters (14:40.54) and 10,000 (30:38.75), and earlier in the season shattered the Wabash record in the 5,000 (14:16.33). Neubauer cruised to the conference title in the 800 and earned All-America honors after finishing seventh in the event at the national championships. **Evan Furuness '26** won the shot put, finished third in the hammer throw, and placed fourth in the discus to earn NCAC Field Athlete of the Year, while **Quinn Sholar '26** was second in the shot and discus and qualified for nationals in the discus. Wabash's other NCAC champion was **Will Morris '25** (pictured), who won the pole vault (4.70 meters). Led by coaches **Clyde Morgan** and **Tyler McCreary**, Wabash earned the NCAC's Coaching Staff of the Year award.





## BIG BASH 2025

**Wabash was a very different place when we came in 1971.** Total enrollment was down. Freshman retention was poor. The Vietnam War was going on, and there were protests on and off campus. We lost our student deferment, so a number of us served in the military. We were on pins and needles whether we would have to serve. The mood was somber throughout the country. But the Class of '75 received an incredible education. We were primed for a lifetime of success, not only professionally, but academically, socially, and personally. We want to thank Wabash for the opportunity. **Let's keep it going.**

### Patrick Healey '75

Below (right) presenting the Class of '75 check to President Scott Feller









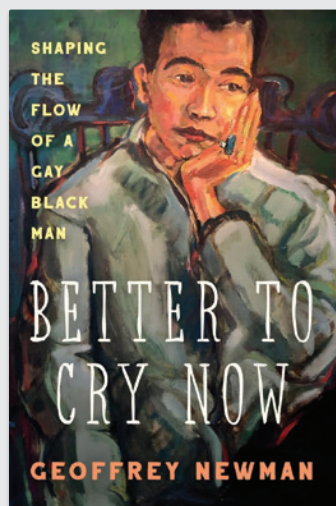
## Class Notes

### 1960s

**Robert Ouellette '63** has endowed the Ouellette Family Biochemistry Research Fund. | **Lin Warfel '63**, a third-generation farmer, has been awarded the Eagle Award for Excellence by the Champaign County Farm Bureau. Warfel retired from farming in 2021 and was recognized for his dedication to agriculture. | The estate of **James Sherry '64**, along with Sherry's sister Nancy Lannen and her husband, Richard, has endowed the Professor Richard Strawn Scholarship. | **William Cook '66** has been selected for inclusion in Marquis Who's Who in recognition of his dedication as an educator and humanitarian. | Judy Holdread has endowed the **Dr. Jon W. Holdread '66** Scholarship. | **Raymond H'68** and Lois Williams have endowed the Raymond B. and Lois R. Williams Faculty Development Fund.



### 1970s



A memoir written by **Geoffrey Newman '70**, "Better to Cry Now: Shaping the Flow of a Gay Black Man," was released by Greenleaf Book Group and received a silver in the Nonfiction Book Awards. | **Brad Goff '72** has endowed the **J. Owen Huntsman H'71** Student Scholarship. | **Bill Fell '75** has endowed the Fell-Voris W.I.S.H. Fund. | **Greg '76** and Patricia **Spencer** have endowed the Carl V. Spencer Scholarship. | **Clay Robbins '79** received the 2024 Sachem Award from former Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb. Robbins is the chair and CEO of Lilly Endowment Inc. | **David Sheets '79** has been recognized by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) for serving as a licensed sports official for 50 years. During his college years, he officiated football, volleyball, basketball, and baseball. He worked with Coach **Mac Petty H'82** and Athletic Director **Max Servies '58** to develop officiating classes for intramural sports. His career included thousands of contests, working in all the largest high school gyms in Indiana as well as Lucas Oil Stadium, the RCA Dome, Market Square Arena, Mackey Arena, Hinkle Fieldhouse, Worthen Arena, Joyce Center, and Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

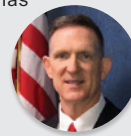


### 1980s

**Dennis Kennedy '80** received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the American Legal Technology Awards. | **F. John Stark III '81** has been selected for inclusion in Marquis Who's Who for four decades of excellence in corporate turnaround and restructuring.



| **Mark Brosmer '85** had a solo exhibition, "All Over the Map," featured at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center in Jasper, IN. | **Brian Shinkle '85** has been appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as resident circuit judge in Edwards County.



| **Brad Fewell '86** and Sheri Minnick have endowed the Fewell-Minnick Scholarship. | Karen Miner has endowed the **Jim "Buddha" Miner '87** Memorial Scholarship. | **Jo Throckmorton '87** just finished production of the new feature film "Someone Saved My Life." In addition, "The Ice Cream Man," produced by Throckmorton, was short-listed for Best Live Action Short Film at the 97th Academy Awards, but was not nominated.

### 1990s

**Nelson Alexander '90** and Ana Pinto-Alexander have endowed the Nelson Alexander '90 and Ana Pinto-Alexander Scholarship. | **Matt Price '90** has been named president at State Bank. | **Matthew Mellady '91** has been honored by Marquis Who's Who for his expertise in legal services. He has dedicated more than three decades to his field and currently serves as the deputy director at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Police and Correctional Training Commissions. | **Gail Pebworth H'91** was chosen as a 2025 inductee to the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association Division III Hall of Fame. | **Ron Dostal '92** represented Wabash College at the inauguration of Mike Godard as the 13th president of Indiana State University. | **Mark Sutton '92** has been included in Marquis Who's Who for his dedication to the field of finance.



| **Mike Markland '94** recently met **Kyle Long '07** at the American University in Dubai (United Arab Emirates). | **Roy Sexton '95**, director of marketing at Clark Hill and 2024 international immediate past president of the Legal Marketing Association, was named to the INvolve Outstanding 100 LGBTQ+ Executives Role Model List for 2024. This is was his second year in a row to receive this title. He also accepted the role of chief marketing officer at Vedder Price law firm in Chicago. | **Jeff Frost '96** married Susan Carlock on July 29, 2023. | **Michael Burns '98** has been promoted to senior vice president and chief legal officer of CSX. He has been with CSX since 2006.



### CONTRIBUTE

We love hearing from you. Submit your news to [communications@wabash.edu](mailto:communications@wabash.edu).



## Class Notes

### 2000s

**Matt Kriech '00**, Tony Kriech, and family and friends have endowed the Kriech Family Scholarship in memory of **Doug Kriech '07**.

**Christopher Barry '03** is named in 2025 Indiana Super Lawyers for his work as a personal injury and truck accident attorney.



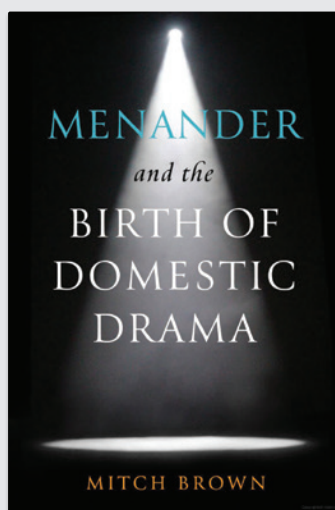
**Josh Tatum '03** was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash by former Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb in recognition of his leadership and appellate advocacy on an important constitutional issue.

**Nick Brankle '04** has been elected to the partnership of Taft Law. **Philip Eubanks '06** has married his partner of 10 years, Mattie Anderson. They have opened a pet store, the Kit and Cavoodle Pet Center, in the Poconos.



**Drew Hoffman '06** and his family welcomed Ethan Andrew, born in December.

### 2010s



**Mitch Brown '10**, an assistant professor of classical studies at William & Mary, has published "Menander and the Birth of Domestic Drama" with the University of Wisconsin Press.



**Luke Wren '10** and his wife, Becca, welcomed their first child, Oliver Michael Wren, on May 22, 2024. Two days later, they celebrated their 10-year anniversary. **Andre Adeyemi '12** has accepted a new position as director of appointments for San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie. Adeyemi is also planning his marriage to Dr. Matthew Williams on July 5. **Mila Myles '14** (she/her) has accepted a new position as director of communications at the office of Delaware Gov. Matt Meyer. **Adam Burtner '17** has been named to the Indy Gateway board of directors. Indy Gateway's purpose is to improve the quality of life on the west side of Indianapolis. **William Kelly '18** and his wife, Elodie, celebrated the birth of their first child, Olivier, on Nov. 30, 2024. **William Amberger '19** has joined the Indianapolis office of Barnes & Thornburg as an associate.



### 2020s

**Alexander Goodnight '22** has started a new position as the deputy legislative director at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

**Liam Thompson '24** has been signed by the San Jose, CA, Bay Area Panthers as quarterback in their minor league indoor football team. Several members of the Class of 2025 have received Orr Fellowships and will receive executive mentorship and participate in a curriculum designed to develop understanding and skills vital to entrepreneurship and business leadership. **Seth Acero '25** will work with Bridge Builder Strategies. **William Morris '25** will work with Mt. Vernon, Indiana-based Warehouse Services Inc. **Ryan Papandria '25** will work with Elate. **Andres Peralta '25** will work with Denison Parking. **Mark Stolte '25** will work with Model1. **Olivier Tuyishime '25** will work with the Applied Research Institute. **Benjamin Wallace '25** will work with Steele Benefit Services.

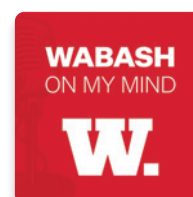


### Spring Semester Chapel Talks

- Joe Trebley '01
- Colten Craigin '13
- Christian Gray '25 and Kim King '99
- Aman Brar '99
- Nicole Chase
- Michael Burns '98
- Steve Hoffman '85
- Michael Bower
- Tyler Wade '12
- Tom Runge '71
- Greg Redding '88
- Susan Albrecht
- Senior Chapel:
  - Jacob Weber '25
  - Noah McRoberts '25
  - Mawuli Nevis '25
  - William Beikes '25



< Scan the code to listen to a chapel talk.



### Wabash on my Mind

- The Art of Deliberation
- Professor Lon Porter
- Costa Rica Immersion
- Baseball in the Dominican Republic
- Celebration of Student Research
- Directing "12 Angry Men"
- Professor Chad Westphal
- Quinn Fitzgerald '26
- 2025 Commencement Speakers
- Professor Frank Howland
- Dean of Students Greg Redding '85



< Scan the code to listen to a podcast.



## In Memory

### Ray Toll '47

Ray L. Toll, 99, died in Wenatchee, WA, Sept. 13, 2024.

Toll was born in 1925, near Kooskia, ID, to Willard and Daisy (Gresham) Toll. He graduated from Molalla Union High School in Molalla, OR, in 1943 and was able to attend and enjoy his 80th class reunion in 2023.

After high school, Toll entered the U.S. Navy, being discharged in 1946. He attended Oregon State College (now University), graduating in 1949 with a degree in agriculture. On Jan. 15, 1950, he married Barbara Wicks in Molalla, OR.

Toll's work career was for one employer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration, for 35 years in Oregon and Washington state. Along the way came children—Larry, Susan, and Craig. A move to Wenatchee, WA, in 1957 would be the last; he still lived in the house the couple purchased in 1957.

Toll always enjoyed watching his sports (Beavers, Mariners, and Seahawks), following his children's activities as they grew up, camping at the Wenatchee River property, and going south for the winter after he retired. He had hobbies of stamp collecting, genealogy, working puzzles (jigsaw, sudoku, word find, and crossword), and puttering around the yard.

Toll is survived by his children, Larry Toll and Susan Johnson; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and daughter-in-law, Pam Duck. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Barbara; and son, Craig.

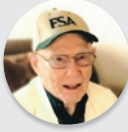
### Richard Maxwell '50

Richard Howard Maxwell, 98, died at his home Jan. 17.

Maxwell was born in 1926, in Indianapolis, to Warren and Patia (Breedlove) Maxwell.

He was a Navy veteran of WWII, a farmer, a high school teacher, and a college professor, retiring from Indiana University Southeast. He was a graduate of Wabash College (B.A.) and Southern Illinois University (Ph.D.).

A botanist, Maxwell loved being out in nature. He had done field work in Sri Lanka, and Central and South America.



Maxwell is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jean Maxwell; two nieces; two nephews; two great-nephews; and a great-niece. He was preceded in death by his brother, John Maxwell, and sister, Patia Crawford. His family wishes to acknowledge his loving caregivers, Katie Spillman, Tina Vandersall, and the late Robert Valentine.

### Jean Williams H'53

Jean Williams H'53, 106, passed away on Jan. 4.

Williams came to Wabash with her husband, Biology Professor **Eliot Williams**, in 1949 and made Crawfordsville and campus her home for 76 years. In 2004, the National Association of Wabash Men named her an honorary alumna.

Williams made Wabash a place people wanted to be. Her gracious entertaining was legendary among faculty and students. If it was a Wabash party, she was there. In fact, she was the party: sparkling, witty, and interesting. She took a personal interest in the lives of the students and their well-being, with many becoming life-long friends. If students were hungry, she fed them, most noticeably the day she made pancakes to celebrate young **Tom Cole**'s acceptance to grad school at CalTech several years before he returned to teach beside Williams' husband and others in that remarkable department.

If students' dates needed a place to spend the night, Williams set up the best bed-and-breakfast in town, and scores of them remember her kindness. Jean and Eliot chaperoned all the dances, a job that once led her to make a Chapel Talk—in this case, a sort of Chapel scolding—about their attitude toward chaperones.

Williams wrote articles for *The Bachelor* and for *Wabash Notes*, beautifully descriptive articles about her world travels. She was a friend to her peers and an inspiration to younger faculty. While she was a graduate of the University of Illinois, Wabash considered her one of their own, and she enriched it with her grace.

An accomplished traveler, Williams visited 115 countries on all seven continents, in all 24 time zones and all 50 of the United States in the course of her lifetime.



She maintained her curiosity about the world, and her love of friends, family and Wabash to the very end.

### Patrick Twomey '54

Longtime fair housing advocate and developer and beloved husband and father James Patrick Twomey, 93, died peacefully at his home in San Jose, Costa Rica, on Nov. 7, 2024.

Twomey was born in Chicago in 1931, the middle of seven children. His parents, Thomas Leo Twomey and Sylvia Coyte Twomey, were both public schoolteachers. He attended Wabash College for his undergraduate studies. After graduating, he served in the U.S. Army (1956) as a personnel and troop information specialist. In 1957, he testified before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, concerning the extension of the G.I. Bill educational benefits for peacetime military personnel.

Following his time in the military, Twomey attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison (UWM), where he received a master of arts in political science. While at UWM, he met his first wife, Rosemary (Wahler). Together they had five daughters, Mary Susan, Trish, Amy Jackson, Kathleen Maalouf, and Ellen Mostoller.

Twomey's lifelong work centered around securing quality housing for low-income and senior populations. In 1966, in his hometown of Chicago, while working for the Chicago City Missionary Society as the director of its low-income housing program, he was asked to meet with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his deputy Andrew Young, who had come to Chicago to fight discriminatory housing practices in the city. After their meeting, it was requested that Twomey try to secure a housing grant for King's program. He went



to Washington, D.C., and met with federal housing officials; as a result, it was agreed that \$12 million would be set aside for King's housing rehabilitation program. That same year, Twomey was named as one of Chicago's Ten Outstanding Young Men for his exceptional achievement in community renewal.

Twomey continued his career in Washington, D.C., where he moved his family to head up the nonprofit housing center of Urban America Inc. In this role, he worked with churches and nonprofit community development groups to produce federally subsidized housing. During this time, he organized multiple trips abroad to study city planning and subsidized housing developments in Europe. In the 1970s, when the Nixon Administration imposed restrictive regulations on federal subsidies for housing, Twomey and family packed their bags and moved to Billings, MT. During the next five years, he developed 12 subsidized housing projects in Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota. While living in Billings, Twomey ran for and was elected to serve a term as a member of the Billings City Council.

Twomey moved to Seattle in 1980 to be the director of the Seattle Housing Resources Group. He led efforts to create and manage affordable housing in the downtown Seattle area. During that time, he was also asked to assist several Native American tribes with their housing and economic development. In that effort, he worked with the Washington Tourism Office to include Northwest coastal tribes in an international travel exposition. He accompanied a native dance troupe to performances throughout Europe. He had a love of Native American art, both collecting and commissioning pieces during his life. While living in the Seattle area, Twomey and his second wife, Bivina, were active parishioners of St. Hugh Episcopal

**In 1966, in his hometown of Chicago, while working for the Chicago City Missionary Society as the director of its low-income housing program, he was asked to meet with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his deputy Andrew Young, who had come to Chicago to fight discriminatory housing practices in the city.**



## **In Memory**

Church in Allyn, WA, where as a member of the choir, he shared his love of singing.

Upon early retirement, they moved to Bivina's native country of Costa Rica, where they opened a small bed-and-breakfast.

Twomey's congeniality and easy facility as a tour guide gave many a guest a wonderful experience of the "pura vida."

In his later years, his wife provided exceptional care to him. Her love and selfless dedication were beautiful to witness.

Twomey's family would also like to express their gratitude to Lee Marden and Patricia Solano, whose patience, skill, and good humor were immeasurably helpful to his well-being.

Twomey loved God, his family, his friends, football, his Irish roots, the Democratic party, skiing, books on politics, and anything that resembled a cinnamon roll.

Most importantly, Twomey sought to live a life of compassion exemplified not only throughout his life's work, but also in his personal life, where he saw value in every person he met. He invited the homeless to share dinner with his family, he provided monetary help to extended family, he took in a man who was living in a nearby park, he paid for lifesaving medical procedures for a friend, and he spent Christmas Day driving to the homes of families in need to deliver gifts. The family asks that in his memory you consider a compassionate act toward another.

Twomey is survived by his daughters, Mary Susan Twomey, Trish Twomey, Amy Jackson, Kathleen Maalouf, and Ellen Mostoller. He also leaves behind his devoted and beloved second wife of 32 years, Bivina; eight grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Rosemary; and siblings, Thomas Twomey, Sylvia Stenhouse, John Twomey, Patrick Twomey, Marjorie Butler, and Joanne Church.

### **Burton Goldstein '57**

Burton A. Goldstein died Sept. 19, 2022. An avid golfer with many friends developed through the sport, Goldstein exhibited a love of the game and particularly enjoyed spending time with his family. He was the beloved husband of the late Sharon; devoted father of Jane Goldstein, Daniel Goldstein, and Matthew Goldstein; and loving grandfather of five.

### **Thomas Phillip Dewey '58**

Thomas Phillip Dewey, 88, died Feb. 21 in Coudersport, PA. Born in 1936 in Coudersport, he was the son of Carl and Leah Dewey.

He majored in English at Wabash and was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Pi Delta Epsilon, and the Blue Key Honor Society. He was on the College's board of publications, and was a member of the yearbook staff and the Glee Club. He achieved first ranking in comprehensive examinations his senior year. He was accepted

into the Iowa Writers' Workshop M.F.A. program and attended for a year. In 1960, he enlisted in Officer Candidate School in the U.S. Navy in Newport, RI, and was commissioned a lieutenant junior grade and assigned a post at the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C., where he worked on intelligence gathering during the early days of the Vietnam War. Living on the Chesapeake Bay, Tom built and raced sailboats in his free time. In 1964, he married Patricia O'Neil.

The family moved to Milford, CT, on the shores of Long Island Sound in 1967, where Tom worked for a couple of companies as a business manager and as a commercial artist. He later turned to self-employment with a homegrown cabinetmaking shop after a divorce and a need to stay home to raise his son. In 1976, they both returned to Coudersport. Tom expanded his business, Custom Cabinetry, maintaining a shop well into his late 70s and diversifying in later years to the complexity of chair making.

### **He also introduced the sport of paddle tennis to town in 1978 on a court that he and his son built in their backyard.**

He also introduced the sport of paddle tennis to town in 1978 on a court that he and his son built in their backyard. This venue, which

he made public, hosted a thriving community of dozens of players at its peak, with a tournament, a lesson program for youth, and a new business, Custom Courts, to grow the sport regionally. Tom was vice president of the United States Professional Tennis Association for several years during this time.

In his later years, he returned to the streams and woods of his youth, small game hunting and fishing with his trusty dog, Sneakers. He also returned to writing and was a regular contributor to local papers, for which he won several awards throughout the years.

Ever the creative entrepreneur, he partnered with a local software designer in the late 1990s to launch a computer program, FlyBase, to aid fly fishermen with the difficult task of matching hatches on regional streams. It required hundreds of hours of entomological data uploading and stream and weather analysis on the back end, and an uphill marketing battle on the front, in what were the early days of personal computing. Today, with the explosive popularity of Pickleball and an app for nearly everything on our phones, one friend recently remarked, "Tom Dewey was a man with great ideas who was simply ahead of his time."

He is survived by his son, **Phillip Dewey '89**; and a granddaughter, Leah Allegheny Dewey, a namesake for his mother and the river of his youth.

photo by Becky Wendt





## In Memory

Dewey '58 continued

### A remembrance

In early June of my junior year in high school, my father and I made the long drive from our hometown of Coudersport, PA, in the heart of the Allegheny Mountains to Crawfordsville, IN, for me to visit his alma mater, Wabash College. Dad was a natural storyteller, an English major and a speech minor, when legendary Wabash professors of the 1950s such as **Willis Johnson, Jack Charles, and Norwood Brigrance** loomed large, while future professors of mine, **Don Baker, Eric Dean, and Richard Strawn** were getting their start.

In the fall of his freshman year in 1954, Dad's parents, both teachers, had dropped him off in front of the Kane House and unloaded his duffel, and, with a handshake from the old man and a hug from Mom, they were off. It was a 12-hour drive back home and they had to teach come Monday. In 1984, our trip was still a solid 10 hours. The interstate system had proliferated in the 30 years that followed, but it still bypassed the wilds of Pennsylvania, leaving a near-hundred-mile radius of state and county routes to first contend with.

Dad talked of hitchhiking to school on several occasions. Once he was fortunate enough to get a ride from a carload of airmen on their way to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. "They shuffled through their drivers, each going like a bat out of hell," Dad said with a chuckle. "But, no matter what, it always took a half an hour to get through Columbus with all its traffic lights."

On one trip he didn't make it to Crawfordsville before nightfall. Stranded, he posted up with his rucksack near a stand of trees in a farm field somewhere in rural Indiana. It was pitch-black that night, Dad recalled, and not a star in the sky, or even a distant highway light. As a night breeze picked up, he heard an irregular night-long clanging in the distance. It haunted his dreams. In the morning when he awoke, broke camp, and headed down the road, he saw what he had heard the night before—an old weather-beaten, clapboard church with a bell in the cupola.

On our drive decades later, we hurtled past Akron (or Acrid, as we liked to call it), then the tire

manufacturing capital of the world. Columbus was an easy bypass now, as was Dayton, where we soon crossed the state line at Richmond, IN. After circling around Indy and getting onto state roads, we were in the home stretch. And then the sky blackened. In a moment a hellacious rain- and hailstorm unleashed on us. Dad veered onto the shoulder and stopped, with the wipers futilely going full tilt. The cab sounded like the inside of a popcorn pot. Trees were bending and snapping large limbs all around us. I was at once mesmerized and terrified and thought that this was it. With the wind roaring outside and buffeting the car's thin walls, I made up the headline in my head: "Father and Son Killed in Tornado on Way to Visit Wabash College."

And then, just as quickly, the storm passed. The sun shone behind it, turning the soaked fields of young alfalfa and corn a brilliant emerald green, and cool, earthy mist rose from the pastureslands of Indiana. "Welcome to a thunderstorm, Midwestern style," chimed Dad. It was late evening when we rolled into Crawfordsville and onto campus for a quick drive-by around the verdant mall and red brick buildings before heading to the residence of Biology Professor Tom Cole for the night. He and Dad had been classmates and Delts at Wabash. Tom was a distinguished professor of biology at Wabash who, himself, now loomed large. Even though they had opposite demeanors, academic interests, and careers, they shared an odd affinity through the years. Both were now, in this station of life, very similar: single and divorced and raising sons nearly the same age.

The next day we toured the campus on foot, with Dad pointing to this and that building and remarking on all the changes since he'd left. Typical dad-alum talk. I'm sure that we met several folks along the way, but one chance encounter has stuck in my head all these years later. Dad had looked over his shoulder a couple of times on our stroll, observing something or someone I had not been paying attention to. We were circling through the arboretum over to Yandes Hall when a tall, lanky, and neatly-dressed man with a bow tie approached in the opposite direction. He slowed his

long strides, stopped in front of us, and stuck his index finger in the air, momentarily rifling through a Rolodex of memory: "Tom ... uh ... Tom Dewey!" he exclaimed. Dad, now seeing him close and hearing his measured Kansan accent, replied affirmatively, "Dr. Strawn!"

Dad introduced me right away and told him this was my first visit to campus. Dr. Strawn focused on me, listening with utmost patience as my 17-year-old self undoubtedly rambled on. We finished our conversation, shook hands, and headed our own way.

A few steps later Dad turned to me and said, "I haven't been back on this campus in the 26 years since I graduated, and Dr. Strawn and I recognized one another." He took a step and then stopped again, put his hand on my shoulder, and said emphatically, "And I never even had a class with him. That's the kind of place Wabash is."

—**Phillip Dewey '89**

### David A. Galliher '58

David A. Galliher, 92, died peacefully Jan. 23 after a short battle with cancer.



Galliher was born in 1932 in Muncie, IN. He attended Burris School in Muncie, and was a proud alumnus of Wabash College. During college, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force, spending time in Japan during the Korean War. After returning to Wabash to complete his degree, he met the love of his life, Nancy Hunger, a co-ed from Scarsdale, NY, at nearby DePauw University. The two were married in 1958 and spent 66 happy years together.

After college they moved back to Muncie and Galliher took over A.E. Boyce Co., a successful printing and bookbinding business founded by his grandfather in 1899. Under his direction the business grew, creating a tailored printing process that catered to Indiana government entities.

**Didier found its niche in high-quality small orders with superior graphics, leading the business to become a preferred approved vendor for MasterCard and Visa.**

In 1978, Boyce purchased Wm. A. Didier and Sons Printing Co. in Ft. Wayne, IN, and Galliher altered the business to specialize in manufacturing credit cards. Didier found its niche in high-quality small orders with superior graphics, leading the business to become a preferred approved vendor for MasterCard and Visa. A.E. Boyce Co. changed its name to Boyce Forms Systems and transitioned to specialize in software programming for government and municipal institutions. Galliher's eldest son, Mike, purchased Boyce in 1990. Their youngest son, Jim, purchased Didier in 2000.

Galliher and his wife raised their four children in Muncie, spending weekends and summers at their special country retreat, "The Cabin," along the White River in nearby Parker City, IN. In 1990, they purchased a family home in Boca Grande, FL, and became Florida residents, spending seven months of the year on the Gulf Coast, where they established many long-term friendships.

Galliher believed in giving back to his community by serving in many organizations, including 31 years as a board member of Merchants National Bank (now called First Merchants Bank), and as a board member of several organizations: Ball Memorial Hospital, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Beta Theta Pi Housing Corp., Eastern Indiana Community Television, Camp Crosley, Muncie Area Arts Association, Muncie Club, Boy Scouts of America, Muncie Symphony Orchestra, and trustee of the Boca Grande Health Clinic. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi, Grace Episcopal Church, Delaware Country Club, Gasparilla Inn and Club, Boca Grande Club, and Boca Grande Men's Club. He and his wife sponsored many events through the Friends of the Boca Grande Community.

Galliher was a lifelong learner, and a man of many interests and passions. He held a core belief in the power of free enterprise, and sponsored an annual essay contest for high school students in Delaware Co., IN, for which he received the Paul Samuels Award for Community Leaders from the Indiana Council for Economic Education in 2000.



## In Memory

He developed a love and appreciation for duck decoys and became an avid collector, specializing in carver Charles Perdew. He published a book on the life and exquisite craftsmanship of Perdew, titled “Perdew: An Illinois River Tradition,” by Ann Tandy Lacy. The study of genealogy was important to Galliher, and he hired professional genealogists to print and publish books outlining the many branches of his ancestry dating back to 1620 and the Mayflower.

Upland game hunting was a favorite pastime of Galliher’s. He raised English setters and pointers to hunt quail and pheasant in Indiana, South Dakota, Michigan, Illinois, Georgia, and Florida. He was once recognized by Orvis in one of their publications as part of the “Doubles Club” for shooting two grouse in one flush. He and his wife shared a passion for travel, exploring almost every continent. After several overseas trips, they decided to choose one place to get to know more thoroughly, and they returned to Florence, Italy, a couple of months for a few years. Ireland was a special destination for Galliher, who was proud of his Irish heritage. They toured the Emerald Isle on several trips with their four children and spouses, as well as having extended stays in Co. Mayo with the entire family. Some of their most memorable trips were educational travels with each of their 14 grandchildren, including Alaska, Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, and Africa.

Galliher is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Mike Galliher, Sharon Kucharski, Kathy Locke, and Jim Galliher; 14 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Also surviving is his sister, Genie Brown. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert J. and Harriet Boyce Galliher; brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Judy Galliher; and brother-in-law, Tom Brown.

### Roland Cox ’59

Roland Marshall Cox, 87, of Cody, WY, died Nov. 3, 2024, at Spirit Mountain Hospice House. He was born in 1937 in East Chicago, IN, to Roy H. Cox and Elsie L. Cox.

Cox and his beautiful, loving wife, Sonja (Langtwait) Cox of Graham, WA, held their vows sacred for 48 years before her passing—through some deep trials and many great joys. The bulk of those years were spent at their beloved wooded family property in Graham with panoramic views of Mount Rainier.

A graduate of Griffith High School in Indiana, Cox completed a B.A. in psychology with a minor in political science at Wabash College.

Cox’s professional life was marked by a successful career in marketing and sales, first significantly contributing to his father-in-law Stan Langtwait’s business, Shapes of Clay, and later working for the National Federation of Independent Business.

Cox served his country with distinction in the U.S. Army, excelling as the No. 1 boot camp trainee of his company and ranking fifth of 1,100 in marksmanship. He served active duty as a medic at Madigan Army Hospital in the early 1960s.

Cox’s faith life was centered around a simple belief in God, prayer, and helping others.

Cox was also an expert fisherman. Steelhead, salmon, and trout were favorite catches. He drifted over 50 rivers in Washington, Oregon, and Wyoming in his lifetime, rowing a drift boat until the age of 84. Another passion was pedigree/bloodline research, as the family bred, raised, and showed registered quarter horses with a special emphasis in cutting horses. His hobbies reflected his love for nature and his independent spirit.

He is survived by his daughter, Diane D. Champlin, and her husband, Donnie; son, Brett R. Cox, and his wife, Julie; three grandsons; many nephews and nieces; great-nephews and great-nieces; sister-in-law, Arleta Manavie, and her husband, Michael; and friend and love of the past 13 years, Donna Schulz.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy H. Cox and Elsie L. Cox of Griffith, IN; and his siblings, Milo, Wilbur, Frances, Frederick, Richard, Ralph, and Warren.

### Jerry Wayne Swayzee ’59

Jerry Wayne Swayzee, 86, of Boulder, CO, died Nov. 22, 2024.

Swayzee was born in New Castle, IN, in 1938, the first son to Ernest Wayne Swayzee and Verna (Clark) Swayzee. He attended Walter P. Chrysler High School, where he excelled in football, track and field, and choir. In 1956, he was the first pole vaulter in a decade to clear 11 feet.

Swayzee attended Wabash College, where he was active in fraternity life. He also sang in the Glee Club, which likely sparked his initial interest in his early career: writing jingles for advertisements in Chicago during the “Mad Men” heyday of the profession.

**He was indeed a prolific scribe of catchy tunes, with credits including the official fight song of the Chicago Blackhawks, “Here Come the Hawks!”**

He was indeed a prolific scribe of catchy tunes, with credits including the official fight song of the Chicago Blackhawks, “Here Come the Hawks!” He also collaborated with Dick Marx and his orchestra on some of the most recognizable jingles of that day, including the Virginia Slims jingle “You’ve Come a Long Way, Baby,” which won a CLIO award in 1969; the Kellogg’s Raisin Bran “Two Scoops” jingle; and the Wrigley’s Doublemint “Double Your Pleasure, Double Your Fun” jingle.

Swayzee moved to Winter Park, CO, in the 1980s and developed a second career in real estate development before settling into active retirement, which included running, swimming, and spending time with his many friends throughout Colorado.

Swayzee was married three times in his life, with his greatest love being his last wife, Nancy Swayzee. Though they separated many years ago, he carried a torch for her all of his years. Nancy passed away in June 2024. Swayzee also fathered a son, Scott Swayzee, with his first wife, Veronica Van Zandt. Sadly, Scott died of a sudden brain aneurysm in 2011.

Swayzee is survived by his granddaughter, Kimber Swayzee; nephews; nieces; and his community at Winding Trails in Boulder, CO.

### William Faller ’61

Dr. William Faller, 84, Kewaunee, WI, died March 31, 2024. He was born in Chicago to the late Adolph and Irma (Hugg) Faller.

In 1965, in Germany, Faller married the love of his life, Heidi Schatek, embarking on a journey of partnership and companionship that lasted for nearly six decades. Faller dedicated his life to being a pathologist.

Faller found solace and joy in the great outdoors, where he spent countless hours cutting trees and planting thousands more, leaving a powerful legacy of sustainability and environmental stewardship. He was an active member of the Heritage Farm community, dedicating his time to preserving the past by working on the schoolhouse at Ag Heritage. His contributions were instrumental in moving and restoring the building, ensuring that future generations would appreciate its historical significance.

A devoted member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Faller found spiritual fulfillment in his faith and community. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him, leaving behind a lasting impact on those whose lives he touched.

Faller is survived by his wife, Heidi; his children, William Faller, Annette Faller, and Christoph Faller; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Dorothy Faller. He was preceded in death by his parents, Adolph and Irma Faller; and brother, Adolph.



# Thank You, Class of 2025!

**T**HE RAMSAY ARCHIVAL CENTER is filled with stories of days gone by and individuals who have played a role in making Wabash what it is today. As we celebrate the Class of 2025, here are a few special members of the class who have left their mark.

**Christian Tackett '25** has served as the Ramsay Archival Center's student assistant for the past two years. The history major displayed enthusiasm and fascination with the field of archives and the history of Wabash every day. Tackett processed 11 collections, capturing different voices and perspectives on the history of Wabash and adding to the overarching story of the College for generations to come. In addition, he has assisted with numerous reference requests. If you have asked us a question, there is a good chance that Tackett played a role in finding the answer!

**Brayden Curnutt '25** has served as the Ramsay Archival Center and Lilly Library social media specialist for the past year. Besides having had stellar success and record-setting accomplishments on the track and cross country teams, he has been the point person for all of the Library's social media. If you have enjoyed the posts on @lillylibrarywabash or @wallysattic on Instagram, you have seen Curnutt's fantastic work.

**Nathan Plake '25** served as the Wabash Club of Indianapolis (WCI) intern during the summer of 2024. With the support of the WCI, Plake was tasked with compiling a research guide on the history of the WCI and processing a collection of minutes from their past meetings. His work has allowed us to better document the history of the amazing alumni organizations of Wabash College and the vital role they play.

**Preston Reynolds '25** served as an intern in the summer of 2023. In a position generously funded through the Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust grant, he completed an item-level inventory and wrote metadata for Associate Professor of English and Black Studies Timothy Lake's Black Cultural Sites of Indiana Digital Collection. In addition to this work, Reynolds created a digital exhibit, Indiana: Historic AME Churches, showcasing the resources of this collection on Discover Indiana, a statewide public history project developed by the department of public history at Indiana University Indianapolis.

Thank you to all of these individuals for their work in the Ramsay Archival Center and to all of this year's graduating seniors who are now adding their voices to the history of Wabash College!

**Nolan Eller '11**

Archivist | [archives@wabash.edu](mailto:archives@wabash.edu)

[@wallysattic](#)



Christian Tackett '25



Brayden Curnutt '25



Nathan Plake '25



Preston Reynolds '25



Scan the code to visit  
the Archives website.



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WABASH MEN

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Tony Unfried '03**

*President*

**Brian Shelbourne '12**

*Vice President*

**Dustin DeNeal '04**

*Recorder*

**Jim Hawkworth '95**

*Past President*

**Rudy Altergott '13**

**Chris Carpenter '96**

*Class Agent Representatives*

**Brian Clem '04**

**Ben Grisemer '88**

*Regional Representatives*

**Bobby Horton**

*Faculty Representative*

**Ayden Salpietra '27**

*Student Representative*

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

#### Term Expires May 2026

Kyle Bender '12

Jared Lange '08

Kevin Meyer '06

Harsh Singh '01

David Zimmerman '93

#### Term Expires May 2027

Sean Lyons '95

Ben Seib '02

Brian Parks '18

Mike Simmons '88

Todd Vogel '04

#### Term Expires May 2028

John Castro '97

Pat Kenney '18

Byron Lamm '79

Cahmelan Porter '14

Andy Wilkinson '83

### New to an Area?

Find the Wabash Club nearest you at:  
[wabash.edu/alumni/regional\\_groups](http://wabash.edu/alumni/regional_groups)

### Want to Refer a Student?

[wabash.edu/alumni/student/refer](http://wabash.edu/alumni/student/refer)

### Want to Engage With Wabash?

[wabash.edu/alumni](http://wabash.edu/alumni)  
[wabash.edu/parents](http://wabash.edu/parents)

### New Contact Information?

[alumni@wabash.edu](mailto:alumni@wabash.edu)

## From the NAWM

# The Strength of the NAWM

**H**OW TIME FLIES. It seems like it was just yesterday that I began my two-year term as president of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM). During that time, I enjoyed conversations with alumni, students, trustees, faculty, staff, and parents. The love for Wabash among our alumni is both deep and undeniable. That is a testament to the experience our students have while on campus, strongly influenced by a passionate Wabash community that relentlessly works to advance the College in every aspect.

One thing that became evident to me is that most alumni have very little understanding of what the NAWM Board does. The NAWM's mission is to support Wabash College by fostering relationships that help the College achieve its mission of educating men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely. My colleagues and I work tirelessly to foster connections across Wabash through:

- **Strengthening the Wabash Alumni Community:** by being present, being active, and networking,
- **Spreading Wabash's Fame:** by doing whatever we can to grow our already strong reputation,
- **Supporting Students:** by guiding the next generation of Wabash men toward meaningful lives and careers,
- **Ensuring Financial Strength:** by donating what we can to allow future students to enjoy the same or better opportunities than we experienced on campus.

In addition to several new initiatives, I made it the hallmark of my presidency to increase the visibility of, and the communications from, the NAWM Board to provide our alumni and students a better window into our work. As a result, we have developed a social media presence, printed an editorial in *The Bachelor* to educate our second-semester seniors about the alumni association they would soon be joining, and hosted dinners with student-leaders on campus to encourage them to stay active with

Wabash as alumni. While our efforts are still in their infancy, I am happy to report that we have made some great initial strides.

We celebrated Commencement in May and welcomed the Class of 2025 into the National Association of Wabash Men. The time has arrived for you to consider what kind of Wabash alumnus you want to be. Just like your time on campus, it will be what you make of it. The alumni who have the most fulfilling postgraduate relationships with Wabash are the ones who stay engaged. By remaining engaged as alumni, you can continue to play a critical role in shaping Wabash's legacy and future. Wabash needs you. We need your leadership, your loyalty, and your enthusiasm. Wabash needs your involvement. And that means showing up, giving back, and staying connected.

If you have enjoyed the benefits of the best alumni network in the nation, the onus is on you as an alumnus to pay it forward. Alumni are the lifeblood of Wabash. Only through our collective and enduring efforts will the College continue to thrive as we enter our third century.

Representing our alumni has been the honor of a lifetime. I thank my fellow board members for their hard work and dedication to advancing the College we love so well. I will remain on the NAWM Board for two more years, and I hope to meet many more of you on campus soon!

**Jim Hawkworth '95**

President | NAWM



Follow us on social.   
[@nationalassociationofwabashmen](https://www.instagram.com/nationalassociationofwabashmen)



## In Memory

### Jay Moore '61

Jay Field Moore, 85, of Rock Hill, SC, died Jan. 7, surrounded by his family. Born in 1939, in Gary, IN, he was the second of five children to the late Prentice Moore and Margureite Mason Moore.

Moore graduated from Wabash College, where he studied speech and English literature, was in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and enjoyed playing on the football and baseball teams. He also served his country in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Moore's gregarious personality was well suited to his long career as a regional sales development manager for Cryovac. He was very social, humorous, and fun loving, and was often the life of the party.

Moore's commitment to the love of Christ flowed through his heart in many ways. He was a volunteer with hospice for many years and often would come home talking about how special it was to be of assistance to those about to transition. He was also a co-founder of the nonprofit Mayday in Clover, SC, where he established fundraisers for homeless and underprivileged children in the Clover School district. He took a tremendous amount of pride in being of service to others.

Moore was an avid golfer; he loved the sport so much that, after retirement, his fun job was selling high-end golf tours in Great Britain and Spain for SGH Golf. Moore was also a lover of music. He started playing piano by ear at age 5, and hardly a day went by throughout his entire life that he didn't play. He played piano beautifully for the enjoyment of self, family, and others.

Moore and his wife loved to travel and spent much of their retirement years traversing the globe. It brought him tremendous pleasure to create loving, fond memories with friends and family. His larger-than-life personality and big love, just like his music, will forever resonate in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to soak it up.

Moore is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Nancy Ellen Smith Moore; son, John Moore; daughter, Julie Moore Lindsey; brothers, Dick, Bill, and Tim Moore; sister, Jeanine Hansen; one granddaughter; and three



grandsons. He is also survived by 18 nieces and nephews and their families.

### David Earl Downen '62

David Earl Downen, 84, died Feb. 10 at The Mather in Evanston, IL, where he had lived with his wife, Kathryn, for seven years.

Downen was born in 1940, in Rockport, IN. He was a real Midwest boy, living in Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Iowa while growing up. In high school in Jefferson City, MO, he was an Eagle Scout, played football, and ran cross country. He graduated from Wabash College, where he was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He then earned a M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He moved to Chicago in 1964 and worked in investment banking, eventually founding his own firm, Prairie Capital Services, in 1993.

After retiring in 2013, Downen, always a train buff, continued to research early Great Lakes transportation, compiling valuable data on the shipping lines and railroads that powered regional economic growth in the 19th and 20th centuries. An Evanston resident for more than 50 years, he volunteered weekly at the Friday Lunch Soup Kitchen and the Evanston Public Library Book Sale, was on the board of the Evanston History Center, and chaired the Finance and Budget Advisory Committee at The Mather.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Kniffen; children, Michael Downen, Andrew Kniffen, and Elizabeth Kniffen; five grandchildren; sisters, Nancy Powers and Ann Jordan; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Earl and Mary (Richards) Downen; and his first wife, Sheila Boyce Downen.

### Tom Hess '62

Tom Hess, 83, died peacefully at home May 22, 2024, from complications of Parkinson's disease and kidney cancer, in the loving presence of his wife, Anne, and son, Sam.

Hess was born in Cincinnati in 1940, to Louis C. Hess and Frieda Cronenwett Hess. His early years were spent with his Uncle Chris and Aunt Gladys Tiemann, and his cousins, Bill and Judy, in



Cincinnati. At age 4, he returned to live with his parents in Michigan City, IN, where he spent his youth among the waters and dunes of Lake Michigan, proudly bringing home fish, wild asparagus, and coal to his family. At age 7, he became a proud big brother when his sister, Susan, was born, and he protected, nurtured, and mentored her for the rest of his life.

Despite having a very difficult childhood, Hess became an excellent scholar, rising to meet challenges with his quick wit, intuition, intelligence, and amazing creativity. He graduated from Michigan City High School in 1958, received his B.A. from Wabash College in 1962, and earned his Ph.D. in physics from Ohio University in 1967, which was based on mathematical models of nuclear structure solved with novel computational approaches.

He met his lifelong love, Anne Letchworth, while at graduate school in Athens, OH, smitten by her beauty and musical talent, and reveling in her appreciation of his off-the-wall humor. He often expressed his love for her, and his devotion was never failing. On their limited graduate-student salaries, they decided they would rather spend their money on a honeymoon trip than a fancy wedding, so they drove to San Francisco to be married. They were married for 57 years, and had one child, Samuel Timothy, who was born in 1973.

Instead of following the convention of the time, Hess and his wife had the unusual philosophy of bringing their son along everywhere. As a result, Sam grew up in the physics department, sleeping under his father's desk, playing in the halls, going into the lab, listening to scientists, and traveling to conferences. Hess was elated when his son decided to return to Maine and become faculty in the same physics department, where they spent 20 years working closely.

In 1969, Hess joined the department of physics and astronomy at the University of Maine and began teaching and doing research focusing on nuclear physics. After a sabbatical in Houston from 1979 to 1980, he began working in health physics. Hess was an especially compassionate professor with

a friendly and disarming way of getting to know people. He would never give up on a student and saved many from discouragement and failure. He was a mentor to both students and faculty and became an uplifting force in the department.

His interest in environmental issues led him to study the effects of naturally occurring radioactivity on human health. This work helped discover that natural radon in the air and water of people's homes could cause lung cancer and other serious illness. Hess worked tirelessly to educate and disseminate these discoveries, visiting numerous elementary schools in Maine, consulting with homeowners to help them stay safe, and eventually contributing to the creation of state and federal standards limiting radon exposure in homes and workplaces. It is estimated that these standards have saved tens of thousands of people from getting cancer.

**This work helped discover that natural radon in the air and water of people's homes could cause lung cancer and other serious illness.**

Hess retired in 2021 after 52 years as a teacher and researcher.

Hess was an unstoppable storyteller and punster, often engaging in banter with colleagues and friends. The quintessential professor, he was quick to give an informal lecture on any topic, and because he read such a wide variety of material, those "lectures" could be quite enlightening, as well as entertaining. There was at least one occasion, however, after a glass of wine and a hearty meal, when his guest audience fell asleep. He was a talented amateur painter. He loved fly-fishing on rivers and lakes, swimming in the ocean, listening to classical music, and eating baked goods and ice cream.

Hess could see the bright side of any situation. While he suffered from many physical limitations himself, he taught those around him to count their blessings and be thankful, to focus on the positive rather than the negative, and to take joy in helping others.



## **In Memory**

Early in life, he was a member of the Church of the Brethren; after moving to Maine, he joined the Stillwater Federated Church, which he served for the rest of his life. Even in his last days, he praised those around him, complimenting his caregivers and family, and cracking jokes.

Hess is survived by his wife, Anne; son, Samuel, and his wife, Julie Gosse; sister, Susan Kennedy; two granddaughters; several nieces; a nephew; cousins; and beloved dog, Robbie, who stayed by his side constantly during his last week of life. He was predeceased by his parents; Uncle Chris and Aunt Gladys; brothers, Harrie F. Hess, Peter Hess, and Louis Hess Jr.; friend, Kenneth Brownstein; and best friend, Charles "Skip" Smith.

### **William Richard Neher Jr. '63**

William "Bill" Richard Neher Jr., 82, died at home Jan. 15.

Neher was born in Des Moines, IA. He graduated from Wabash College with a B.A. in German and earned his Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Minnesota. He taught at Breck School, served in administration at the University of Minnesota, and then became director of education for Rasmussen Business College. He also managed computer-based education product development at Control Data before founding Concourse Corporation, where he served as chief executive officer. He became chapter president and then regional director of the American Society for Training and Development, and contributed as national commissioner of the Accrediting Commission for Independent Colleges and Schools. He later founded a private consulting firm to provide guidance and expertise in organization and management development.

As a second-degree black belt in the martial arts, Neher taught Shorei-ryu karate and was a nationally and internationally ranked competitor and champion.

### **As a second-degree black belt in the martial arts, Neher taught Shorei-ryu karate and was a nationally and internationally ranked competitor and champion.**

He traveled extensively, enjoyed competing with his son and daughter, and made many dear friends in his "karate family." In weapons defense, he reached the rank of cane master, served as director of the Cane Master's International Association, and was inducted into the World Sokeship Family Council's International Hall of Fame and Masters Hall of Fame for his lifetime contributions to the martial arts.

In retirement, Neher served his community through multiple Masonic organizations, and volunteered as board member and secretary of RiteCare Minneapolis-St. Paul, a foundation funding speech pathology treatment for children.

Neher came from an extraordinarily talented musical family, played the trombone in high school, sang in church choirs, and could play the piano beautifully by ear. He is remembered by family as a gourmet chef, brilliantly intelligent man, hilarious comedian, devoted husband, doting dad, and gifted confidant who made friends everywhere he went and deeply valued the power and necessity of education, love, support, and compassion.

Neher is survived by his beloved wife, Ann; son, Kevin; daughter, Kelly Schamberger; brother, Timothy; sister, Cynthia Martindale; and two granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his parents, W. Richard and Kathleen F. Neher.

### **Robert C. Martz '63**

Robert C. Martz died June 8, 2024. No other information was available.

### **James Lawrence Sherry '64**

James Lawrence Sherry, 81, died Feb. 12, 2024, in Troy, AL.



Sherry was born and raised in Dayton, OH, as the first of three children. He became interested in the French language when he was in seventh grade and traveled with his grandparents to Montreal. He continued to study French from that point forward, earning his bachelor's degree from Wabash College and his master's and Ph.D. in Romance languages from Yale University in New Haven, CT.

Sherry was interested in spelling bees from the time he competed in and won the Indiana State Bee. He then had the opportunity to compete in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., and he and his mother got to meet Vice President Richard Nixon. He continued his love of spelling bees again in his 70s when he competed in multiple spelling bees in Long Beach, CA, and AARP senior spelling bees in Cheyenne, WY, and Knoxville, TN, where he finally won in 2016.

Although Sherry never had any children of his own, he mentored many other people's children in his more than 45 years of teaching. His first job was at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL. He moved back to his home state of Ohio to work at Muskingum University.

He spent the rest of his career in Troy, AL, teaching not only French at Troy University beginning in 1975, but also honors classes, including several film classes, also a passion of his. In the beginning of his career in Troy, he also taught French classes at the grade school and high school in town. He became very attached to several of his students over the years and even helped them out financially when they could not afford activities or trips in which he was involved. On at least 20 occasions, he taught a

summer course that included a trip to Paris, France. The last few years of the trips, he included a day trip to the Normandy Beach Memorial. He and his students found this very educational and emotionally moving.

Graduation was always an important event for Sherry, as he got to wear his impressive robe and sash, as well as meet the parents of his favorite students. He would often become tearful when recounting the praises received from parents who reported that he had made a huge impact on their children's lives and career choices.

Sherry was also involved in countless community activities, including singing in the Bush Baptist Choir and participating in summer Bible school. He was also a member of Troy Kiwanis Club and was instrumental in starting the student version, Circle K. In addition, he was a true fan of many sports, with baseball as his absolute favorite game. His earliest and favorite was the Cincinnati Reds baseball team that he and his grandfather watched together. Sherry attended a couple of World Series baseball games in Cincinnati with his mother and his sister, Nancy. He would also watch whatever baseball game was being televised, including Little League World Series. Another sport he liked to watch was Women's World Cup soccer. He was able to attend a match in Birmingham, AL, several years ago. He also followed and watched all Troy University sports and was especially fond of the Troy women's softball team, whose games he regularly attended.

Sherry had a generous, Godly spirit that will be missed by family and friends alike. He is survived by his sisters, Susan Senior and Nancy Lannen; and multiple nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews in Michigan, England, Scotland, and Germany. He was preceded in death by his mother, Grayce Shingledecker; and his niece.



## In Memory

### Thomas Edward Bambrey '68

Thomas Edward Bambrey, 78, died peacefully with his wife at his side on Jan. 26.

Bambrey was the firstborn son of Edward Thomas and Clara Mae (Ansell) Bambrey. He spent his childhood in western Pennsylvania, enjoying every minute as a gifted athlete and an avid student.

In 1964, Bambrey came to Wabash College to run track for **J. Owen Hunstman**. He earned a bachelor's degree at Wabash, majoring in English, and continued his education at the University of Denver, where he earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in English literature.

Bambrey married Lucy Hackett Bambrey and together they had Tara Bambrey Jecklin and Jamie Bambrey. They divorced and he married Roselie Pelzer Bambrey, who shared his children and 45 years of adventures.

Bambrey became the director of the English Language Center at Denver University and then moved on to become the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and then the dean of students. In 1993, he took the dean of students and co-curricular education job at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY.

Wabash President **Andy Ford** called Bambrey and asked whether he would be interested in becoming the dean of students at Wabash College in 1997. Thus began his dream job. Bambrey always had an academic appointment in the English department because he loved teaching, but his gift was in working with students across campus.

Bambrey finished his career at Wabash as the director of athletics. He loved working with coaches and athletes. His greatest honor came this past September, as he was inducted into the Wabash College Athletics Hall of Fame. He will be missed.

Bambrey is survived by his wife, Roselie Bambrey; daughter, Tara Jecklin; son, Jamie Bambrey; brother, David Bambrey; two grandchildren; brothers-in-law, Robert Pelzer and Jerry Pelzer; and several nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents.



### A remembrance

Dean Bambrey changed my life. It is that simple. Like so many others, I was an 18-year-old kid when I stepped on campus, full of nerves, hopes, dreams, and scared to death. Yet in my four years at Wabash College, I cultivated several relationships that helped me mature, helped me develop a sense of right and wrong, and ensured that I wrestled with questions about my role as a man in society that I leverage to this very day.

Dean Bambrey was engaged and involved in every facet of the College. He gave us guidance and direction, and he ensured we knew what was expected of us. It didn't matter what the content or topic was that he was advising; he was so well studied on what seemed to be every matter involving Wabash and its students. He would settle a student dispute, teach a class, grade a paper, help a student get a job, help alumni make a new connection, attend a play, and make sure the Sphinx Club toed a fine line, all on the same day.

Tom Bambrey had a superpower. When I would see him in his office or on campus, he never disregarded me. He always looked me in the eye and asked me what I thought was the best course of action to an issue that needed to be addressed on campus. He made sure I knew my views and opinions mattered. Just before graduation, he grabbed me after an event on campus and said, "Kip, thank you for all you have done at Wabash." He gave me a gift—a frame for my diploma. I didn't have money to buy one. Today, my diploma hangs in my office in the very frame he gifted to me. My emotions come back to me even now, 22-plus years later, thinking about that.

**He gave me a gift—a frame for my diploma. I didn't have money to buy one. Today, my diploma hangs in my office in the very frame he gifted to me. My emotions come back to me even now, 22-plus years later, thinking about that.**

I needed his mentorship and guidance more than he knew. Like so many others, I was a first-generation college student. The kind that Wabash College succeeds in identifying and developing into gentlemen and responsible citizens. I was often scared I was going to fail the tradition of Wabash and not pass it on to the next generation, yet he always patiently coached and guided me. He never looked beyond my shoulder to the next conversation.

I revere Dean Bambrey. Life is best understood in the tradition of telling stories. In the Chase family, Dean Bambrey will always be one of the great figures for how Wabash College shaped me.

—**M. Kip Chase '03**

### Robert H. Hendren '68

Robert "Bob" Hendren, 79, died peacefully on Jan. 4.

Hendren grew up in Carmel, IN, the youngest child of Gilbert and Shirley Hendren.

Always a free spirit, Hendren took time away from his studies at Wabash College to travel and work in Germany and Turkey before returning to finish his bachelor's degree. He then served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war.

Upon completion of his military service, Hendren worked in the family business in Indianapolis, the Hendren Printing Company. He then attended law school at Florida State University, after which he was a practicing attorney for 45 years. During his law career, he worked as a public defender, as an administrator with the state of Indiana, and in private practice.

Hendren was passionate about music and art, and was an accomplished musician. He played guitar, banjo, and dobro, and sang traditional songs as well as his own many compositions. He found his greatest joy in gathering and playing with other musicians, and he was instrumental in creating the traditional music club Traditions in Indianapolis, presenting national and regional acts, including the great Ralph Stanley. He also created hundreds of abstract artworks with pencils, paints, and pastels.



Hendren is survived by his daughter, Samantha Hendren; and son, Christopher Hendren. He is predeceased by his beloved older siblings, Gilbert, Michael, and Nancy.

### Jon Dara VanScyoc '68

Jon Dara VanScyoc, 78, died Feb. 2 in Fishers, IN, surrounded by his loving family.

VanScyoc was born in 1946, in Crawfordsville, IN, and raised in Seymour, IN. He graduated in 1968 from Wabash College, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his doctor of medicine degree at Indiana University Medical School in 1972 and served in the U.S. Army as a captain from 1973 to 1975. He established his medical practice as a family physician in Noblesville in 1976 and retired in 2016. He was cherished by hundreds of patients and families.

VanScyoc had an exceptional intuition for diagnosing and treating his patients. He was named a top doctor in Indianapolis Monthly. When he was not tirelessly devoting his time to his patients, he enjoyed traveling across the U.S. and Europe, boating, cooking gourmet food, dancing, playing bridge, and playing golf. He had a boundless interest in history and reading. He always had a quiet, caring demeanor and a quick, dry humor that would light up the room. One of his biggest passions was music, from classical to classic rock.

You Are My Music  
by Jon Dara VanScyoc,  
circa 2020

Of all the things I love in life,  
music is the best.  
The bass line, strong and steady,  
comforts me and gives me rest.  
The humble harmony flows in  
close support.  
It's helpful by design.  
The chorus is a familiar strain.  
It's familiar, and it's fine.  
The conductor puts it  
all together,  
And makes it come alive.  
Oh, the melody is so sweet  
and loved.





## In Memory

VanScyoc was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who shared 55 wonderful years with his beloved wife, Emalee (Brackemyre) VanScyoc. He is survived by Emalee and his two children, Wendy VanScyoc and Erik VanScyoc; two grandchildren; and siblings, Kris Deputy and Kent VanScyoc. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Marilyn VanScyoc; and sister, Karin Greemann-Antle.

### H. David Parkhill '69

Homer David Parkhill, 78, of Fort Myers, FL, died Dec. 1, 2024, after enduring several challenging years with Alzheimer's disease. Parkhill was born in 1946 to Homer C. and Ann (Renz) Parkhill in Pontiac, IL.



Parkhill graduated from Pontiac Township High School in 1964. While attending Wabash College, he was a proud member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. He was a "Life Loyal Sig" who kept in touch with his fraternity brothers throughout his life.

He married Jane Clevenger in 1968. They had two daughters, Amity and Kelly.

Parkhill had a long career in marketing of housewares and office supplies, working at companies throughout northern Illinois. In his free time, he enjoyed relaxing in his pool, watching IndyCar racing, grilling a steak, working on his yard and house, and enjoying a fine glass of wine or scotch with a cigar. He was known for having the most perfectly manicured lawn in the neighborhood.

Upon retiring, Parkhill and his wife moved to Florida, to the Heritage Palms Golf and Country Club, which they have called home since 2012. They made many new friends in Florida and enjoyed the sun and social life. Parkhill passed his time playing golf, working on several Heritage Palms committees, eating peel-and-eat shrimp, and drinking rum runners on the Florida Gulf Coast. He enjoyed working part-time at Legends Golf Club as a starter and ranger. He will be fondly remembered for his storytelling and sense of humor, and everywhere he went, he made lifelong friends.

Parkhill leaves behind his loving wife, Jane; two daughters, Amity Tarrants and Kelly Cameron; five grandchildren; sister, Carol Murphy; and extended family members and many close friends who were like family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Homer C. and Ann Parkhill.

### Frederick A. Haase '71

Frederick A. Haase, 75, died Feb. 3 at his home in Loudon, TN.



Born and raised in South Bend, IN, Haase was the oldest of two children. His father was an IndyCar engineer, and Haase developed a love for racing at a young age while roaming Gasoline Alley. Throughout his life, attending the Indy 500 was the highlight of his year. Haase was a stoic man, but on every Sunday of Memorial Day weekend when the engines fired, he was filled with zestful enthusiasm. It was the only Sunday of the year when church attendance became optional.

Haase attended Wabash College and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in Latin. He continued his postgraduate education at the University of Washington-St. Louis. After graduating, he was hired by the Culver Academies to teach Latin. Other than a short-lived teenage stint with Mayflower Moving, this was his first and only job. For 43 years, Haase taught Latin and economics, and served as the foreign language department chair. He coached the boys' golf team and established the girls' golf team at Culver in 1982. A true giant in the Culver Academies' history, Haase, or "Pater" as he was known to his students, held the W.A. Moncrief Chair of Free Enterprise Economics and was a Batten Fellow. He is one of only a few Culver faculty members to receive all three of its prestigious awards—the Delmar T. Spivey Award, Mark Kaser Award, and John Mars Award. He was beloved by his students, and the tone of his resounding voice will always echo through Gignilliat Hall.

**He was a meticulously thoughtful man who was not prone to act rashly, but proposing to Nancy was undoubtedly his fastest (and best) decision. Within a few months they were engaged, and they went on to spend more than 51 years as husband and wife.**

In 1972, Haase met Nancy Bernet and knew immediately she was the woman he would marry. He was a meticulously thoughtful man who was not prone to act rashly, but proposing to Nancy was undoubtedly his fastest (and best) decision. Within a few months they were engaged, and they went on to spend more than 51 years as husband and wife.

Haase was a man with very defined priorities in life—his faith, his family, and the game of golf. He gladly sacrificed the scant free time he had to take his children to the course and instill his love of the game in them. To Haase, his relationship with Jesus always came first. A man of great faith, he was a devout Lutheran and served fullheartedly at his congregations. He loved his church families at Our Redeemer in Knox, IN, and Grace Lutheran in Knoxville, TN. 2 Timothy 4:7 reads, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." Fred Haase embodied this verse with his actions, words, and deeds. Always faithful, always keeping his eyes on Jesus.

Haase is survived by his wife, Nancy Haase; sons, David Haase and Ryan Haase; daughter, Caroline Hegg; three grandchildren; brother, Michael Haase; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

### A remembrance

Friendships that originate in youth have special worth. My special friendship with Fred Haase started in 1967. We were freshmen.

He and I were the only Latin majors in the Class of 1971. For eight semesters, every Latin class he took, I took with him. Sometimes we were the only two students in the class. We were not competitors in the classroom. Our competition was the material, not each other.

Fred and I were different. I was a fraternity man, and he was not. Our political and religious views were different. He knew a lot about the Indianapolis 500, and I knew that the Indianapolis 500 was a race. He was very good at golf, and I was not even good at miniature golf. We were different in other aspects of our personal lives and personalities.

Our careers were ironically different, too. He started in law school, quickly found it not for him, and switched to teaching Latin and economics. Influenced by professors **Ted Bedrick** and **Ben Rogge**, Fred was a historically exemplary teacher and golf coach at Culver Academies, a career that spanned 43 years. In contrast, I started graduate school in Latin and Greek, quickly found it not for me, and eventually switched to law for a career.

Each of us lucked out and a married girl from Cincinnati—but that cannot relate to Latin class. Each of us was in the other's wedding.

He recruited students for Wabash and supported Wabash in other ways.

It is so Wabash that two guys who were so different in many ways formed a special friendship that ran nearly 60 years until his death. I lost a special friend, and so did Wabash.

—Jon Pactor '71



## In Memory

### Peter L. Hawley '71

Peter L. Hawley of New Hartford, CT, died Oct. 24, 2024. He was the eldest son of Kathleen Lamphier Hawley and Samuel Seymour Hawley.

Hawley graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1967. He became an FCC-licensed radio technician, served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps (graduating first in his class at signal school), and graduated from Wabash College. Together with his father and brother, Hawley built the house where he lived for 35 years.

At Al's Seafood, he applied his listening and computer skills to improve processes. As an astute IBM AS400 tech with business knowledge, Hawley found a role at Hartford Technologies and worked there until he retired in 2019. He volunteered to help Connecticut Forest and Park Association maintain Blue-Blazed trails.

Hawley was practical and not sentimental. He cared deeply about others and lived for three things: to race, to ski, and, most of all, to be helpful to others.

The meetings of the Hartford Track Club, of which he was president for more than 20 years, and of the Hartford Marathon Foundation will be a little shorter without Hawley to remember the nuances of the myriad details of conducting a road race.

Hawley served on the ski patrol of Ski Butternut for 44 years following college and three years in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Since 1990, he had been a first aid and outdoor emergency care instructor. In 2014, he achieved a national ski patrol appointment. His patrol director said he was the first to report to work every day that he was on duty with the patrol.

Hawley began running at age 35, briefly following in the footsteps of his brother, Tim, and then soundly beating him for 37 years. Many are the runners who were outkicked to the sound of Hawley's size-12 Brooks Beasts coming out of nowhere. Hawley completed 49 marathons, including several Bostons and every Hartford Marathon from the inaugural race in 1996 through 2022. He always helped set up the course, too. He did the Mt. Washington Road Race three times and ran more than a thousand other races.



His family and friends are thankful he was not hit by a car while training for a marathon before dawn or when crossing the Founder's Bridge on his bicycle to certify the Hartford Marathon course, and that he fully recovered from the mild stroke he had a few years ago. They are also thankful for the many years he was a friend, co-worker, mentor, and brother.

He is survived by his brother, Tim; nephews and niece, Kirsten; and many friends in the Butternut Ski Patrol, Hartford Track Club, and Hartford Marathon Foundation. He was predeceased by his parents; brother, John; and sister, Karen.

### John Graham III '74

John Douglas "JD"

Graham III, MD, 71, of Indianapolis died at his home Oct. 9, 2024. Born in 1952 in Grand Forks, ND, he was a distinguished cardiologist, devoted family man, and true servant of Jesus Christ.

Graham was born to "Doc" and Mary Graham in North Dakota, but was raised in the Indianapolis area alongside his three younger siblings. He attended Wabash College, moving on to Duke University School of Medicine and subsequently University of Michigan hospitals for residency and fellowships in internal medicine and cardiology.

While at Michigan, Graham met and fell in love with his soulmate, Lynn (Gundry) Graham, thus beginning their love story. They were married and settled in Graham's hometown of Indianapolis, where he chose to take up practice with Indiana Heart Physicians at St. Francis Hospital as one of three original and founding senior partners. Graham practiced medicine as part of the Franciscan family alongside his father, who worked with internal medicine and emergency medicine groups at St. Francis.

Graham and his wife began a family, with a daughter, Erin, and son, Connor, sharing many happy years. He retired from full-time practice in 2021, and settled into retirement as a husband, father, and grandfather. After a lifetime of love and commitment to his family, he will be dearly missed by his family and countless friends.



Graham cherished his family above all else in this world, dedicating himself to them and leaving behind an incredible legacy of love. His devotion to his true soulmate and wife, Lynn, children, grandchildren, and siblings was unparalleled. He found his calling as a healer and medical doctor, providing care to his community. His jovial and uplifting demeanor brought joy and laughter to all those he encountered; it could be said he never met a stranger.

An avid University of Michigan and Colts football fan, as well as Duke basketball fan, Graham often found community and joy through sports. He had a true zest for life, and he enjoyed travel, fine food and wine, and art and social gatherings, never turning down an opportunity to speak at a gathering. He was a true and faithful follower of Christ, heavily involved in his church community at Second Presbyterian and the Indianapolis Great Banquet. Along with his church community, he found service through participating in prison ministry as a medical doctor as well as mission trips providing medical care to impoverished nations and people.

Graham is survived by his wife, Lynn Graham; daughter, Erin Carr; son, Connor Graham; siblings, Jeannie Summers, Tom Graham, and Mike Graha; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, John Douglas Graham II and Mary Graham; and his wife's parents, Robert and Beverly Gundry.

### Gordon C. Evans '75

Gordon Coartland

Evans, 70, an Indiana native and a longtime resident of Cape Coral, FL, died Feb. 24, 2024, in Cape Coral. He was born in 1953, in Cleveland, to Allen and Barbara Evans, now deceased.

Evans was of the Christian faith. Upon graduating from Horace Mann High School in Gary, IN, he matriculated at Wabash College, graduating summa cum laude with a degree in political science. He was employed at a variety of positions until his official retirement in recent years.



He was an intelligent, kind, and witty person whose discourse in politics and wordplay was incomparable. He enjoyed Scrabble, trivia challenges, being with family, and speaking with his brother, Howard, on a daily basis. He often touted the beautiful climate that Cape Coral offered, as he loved the warm weather.

Evans is survived by his two loving children, Michael Evans and Megan Evans; seven siblings, Debbie Evans, Laura Ringland, Howard Evans, David Evans, Victoria Thanos, Daniel Evans, and Constance Jenkins; two grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Linda Tepper Evans.

### Jeffrey D. Cosby '78

Jeffrey D. Cosby died Oct. 13, 2024, due to complications from throat cancer. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

### Benjamin Carl Milbrath II '78

Benjamin Milbrath II '78 died Dec. 11, 2024.

Milbrath was born in 1956 to Benjamin P. and Mary L. Milbrath Kocher.

He was named for his grandfather, Benjamin Carl Milbrath I, and many knew this sweet baby as "Buzz." He eventually had to relinquish his top billing to other siblings, beginning with Peter, Anne Milbrath Ingebretsen, Trina Milbrath Gillies, and Kathleen Milbrath Neelon.

When Milbrath married his wife, Sherry Hartrunft, he gained new family members: Sherry's parents, George and Judy Hartrunft; her grandmother, Erna Linxwiler; and Sherry's brother, Bruce Hartrunft. Ben and Sherry were then blessed with three treasures—daughters, Katherine (Kate), Kristen, and Melanie. Milbrath's eyes always smiled whenever he spent time with or described outings and adventures with his family. Unequivocally, Sherry, Kate, Kristen, and Melanie were his oxygen!

Milbrath was an outstanding student and athlete. He was a two-time high school Northwest Conference wrestling champion and a member of Andean High School's Athletic Hall of Fame for tennis. He was a four-year varsity





## In Memory

tennis letterman at Wabash College, from which he graduated with honors in 1978. Following graduation, Milbrath earned his CPA certification, which propelled him through a successful business career, from which he retired in 2023.

Milbrath found classical music soothing, but with his having come of age in the 1970s, classic rock made him nostalgic and was part of his fabric. Whether it was The Doobie Brothers, The Eagles, or Foreigner, the soundtrack of his life was always playing.

He was also devoted to the Chicago Bears and the Cubs, as reflected by his unwavering loyalty—whether through heartbreaking losses or historic wins, his belief in his teams never faltered. In fact, Milbrath and “the girls” were chasing a goal of seeing at least one game at every Major League Baseball park in the U.S., and they had already conquered 11!

For those who knew him, whether he was Ben, Buzz, Dad, or Sir, Milbrath was not simply made in God’s image but was steeped in authenticity and integrity—cornerstones of his character. He had a gentle, quiet kindness. He was steady, humble, slow to speak and quick to listen, wise, and with a strong trust in God’s will.

Don’t grieve his death. Instead, be grateful he stopped by and you were his friend. Hug your loved ones and emulate his goodness whenever you hear a ’70s classic rock tune that makes you yearn for yesterday, makes you thankful for today, and makes you dream until your dreams come true!

### Thomas Siple ’85

Thomas “Tom” Lynn Siple of Pittsboro, IN, died unexpectedly Nov. 11, 2024. He was born June 13, 1963.

Siple graduated from William Henry Harrison High School, West Lafayette, IN in 1981, and then went on to Wabash College. During his time at Wabash, he continued his academic and sports career, met lifelong friends, and married the love of his life.

After Siple graduated and started his work career, he and his family eventually settled in the small town of Pittsboro, IN, where his presence in the community was immediately felt, from



coaching his children to meeting friends who would become family and giving everything he had to the people around him. He loved fishing, golfing, riding his old-man tricycle, camping, boating and pulling his grandkids on the tube, and working on anything in his garage, but he was complete only if he got to do these things with his people.

Siple knew that the most important things in life were his God, wife, children, family, and friends. This family foundation he and his wife created has provided countless people with hope, love, and happiness. He never entered a situation without improving it. He always left with a smile and a warm comment. He gave everyone his warm heart, no matter his situation.

To simply summarize how Siple lived his life is found in Galatians 5:22-23: “But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” He lived this and anyone who knew him felt it. We are all together in this crazy earthly world—Siple made it easier for us. We will miss him, but his legacy will forever live on.

Siple was married to his elementary school crush Deanna “DeeDee” Ash. She survives. He is also survived by three wonderful children and their spouses, Thomas “TJ” and Jessica (Farley) Siple, Dana and Luke Snyder, and David and Teri (Crouch) Siple. Other survivors include his parents, Mary Katherine “Kay” and Russell Thomas (Sparky) Siple; two brothers, Jeff Siple and Tim Siple; six grandchildren; faithful four-legged best friend, Brees; and huge family support system that he was very proud of—many aunts, uncles, cousins, and countless family friends.

### Brian Chapman ’89

Brian Allen Chapman, 57, of Indianapolis, died Nov. 13, 2024. He was born in 1967 in Orange, CA, the son of Dean and Connie (Shaffer) Chapman.

Chapman was a graduate of Wabash College and member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. Throughout his professional career, he worked as a mortgage



loan officer. If you had him as a friend, he was a friend for life. He shared his love of golf with his many friends and family. He was the golf coach for Lutheran High School of Indianapolis. He was a 28-year member of Indian Lake Country Club in Indianapolis.

Chapman is survived by his parents; two sons, Jacob Chapman and Benjamin Chapman; and significant other, Julie Goodman. Many other relatives and family members survive.

### Eric Alan Kroczek ’92

Eric Alan Kroczek of Muncie, IN, died unexpectedly Jan. 28.

After attending St. Mary’s grade school, Kroczek graduated from Marquette High School, where he was awarded the honor of National Merit Scholar. He earned a Bachelor of Arts at Wabash College, majoring in English and graduating in 1992. After college, Kroczek earned a culinary arts degree in Pittsburgh, PA. Then he spent several years teaching English in Korea and China. Later, he spent many years in the restaurant and food service industry, most recently at Ball State University.

A favorite professor says of Kroczek, “He was an exceptional student of mine. His wit, his kindness, his brilliance shone.”

Over the years, he remained close with many of his high school and college friends. To his cohort of Wabash alumni, he was sometimes a gentleman, especially when it mattered, and was always a scholar. Kroczek loved to write and create art; his essay “Charlie Trotter and the Culinary Cult of Personality” was published in the literary magazine *The Rumpus* in 2013, and he recently exhibited a collection of his “Curb Furniture” photographs at the Madjax Art Gallery in Muncie.

Kroczek also loved animals and over the years was the doting parent of five rescue animals: Francis, Bernard, Moses, Honey, and Jackson. Gardening was in his DNA, especially for vegetables (like his father) and daylilies (like his beloved late mother). He was a voracious reader and wrote such perceptive book reviews that publishers sought him out. Above all, Kroczek had a long-standing



relationship with Cathy Day; they sometimes traveled together across the U.S. and to Iceland, but mostly they stayed home and he made gourmet meals for her every night.

Surviving are his sister, Kelly Kroczek; brother, Scott Kroczek; father, Stephen Kroczek; six nieces and nephews; and one great-nephew. He was preceded in death by his mother, Judith Kroczek.

### Craig Lutz ’94

Craig Lutz, 53, of Noblesville, IN, died of a sudden medical emergency on Jan. 8, at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. He was born in 1971, “getting better looking every year,” to David and Nancy (Lepanen) Lutz in Kokomo, IN.

Lutz was a 1990 graduate of Noblesville High School and graduated from Wabash College, where he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. He played baseball at Wabash College as a pitcher. For 23 years, Lutz was a decorated sales professional for Republic Services. He was a member of the Fifty Club of Noblesville. Lutz coached Noblesville High School baseball for nine years, and was starting his 11th year as their softball coach. He loved golfing and long-distance running. Lutz and his wife enjoyed traveling out West and hiking; Yellowstone was one of their favorite places.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Amy Lutz, who was his high school sweetheart. They started dating at 15 and were together 37 years. Also surviving are his mother, Nancy Lutz; and children, Brady Lutz, Hayley Allen, Meghan Dunn, and Abbey Scott. He was a devoted Pop-Pop to his five grandchildren. Lutz is also survived by his brothers, Brad Lutz and Mark Lutz; in-laws, Vernon and Kathy Zook; brother-in-law, Steve Zook; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, David Lutz.





## In Memory

### Derek Ryan Jones '02

Derek Ryan “D” or “DJ” Jones, 45, of Westfield, IN, died peacefully Feb. 8, surrounded by family in his last earthly



hours. Jones had recently read the book “Heaven” by Randy Alcorn and often spoke of heaven and all that it would entail.

Jones was born Oct. 25, 1979, to parents Carol (Jack) Foos and David Jones. He was a graduate of Crawfordsville High School in 1998 and Wabash College in 2002. He went on to attend Anderson University for his M.B.A. in 2006. He was most recently employed by STAR Bank and spent much of his career as a vice president commercial banker. He married Kari Jones in 2005. Their three children were the absolute light of his life: Olivia, Isaac, and Ava Jones.

He was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2019 and fought a courageous six-year battle. Throughout his battle, he was continually humbled by the love and support shown by so many. In his time of need, others poured into his family. That was his greatest request. He was brought to tears on numerous occasions by the love of others and their witness in being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Jones would want to be remembered by who he was without cancer: A dad who was active, intentional, and fun. A dad who enjoyed watching his kids play sports, where he became fast friends with parents on the sidelines. A dad who always put his kids’ needs above his own, who expected greatness and loved unconditionally. A man who didn’t need much to be happy—his kids, a good football game, a crisp fall day, and maybe some no-bake cookies that he whipped up all on his own. His most treasured gifts were his three children. His legacy lives on through them.

Jones attended Northview Church, where he served as a Life Group leader and most enthusiastic vacation planner for 16 amazing years. He attended and led Northview’s Men’s Discipleship Walks, with the goal of leading others to Christ. He sat on the board for two not-for-profits, Habitat for Humanity and Parker’s Place Foundation. He was a man of few words, a man

of extraordinary faith, and a man who kept his family laughing. He loved deeply, he loved sacrificially, and he wasn’t afraid to face his earthly demise—professing his unwavering faith despite his circumstances.

Jones said this in one of his final journal entries: “The idea is simple. We are accustomed to realizing that God can and will use our circumstances, experiences, hardships, etc. to teach us, correct us, ultimately grow and mature us here on earth. To prepare us to handle future experiences, to take on more, to better equip others. The punchline is this ... He is quite possibly preparing us for our roles in Heaven. This is such a powerful and bigger way to view our hardships in life. Then I wonder, how many more things should I be thinking of more eternally or spiritually.”

Jones is survived by his parents, Carol and Jack Foos and David Jones; sibling, Travis Jones; nephew, Andrew Jones; in-laws, Thomas and Kimberly Smith; brother-in-law, Tyler Smith; two nieces; wife, Kari; and their three children.

### Howard Hallengren H’12

Howard E. Hallengren, a well-known and highly respected figure in banking, investments, and real estate, died Oct.



13, 2024, in Chicago. He was 94 years old and left no survivors.

Born in Chicago in 1930, Hallengren attended public high school and won a scholarship to Princeton University in 1948, graduating cum laude with a B.A. in English literature in 1952. He then attended the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago, where he graduated with an M.B.A. and began to nurture his lifelong interest in the stock market.

Upon graduation, Hallengren began working at the First National Bank of Chicago, and in 1970 he rose to become chief investment officer. During the ensuing decade, he coined the term “Nifty Fifty” as he became the principal opponent of the era’s philosophy of investing only in America’s 50 leading companies—however high the share prices. Hallengren received wide coverage on this subject in

The Chicago Tribune, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times. When shares in the Nifty Fifty collapsed, Business Week featured an article about Hallengren and his unique stance on the subject, saying that he had been “vindicated.” He cited this as one of his career’s highlights.

Hallengren departed for New York City in 1982 to join Chase Manhattan Bank as the bank’s chief investment officer of international private banking, where he remained until 1992. He went on to form Falcon Real Estate Investment Company, which provided advisory and management services for international investors in U.S. real estate. He served as the company’s chairman until his retirement in 2012.

Hallengren traveled worldwide and became particularly interested in ancient Egyptian civilization after visiting the tombs and temples around Luxor. Following retirement, he wrote his first novel, “Reminiscences of an Accidental Embezzler,” which received critical praise. A second novel, “A Stabbing Death in Luxor,” came out in 2022. He had several more books in the works.

Though he was an established figure in the world of finance and real estate, Hallengren’s true passion was supporting more liberal arts education for students. His efforts included working with secondary schools, colleges, museums, and theaters, and even building kindergarten schools in the war-torn Gaza Strip.

Hallengren also invested his time and expertise in counseling groups of college students about real business problems they might face in their careers. His goal was to find ways to expand their horizons and elevate their expectations so they could make a significant contribution to the world. He was very private about his philanthropy until the University of Chicago recognized him in 2019 with an award for his many years of support of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Culture (formerly called The Oriental Institute). He recently provided the university with an endowment to create a new faculty position: the Howard E. Hallengren Professorship of Arabian Peninsula and Gulf States Archaeology.

### Brice Everson '20

Brice Everson, 27, of San Antonio, TX, formerly of Camanche, IA, died Jan. 28 at Main Methodist Hospital, San Antonio.



Everson was born in 1998 in Clinton, IA, the son of Wade and Tricia (Stowers) Everson. He graduated from Camanche High School in 2016. He graduated as valedictorian and participated in football, track, and baseball, but wrestling was his passion since age 4. He was a leader in the wrestling room early on for Camanche Junior Wrestling and Young Guns Wrestling Club, and that carried over into high school and eventually college. He was a two-time state placer and a finalist in the IHSAA State Wrestling Tournament.

Everson attended Wabash College for his freshman and sophomore years before transferring back to his home state of Iowa at Loras College in Dubuque. He qualified for NCAA Nationals in 2019, ranked No. 4 nationally at 133 pounds. The Duhawks placed second at nationals that year. His senior year, the Duhawks snapped Wartburg’s 27-year conference championship winning streak. They went on to win the regional title and were ranked No. 1 nationally.

Everson graduated from Loras in 2020 with a major in economics and a minor in wealth and financial management. He developed a passion for MMA fighting, working out at several gyms and participating in three amateur fights.

He had a few jobs in the financial world before moving to San Antonio, where he eventually found his dream job at Frost Bank as a Wealth Financial Advisor, where he excelled.

Everson was engaged to the love of his life, Megan Meese of Cedar Rapids, IA, and they were set to be married in 2026. They rescued their first cat, Tito, in 2022 and then rescued their second cat, Jameson “JJ,” a few months ago. Everson was the best cat daddy.

Everson was caring, compassionate, and determined. He made a strong impression and connection with so many people. There have been countless tributes on social media recounting his caring, determined, and driven traits. The impact he



## In Memory

had on so many is obvious, and this world is a little less bright without him.

Everson is survived by his parents, Wade and Tricia Everson; brothers, Noah, Cade, and Owen; fiancée, Megan Meese; maternal grandparents, Sharon and Weston Lind; paternal grandparents, Margaret (Larry) Schaver and Ronald (Carey) Everson; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends, including a special aunt, Shiela Johnson. He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, including a special great-grandma, Vivian (Ma) Stowers; and great-aunt, Sherry Schoenig.

### Constance Cook Moore

Constance Cook Moore, 92, a native of Princeton, NJ, died Jan. 16 at home in Philadelphia after a short illness.



Born in Philadelphia and raised in Princeton, NJ, she was the daughter of George R. Cook III and Margaretta Roebbling Cook of Princeton and Naples, FL, and a descendant of John A. Roebbling, designer of the Brooklyn Bridge. She graduated from Garrison Forest School in Baltimore, MD, and made her debut at the Present Day Club in 1950. Defying her parents' wish that she go to Katie Gibbs secretarial school, she graduated from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the Barnes Foundation, where she studied with Violette de Mazia.

**Defying her parents' wish that she go to Katie Gibbs secretarial school, she graduated from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the Barnes Foundation, where she studied with Violette de Mazia.**

She was the widow of **Norman C. Moore**, dean of students at Wabash College, where she raised her family. There, she acted and created costumes at the College theater, hosted a show on local access TV, and taught classes in parenting skills to women struggling with domestic violence. She picketed George Wallace while pushing a stroller, supported

Eugene McCarthy, and boycotted nonunion grapes. She served on the vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church and in 1977 was present at the first ordination of a female Episcopal priest.

She devoted her long life to art, to serving her community, to the Episcopal Church, and to her family and her friends. She was an artist who depicted the world around her in sepia pen-and-ink drawings, and a mother who found constant joy in her family. She loved Cézanne, Puccini, and dressing up for costume parties; she was creative in endless ways, from excellent cooking to elaborate and funny handmade birthday cards. She traveled from Morocco to Turkey to Cuba, and every year her Christmas card was a drawing of a scene from her adventures.

Throughout her life, Moore believed her own blessings meant she had a responsibility to help others, and doing so is where she found meaning.

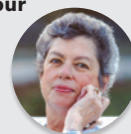
In Philadelphia, where she moved in 1981, she was deeply involved in her Center City neighborhood. A progressive Democrat, she worked at her local polling place every November. At her antiques-filled "trinity" townhouse on Camac Street, she hosted a New Year's Day party as lengthy as the Mummers Parade. As president of Friends of Louis I. Kahn Park, she helped lead the park's renovation from concrete beach to flower-filled retreat. She was on the board of the Washington Square West Civic Association and was a member of the Diva Committee for the Opera Company of Philadelphia. She served on the board of directors of Associated Services for the Blind (ASB) for more than 15 years and was a full-time volunteer at Radio Information Center for the Blind, recording newspapers for visually impaired listeners. For her service, she received ASB's Louis Braille Award in 2011.

During her 40 years as a parishioner at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, where she will be buried in the historic churchyard, she served on the vestry, as a lay reader, and as rector's warden.

She is survived by her children, Allison, Martha, Charles, and Patrick; and eight grandchildren. Her husband died in 2002.

### Polly Gnagy Seymour

Polly Seymour, 95, died Nov. 23, 2024, in Greensboro, NC. Seymour was born in 1929, to artists



Jon Gnagy and Mary Jo Hinton Gnagy, from whom she inherited both a beautiful sense of color and design, and a lifelong love of books and words.

She graduated from the Holmquist School, now the Solebury School, in New Hope, PA, and went on to study at the University of Rochester; she completed her formal education in 1985 when she earned a B.A. from Rollins College while also serving as the college's first lady.

Polly's and **Thaddeus'** marriage in 1948 began a lifelong partnership that was interrupted only by Thaddeus' death in 2019. In 1954 and fresh out of graduate school, they moved to Hanover, NH, where Thaddeus joined the faculty at Dartmouth College. Five years later Thaddeus was appointed dean of the college; for the rest of his career, Polly served as his sounding board and partner in everything from entertaining students to handling difficult alumni, all while raising five children.

The Seymours left Hanover in 1969 when Thaddeus became president of Wabash College. In 1978, after serving nine years as first lady and president of Wabash, the Seymours moved from Indiana to Winter Park, FL, where Thaddeus had been appointed the 12th president of Rollins College.

From the moment they arrived in Winter Park, Polly took an active role in Rollins life, including helping to plan the college's 1985 centennial celebration, working on the renovation of one of the campus's original buildings, sprucing up residence halls, spearheading an ambitious reorganization of the campus food service, participating in the Rollins Women's Association, and providing countless meals to students, parents, alumni, and distinguished guests.

Off campus, she served on the board of the Maitland Arts Center; helped to found the Winter Park-Maitland chapter of Habitat for Humanity; was instrumental in preserving the historic Casa Feliz; was a founding board member of the Arts & Cultural Alliance of Central Florida, now part of

**In 1995, the book sale became the New Leaf Bookstore, a volunteer-run and community-supported bookstore that, in its nearly 30 years of operation, has raised well over a million dollars for the library and is consistently listed as one of the best bookstores in the Orlando area.**

United Arts of Central Florida; served on the board of ADDitions, supporting volunteerism in local public schools; and chaired the Winter Park Autumn Art Festival. In 1997 Polly and Thaddeus were named the Outstanding Citizens of the Year by the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce.

Of all her many activities in Winter Park, Seymour's greatest love and largest impact was on the Winter Park Library. Soon after coming to Winter Park, she helped to start a semiannual book sale to benefit the library. In 1995, the book sale became the New Leaf Bookstore, a volunteer-run and community-supported bookstore that, in its nearly 30 years of operation, has raised well over a million dollars for the library and is consistently listed as one of the best bookstores in the Orlando area. Seymour was recognized in 2017 for her work with a statewide award from the Florida Library Association and was named Winter Park's "Literacy Leader" by Winter Park magazine. In 2019 the bookstore, now housed in the new library building on West Morse Boulevard, was renamed the Polly Seymour New Leaf Bookstore in honor of Polly's 90 birthday.

In March of 2024, Seymour left Winter Park for Greensboro, NC, to be closer to her daughters. She is survived by her daughters Liz and Abigail; sons, Thad and Sam; and nieces and a nephew, Mathew Gnagy. A third daughter, Mary Duffie Seymour, died in 2015. She also leaves 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



## In Memory

### Janet C. Barron-Churchill

Janet C. Barron-Churchill, 64, of Crawfordsville, died Dec. 30, 2024.



She was born June 28, 1960, in Mt. Vernon, KY, and was raised by her grandmother, Margie Lauy, who preceded her in death. She was employed by Wabash College in housekeeping for 35 years. She enjoyed playing with her granddaughter, Journey, and traveling. She was one of a kind, with a heart of gold. She would always feed anyone in need.

She married Philip Churchill and he survives. Also surviving are her son, Jonothan Barron; daughter, Rebecca Barron; a nephew; and four grandchildren.

### Clifton Darrell Wilson

Clifton Darrell Wilson, 76, of Crawfordsville, died Jan. 17.

Born May 21, 1948, in Glasgow, KY, Wilson was the son of Earl Wilson and Evelyn Christie Wilson. He attended school in Glasgow and later graduated in Indiana.

Wilson served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He worked more than 30 years at Wabash College. He was a member of the Grace Family Church of God. He loved gospel singing. He liked watching sports, specifically basketball, football, and baseball. He also liked to go for a drive and he loved children.

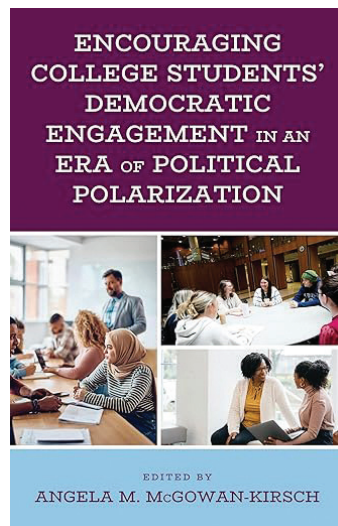
Surviving family includes his wife, Linda Wilson; daughter, Angela K. Wilson; son, Tommy Wilson; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two brothers, Carroll and Mark; and sister, Vivian. He was preceded in death by his son, Clifton Darrell "C.D." Wilson Jr., in 2021.

photo by Becky Wendt





## Quick Notes



Several professors in the rhetoric department presented papers at the 2024 National Communication Association annual convention, including Professor **Jennifer Abbott**, Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse Director and Visiting Instructor **Chris Anderson**, Associate Professor **Sara Mehlretter Drury**, and Visiting Assistant Professor **Gabriela Tscholl**. Anderson

and colleagues also had several publications during the fall semester: “News Sources and the Epistemic Authority to Represent Reality” in Journalism, “Deciding Who Decides” in Review of Policy Research, and the chapter “How to Have Difficult Conversations: Using deliberation to promote students’ democratic decision-making,” in “Encouraging college students’ democratic engagement in an era of political polarization” by Lexington Books.



Anne Korb Shane and David N. Shane Professor in the Liberal Arts and Assistant Professor of Computer Science **Qixin Deng** (left), **Gregory Powers '27** (right), and four



other co-authors had a paper accepted by the 4th Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on AI in Cybersecurity (ICAIC): “Advanced Facial Emotion Classification with 135 Classes for Enhanced Cybersecurity Applications.”



Associate Professor of Biology **Brad Carlson** contributed to a dataset for the journal Scientific Data featuring data sans hypotheses or analysis: “Global Roadkill Data: A Dataset on Terrestrial Vertebrate Mortality Caused by

Collision With Vehicles.” Carlson also continued working as part of a large-scale collaboration of researchers across North America monitoring insect populations to evaluate the extent and pace of the so-called “Insect Apocalypse.” His malaise traps, which catch flying insects, are set up on campus and at Allee Woods.



**Sara Mehlretter Drury** (left) and Professor of Chemistry **Laura Wysocki** (right) published the book chapter “Reframe Political Talk as Discursive Civic Engagement” in “Encouraging College Students’ Democratic Engagement in an Era of Political Polarization” by Lexington Books.



Associate Professor of English **Eric Freeze** and co-authors Julia Lucia Case and Salvatore Pane won a Choice Award for outstanding academic titles for their textbook “Story Mode: The Creative Writer’s Guide to Narrative Video Game Design.” Bloomsbury Publishing also announced the book is being translated into Chinese by Chemical Industry Press for distribution in China.

With the support of a Campus and Community Election Engagement grant from the Community-Engaged Alliance, Professor of Political Science **Shamira Gelbman**’s Election Polling and Public Opinion class designed and administered an exit poll of nearly 350 Montgomery County voters on Election Day. Their polling activity and results were covered in the Journal Review. In addition, final student projects from Gelbman’s Politics of the Civil Rights Movement course were part of a Black History Month exhibit at the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County. This community partnership was supported by a Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust mini-grant. In recognition of this community-facing project, as well as

the incorporation of extended role-play simulation in the course, Gelbman received the 2025 Innovation in Teaching Award from the American Political Science Association.

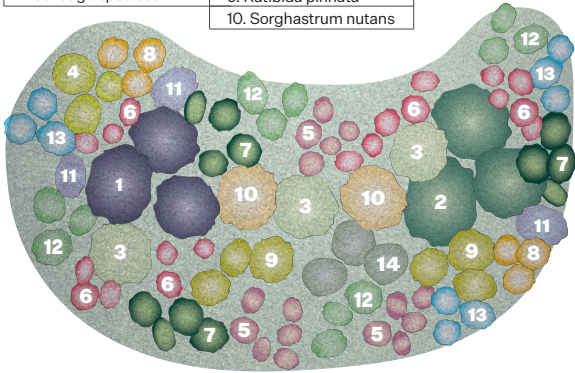


< Scan the code to read more



Faculty & Staff Notes

1. Baptisia australis	5. Lobelia cardinalis	11. Penstemon hirsutus
2. Eutrochium maculatum	6. Liatris spicata	12. Zizia aurea
3. Symphyotricum novae-angliae	7. Penstemon digitalis	13. Carex brevior
4. Solidago speciosa	8. Asclepias incarnata	14. Monarda fistulosa
	9. Ratibida pinnata	
	10. Sorghastrum nutans	



Norman Treves Professor of Biology **Amanda Ingram** and **Brad Carlson** established a new native-plant garden on campus. The garden is prairie inspired and is located near the tennis courts and baseball field. They are teaming up with **Tim Riley** from Campus Services to coordinate installation and maintenance, and they have received design assistance from a local landscape architect. Students helped prep and plant the garden site. Wabash will work with community partners from the local Soil and Water Conservation District and the local Master Gardeners chapter to host outreach and education events to promote native gardening locally. Read more about this project in the Fall 2025 issue of Wabash Magazine.

Professor of Physics **Dennis Krause** (left) and **Nikolai**



**Jones '24** (right) co-authored a paper for The Physics Teacher: “How Can a Quantum Particle be Found in a Classically Forbidden Region?” It is a contribution to a special collection of papers



on “Quantum Science and Technology in the Introductory Physics Classroom” celebrating the 100th anniversary of the development of quantum mechanics.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science **Ryan Liou**



received the Steven C. Poe Paper Award Honorable Mention from the International Studies Association’s Human Rights Section for his paper “Can International Advocacy Rally Public Support for Human Rights Sanctions? Experimental Evidence from the United States.” He presented the paper as an invited speaker at the Peace Science Society Workshop on Atrocity Prevention at the University of Michigan this past November.



Associate Athletic Director **Allison Manwell** received the Emerging Athletics Administrator award by the National Association of Division III Athletics Administrators (NADIII AA). The award is presented to an administrator who has less than five years of experience in a titled role, while holding substantial duties in the department and demonstrating leadership and involvement on campus and in the community.



photo courtesy of Damon Mohl

The most recent film by Associate Professor of Art **Damon Mohl**, “Memoria Oblitus,” had a premiere screening at the International Video Festival Videomedeja, at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, in Novi Sad, Serbia. It was also an official selection at the CineSalon Experimental Film Festival in Ireland.

Head Track and Field Coach and Assistant Athletics Director for Scholar-Athlete Development **Clyde Morgan** received the Achievement in Education, Postsecondary Category Award at the 45th Annual Minority Achievers Awards & Scholarship Gala for the Center for Leadership Development (CLD). The event recognized 13 minority professionals and awarded \$7.9 million in post-secondary scholarships to high school students.



Professor of Psychology **Eric Olofson** taught a new topics course called Embracing Controversy. This discussion- and student-led class engaged with some of the most hotly debated sociopolitical topics through the lens of the best psychological data currently available.



Professor of Economics **Sujata Saha** introduced a new course called The Economic Welfare of Financial Inclusion. The course explores the role of improved access to, and utilization of, basic and affordable financial services in reducing poverty and inequality in communities around the world. It also examines how financial inclusion fuels economic growth and empowers both individuals and businesses. In addition, the course addresses digital innovation, gender gaps, and policies that enhance access to credit, savings, and payment systems.





Professor of Psychology **Neil Schmitzer-Torbert** (left) took (below left to right) **Christian Zimmerman '25**, **Brandon Hammer '26**, and **Kha Le '26** to Chicago to attend the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting.



Collaborating on recent papers in parasitology and global health, **Eric Wetzel** and colleagues published "Parasite Contamination of Soil in Distinct Peruvian Locations and Outside Built Environments" in *Parasites & Vectors*, and "Planetary Health Learning Objectives: Foundational Knowledge for Global Health Education in an Era of Climate Change" in *The Lancet Planetary Health*. In addition, Wetzel co-authored "Predictores de la Ecología Parasitaria de *Centrocestus Formosanus* (Trematoda: Heterophyidae) en *Melanoides Tuberculata* (Caenogastropoda: Thiaridae) en un Humedal Costero, Lima, Perú" in *Revista de Investigaciones Veterinarias del Perú*.



photo courtesy of Annie Strader

A multimedia performance and installation work by Associate Professor of Art **Annie Strader**, titled "BAN," was selected for inclusion in Another World Is Possible, a social justice summit at Antioch College.



Professor of German **Brian Tucker** published the chapter "Juli Zeh and the Ethics of Care" in "Juli Zeh: A Critical Companion." His research was supported by a summer grant from the Stephenson Institute.



The Eugene N. and Marian C. Beesley Chair and Professor of Mathematics & Computer Science **Chad Westphal** has been participating in a teaching collaboration with Purdue University called The Data Mine. Westphal runs a

semester-long course aimed at giving students experience with a range of practical computational tools, and the Purdue collaborators connect his students with an industry partner to use data science tools to solve real-world problems. During the fall semester, Westphal's class partnered with Space ISAC to develop a web-based tool to help streamline and improve the way they gather and summarize open-source information on radio-frequency interference to create actionable alerts for the space community. Westphal, **Mitchell Bock '25** (not pictured), and **Johnathan Otte '25** traveled to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to participate in a "Data Mine of the Rockies" event. The students gave an oral presentation in the morning to the company representatives from Space ISAC, presented a poster session in the afternoon at an expo for the local space community, and did another poster session in the evening at a cybersecurity "First Friday" networking event.




< To learn more scan the code to listen to Wabash on My Mind podcast with Westphal. 



photo courtesy of Crossroads Repertory Theatre

While on sabbatical, Associate Professor of Theater **Heidi Winters Vogel** directed a production of "Pride and Prejudice" at Indiana State University and starred in a production of "Noises Off" at the Crossroads Repertory Theatre.



photo courtesy of HHMI / Matt Staley

During her sabbatical, **Laura Wysocki** was a visiting scientist at HHMI Janelia Research Campus in Ashburn, Virginia, to further her collaboration with staff scientists at Janelia, a premiere research facility (where Wysocki did her postdoctoral research).



Assistant Professor of Political Science **Hyei-Jyun Ye** is a finalist for the State University of New York's Distinguished Ph.D. Graduate Dissertation Award. In her dissertation, "Deals to be Determined: Domestic Political Uncertainties and Trade Negotiations," Ye studies the link between countries' trade negotiations, domestic political conditions, and economic cooperation.



## New Tenured Faculty

Dean of the College Todd McDorman announced the College's successful faculty reviews which demonstrate excellence across their work at Wabash. Jeff Gower, assistant professor of philosophy and Nicholas Snow, assistant professor of economics earned tenure. They assumed the rank of associate professor July 1.

Q&A

# Jeff Gower

## PHILOSOPHY

### WM: Tell us about you.

**JG:** I grew up in Spokane, Washington, and went to a small liberal arts college, Whitman College. I benefited from the opportunity to connect with professors and fell in love with what was going on in the classroom, never thinking I would be in the position to be the one leading that class discussion. Wabash brings me back to a small liberal arts college environment, and I'm glad about that. It brings me full circle on a slightly grander arc, because my father, Richard Gower '68, graduated from Wabash. My wife, (Professor of Philosophy) Adriel (Trott), had done her undergraduate work at a small liberal arts college and thought Wabash was a good fit for her. Wabash hired her having no idea that her partner had a family connection to the College.

### What got you hooked on philosophy?

I was always asking questions and dissatisfied with the answers the adults in my life were giving me. I had good undergraduate professors who were able to ask the questions that got me hooked. It comes back to a positive experience at a small liberal arts college where I got to know my professors, had good mentorship, and started philosophical conversations that lasted a long time.

### What is your research interest?

Since coming to Wabash I've focused on this relationship between sovereignty and law, and sovereignty and political action in other more contemporary philosophers. I'm

working on a project that's taking up the interpretations of Martin Heidegger's work by three philosophers who were influenced by his phenomenological thought, but who, in their own distinct ways, are critical of his thinking. I'm specifically interested in Heidegger's work of the 1930s and early '40s. Heidegger, famously or infamously, joined the Nazi Party in 1933 and became the first national socialist director of a German university, as the political and ideological coordination of the public university system was getting underway to bring the public universities in line with Nazi ideology.

**“When you find a place that stands by the values of a small liberal arts institution—the values of truth, knowledge, beauty, and academic freedom—that’s something very precious.”**

### What keeps you at Wabash?

I've been pleased to find in Wabash a small liberal arts college that takes that description seriously. There are so many pressures on institutions of higher education that steer them away from learning for learning's sake, or the production of

knowledge and the concern with truth for its own sake. When you find a place that stands by the values of a small liberal arts institution—the values of truth, knowledge, beauty, and academic freedom—that's something very precious. It's incumbent upon us to protect it from the myriad pressures it is facing in contemporary reality. Wabash is that kind of institution. I benefit from being able to teach in a place like this and I value the type of institution it is.

I have also been challenged in interesting ways that I would not have predicted by teaching at Wabash. I had been teaching at the College in various roles for several years when I was asked by (then Dean of the College) Scott Feller to be a part of the committee from three different departments collaborating to create the philosophy, politics, and economics (PPE) major. That has drawn out parts of my personality that I didn't know were there. I enjoy the collaboration with colleagues and the cross-disciplinary conversations on an intellectual level.

### What happens regularly in the classroom at Wabash that you have learned not to take for granted?

The classroom space is fragile. Throughout my teaching life, there's been almost nothing more exhilarating than a class that goes really well, where the discussion is vigorous, everyone gets involved, and it moves someplace. It's not just people sharing random, unrelated viewpoints, but

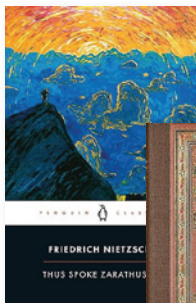




each comment builds on the train of thought that's developed up to that point. That kind of spark is precious. One thing I appreciate about the College and the students is that they're always capable of that spark. That's where learning is really happening—you've all gotten to a place in a conversation where it's a collective movement of thinking towards some sort of goal of answering a question. Maybe you don't answer the question, but everyone understands the issue better at the end of a conversation than they did when they started and something new has emerged in that conversation that wouldn't have been there without it.

### What is your favorite course to teach?

An intro-level class called Philosophy and Film. It's set up to introduce students to important philosophers in the history of philosophy, important texts by those authors, and make them more accessible by pairing texts with films.



### What are a few books you recommend?

"Plato's Dialogues" is a good way of engaging with philosophy for the first time, because they put flesh on the bones. They bring it to life. In high school I read Friedrich Nietzsche's "Thus Spoke Zarathustra." I didn't understand it, but it was viscerally moving. It made me want to learn more about philosophy. Another philosophically inclined book that's personally meaningful to me is Henry David Thoreau's "Walden." I'm also kind of obsessed with Homer. I recently found myself waking up thinking about David Mitchell's novel "Cloud Atlas," which I read several years ago. It's so

intricate in its structure—like one of those Russian nesting dolls.

### What are you reading right now?

In the last few years, I've tried to return to fiction. I read this book by Kim Stanley Robinson called "The Ministry for the Future." It's about the near-

term future, how human institutions adapt to climate change. I've read a few more novels by him, and there are a few more in the queue, but discovering him sent me back

to an author who I had been interested in a long time ago, Philip K. Dick. I'm reading his book called "Valis" while also reading a few books by Martin Heidegger. I'm reading Thomas Kuhn's "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions" so I can teach that in senior colloquium.

### Who inspires you most, and why?

Adriel is very impressive for her dedication to the craft and her contributions to the field of philosophy beyond the doors of Wabash. Her teaching and her savvy in all sorts of contexts in campus life is inspiring to me—and humbling.

### Is there anything else you would like readers to know about you or your work?

I'm an amateur musician. I used to play in a band with my brother and some of our friends from the neighborhood. We made a few recordings. Now it's hard to find time to sit down with my guitar.

I'm looking forward to sabbatical to finish my book project on Heidegger, but I am also looking forward to finding a spare hour to sit down with a guitar and rediscover that passion.





**Q&A**

## **Nicholas Snow**

### **ECONOMICS**

**WM: Tell us about you.**

**NS:** I got hooked on economics at Loyola University New Orleans. I started as a physics major and hated it, so I switched to the business school. They made me pick a major, so I decided to try economics. I never looked back. I did my master's degree at San Jose State University and my Ph.D. at George Mason University. At Loyola, I fell in love with economics in general, but in particular, Austrian economics. What I was interested in about physics was how the world worked. Economics is just a different way of looking at how things work, particularly society.

**What is your research interest?**

In my master's program at San Jose State, I took a law in economics course. David Friedman, Milton Friedman's son, gave a guest lecture where he talked about a book he was writing called "Legal Systems Very Different From Ours." He talked about how the Roma had their own law out of necessity, because what they wanted was not compatible with the larger society. He described that as embedded legal systems, and I thought that idea was just fascinating. My interests transitioned to where and why do rules emerge among people who can't use formal rules. I'll spend my sabbatical working on a version of this, which is now

on the economics of youth subcultures. I'm interested in how market rules are emerging among youth subcultures who want social change and how they are getting that social change.

**What drew you to Wabash?**

When I got my job as a visiting professor at Wabash in 2017, it helped that I knew who Ben Rogge was. I worked for the Foundation for Economic Education, where I organized the founders' archives. There was a whole box on Ben Rogge. I was aware of what Wabash was and the connection to classical liberalism and free markets.



### What is the strength of the liberal arts?

A pluralism of ideas. It's important to get a wide variety of different takes and learn to think critically through all of them. Even the ones you like, you should know what's wrong with them. Think critically about what you dislike and what's good with it. The liberal arts really trains you to be multidisciplinary. Adam Smith's book "The Wealth of Nations" is built around the idea that division of labor and specialization create growth. While Smith recognized the virtues of specialization, the liberal arts trains you to be able to think differently across different disciplines in ways that are important. Especially in our modern society, where specialization is so crucial, it sets you up to be able to pivot and to do things in other ways. Liberal arts is learning how to think, rather than just, "here is my discipline." My advisor used to say economics is a pair of glasses. It's the lenses that you put on—so liberal arts is picking up different lenses all over the place and seeing how they connect.

### What happens regularly in the classroom at Wabash that you have learned not to take for granted?

Discussion. I received a book in graduate school called "Teaching With Your Mouth Shut," which always stuck with me. I admit, when I started, I wasn't good at it. The instinct is to just lecture, lecture, lecture. Other places make it easy to do that and use lecturing as a crutch. At Wabash, the students don't want that. If you over lecture, you will get criticism for it. It's been great for my teaching and learning—how to finally take the advice of teaching with my mouth shut. I still talk too much, but it's at least an improvement.

### What is the most significant thing you have learned from Wabash students?

Anyone can learn from anyone. I was really nervous when I first started teaching, and then I realized I know things that they don't yet, but that's a virtue of experience. Again, that idea of pluralism—it's really important to get multiple perspectives, because you never know what you can learn. So Wabash students, even when they come in not knowing very much on the subject, are valuable teachers, still. And they're game to show you that.

### What are you most excited about regarding the future of Wabash and your future at Wabash?

We're coming to a reckoning about what the role of college is. That idea of critical thinking, rather than vocational training, is going to be something that could come to light. Wabash, being a strong liberal arts school, is really poised to weather through this crisis in higher ed. And then for me, it's wonderful to be in an environment where I get to do my favorite things. I'm excited to do my research, but teaching is the best part.

### What are a few books you recommend?

Ludwig von Mises' "Human Action" is the main classic in economics. I would say then Adam Smith, but I will be the shocker and not say "The Wealth of Nations," but rather the "The Theory of Moral Sentiments." I think that book

is an awesome explanation of Smith's economic thinking through a different lens.

**"My advisor used to say economics is a pair of glasses. It's the lenses that you put on—so liberal arts is picking up different lenses all over the place and seeing how they connect."**

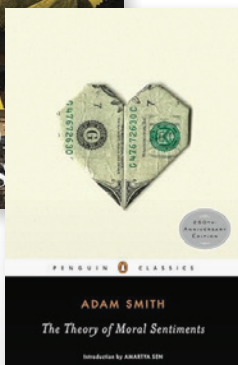
And then a third one, Frédéric Bastiat's "Economic Sophisms" is a great exercise in the power of economic thinking and in fun ways. He's very satirical, and it contains the best satire in all of economics.

### Who inspires you most, and why?

Frédéric Bastiat—he was a French politician and economist. He was the thinker who got me into economics, the power that economic reasoning can have, and he did it in such a fun way.

### Is there anything else you would like readers to know about you or your work?

It's an honor to attempt to fill Ben Rogge's shoes. One of the awesome things about Wabash is our connection to classical liberalism that really was Ben Rogge's responsibility, as well as John Vansickle and Pierre Goodrich. It's an honor to be bringing back that tradition. It's an honor to be associated with a college that produced the types of people who were really passionate about bringing their views on liberty to the world.











# Wabash.

M A G A Z I N E

**Director of Communications and Editor,  
Wabash Magazine**

Kim Johnson

**Director of Marketing and Media Relations**

Richard Paige

**Art Director**

Becky Wendt

**Communications Specialist**

Anna Barnett

**Editorial Assistant and Project Manager**

Stephanie Cain

**Athletic Communications Director**

Brent Harris H'03

**Director of Cinematography  
and Digital Video**

Andrew Day

**Website Editor and Broadcast Engineer**

Adam Phipps '11

**Dean for College Advancement**

Michelle Janssen

**Director of Alumni and Affinity  
Group Engagement**

Ron Dostal '92

**Chief of Staff and Director  
of Strategic Communications**

Jim Amidon '87

**Contributing Photographers**

Jim Amidon '87, Diego Banuelos '27, Sean Bledsoe '26, Stephanie Cain, Andrew Day, Elijah Greene '25, Brent Harris H'03, Hayley Jarman, Kim Johnson, Kodiak Creatives, Julia Moravec, Allie Northcutt, Scott, Olmstead, Richard Paige, Tom Runge '71, George Shagley '26, Tran Kim Thanh Dong '28, Ethan Wallace '25, 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](mailto:johnsonk@wabash.edu). We welcome your comments, criticisms, and suggestions.

**[wabash.edu/magazine](http://wabash.edu/magazine)**

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



# Wabash.

M A G A Z I N E

P.O. Box 352  
Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933-0352

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WABASH COLLEGE

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



photo by Becky Wendt

## LAST GLANCE

The Class of 2025 cross country and track and field athletes graduate having earned North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) championships (cross country in 2023, indoor track and field in 2022 and 2023, and outdoor track and field in 2022, 2024, and 2025).

This class made NCAC history with the 2024 NCAC outdoor championship win—a new conference record for most outdoor team titles. The squads were also named USTFCCA all-academic teams all four years, and the coaches earned NCAC Staff-of-the-Year honors five times in four years. **Front row left to right:** Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan, Will Neubauer '25, Will Norris '25, Jacob Sitzman '25, Julius Hearn '25, Ryan Papandria '25, Wyatt Dorsey '25, Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary. **Back row left to right:** Assistant Track and Field Coach Mitchell Kessler, Justin Santiago '25, Karston Runge '25, Brayden Curnutt '25, Jake Oostman '25, Assistant Track and Field Coach Emile Conde. Not pictured: assistant coaches Dillon Frederickson and Rob Johnson H'77.