

Wabash.

M A G A Z I N E



COMMUNITY

Wabash ceremonially broke ground on its new community center Jan. 25, in Sparks Center. The building will be located in the heart of campus and will serve as a community gathering space.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERS
HELP BUILD A CULTURE OF BELONGING.
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THE BIG QUESTION HOW DID YOU KNOW YOU
BELONGED AT WABASH?
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LUKE ROBBINS '11: "A SURVIVOR IS A SURVIVOR,
REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY ARE."
PAGE 40

Montgomery County
Community Foundation
Chief Executive Officer
Kelly Taylor, Wabash
Director of Grant Relations
Matt Salzman, Wabash
President **Scott Feller**,
Crawfordsville Mayor **Todd
Barton '00**, Montgomery
County Administrator **Tom
Klein**, and Community
Partnerships Coordinator
Leann Parrish were among
the many participants in
the community center
groundbreaking.



Wabash.



F.A. WILHELM
CONSTRUCTION

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Homecoming

Hugs, handshakes, accolades, and victories abounded Homecoming weekend in September. Get a glimpse of the festivities from 2024 and save the date, Sept. 26–27, 2025, for next year’s big events.



FEATURE

Creating Greek Community

Building community and cultivating leaders are often seen as two advantages of fraternities and sororities on college campuses. **Eric Rowland '86** and **Patrick Rezek '15** bring intention to their work to build structures that support both in the changing Greek Life landscape.

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Connecting Indiana to Kenya

Five years ago, when the request for help for a victim of sexual violence came from thousands of miles away, **Luke Robbins '11** knew he had to act. While simply looking for advice, he was not surprised his parents **Clay '79** and **Amy** decided they would offer greater support.

ABOUT THE COVER

Wabash President **Scott Feller** and **Jack Engledow '53** grabbed a spade to turn over dirt for the groundbreaking of the new community center on the College's campus. Engledow, who was president of the student body 72 years ago, was photographed (right) with then-President **Frank Hugh Sparks** as they broke ground for Sparks Center! The space that Sparks Center occupies now will soon be home to the new gathering place for students, faculty, staff, and the community.




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FROM OUR READERS

Charlotte "Charlie" Northcutt gets her first glimpse of Wabash Magazine alongside her mom, **Allie**. Allie has been part of the Marketing and Communications team since 2020. Her stories have graced every issue of WM since then. While Charlie won't be able to be a member of the Wabash Class of 2046, we hope she will become a regular guest in Hovey Cottage and around campus. Congratulations to parents, Allie and Collin, and welcome, Charlie, to the Wabash family!

 Where and with whom are you reading this issue? **Send us a photo** at johnsonk@wabash.edu.

Wabash.

MAGAZINE

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wabash.edu/magazine

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

Let's Talk

WHILE WORKING ON THIS ISSUE of Wabash Magazine, I asked everyone I talked to, "What does community mean to you?"

I heard responses saying it means "belonging," "feeling safe and welcome," "not having to pretend," and "being able to be who I am unapologetically."

I would like to believe that all those things would be true all the time. But I know better.

This past semester I talked and cried with students, staff, and faculty about the benefits and downfalls of community. While Wabash is a unique and special place, the community has also had moments of division with people seeming to be looking for reasons to not get along instead of seeking opportunities to celebrate the strength of their diversity.

In its simplest form, community is the people in a place at any given moment for any given reason. Crawfordsville is my community. Wabash is my community. The people with whom I attend a basketball game at Crawfordsville High School are my community.

At its best, community is a space where everyone recognizes we all have at least one thing in common, we all see value in what every person potentially brings to the community, and we allow and encourage each person to participate wholly in the community.

Should it be my expectation that everyone will like me or be willing to engage with me the way I want them to? No.

Do I have to become best friends with everyone? No.

Is it a reasonable assumption for me to make that I will be safe and not be harassed or rejected while I am part of any community as long as I show the same respect to others? Absolutely.

WHILE I WAS TALKING WITH Patrick Rezek '15 for the piece "Creating Greek Community" on page 46, he said this:

"At Wabash I often heard, 'It will be hard, but it will be worth it.' While it rings true in some respects, I also think it doesn't have to be hard to be worth it. Like this idea of a rite of passage to belonging—isn't our lived experience enough of a rite of passage for us to be here?"

"I needed somebody like Steve House (longtime football coach and advisor to Senior Council Activities Committee)," Rezek continued. "He welcomed me into Senior Council and said, 'You got this, kid.' That's it. That's what started to form my community at Wabash. That's what helped me form a sense of belonging. That wasn't hard."

This short editor's note has taken me longer to finish than anything else in this entire issue, and I have banged my head against more walls in Hovey Cottage and in my home than I have about anything else I've ever written because living in community should not be as hard as we sometimes make it.

If you are reading this, you belong to the Wabash community.

It makes me sad to know that some people have been made to feel otherwise because of something like their religion, their political affiliation, where they are from, their clothing preferences, the color of their skin, their sexual preference, or the fact that they are wearing a DePauw sweatshirt.

Maybe it has been a long time since you have felt a connection to this community.

Whatever the reason for your disconnection, no matter how long ago it's been, come back. We have a space for you.

I've been here 17 years and still have spaces where I don't feel like I belong. And that's OK. There are plenty of spaces where I know I belong that make up for it, and I find new ones all the time.

It doesn't have to be hard to be worth it.

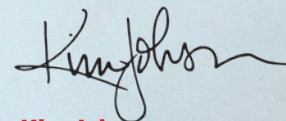
How about this: I promise not to purposely do something to make you feel like you don't belong. It's never my intention to say or do something to be hurtful, but I'm sure I do. Tell me. I will apologize and try to do better.

I bet we have something in common—if nothing else, we have an experience with Wabash. Tell me about yours. You might have something interesting to teach me. I might have something interesting to share with you. If not, that's OK. I'll still smile the next time I see you or hear from you. We don't have to be friends, but at least we won't be strangers.

Wouldn't it be cool if we could all make that promise while we are in community with one another wherever we are, like the Gentleman's Rule says, "on or off campus, at all times?"

Being nice, saying "hello," sending a kind email, smiling, or making a connection is easy. It will be worth it, and it will make the whole Wabash community better.

Agree? Disagree? Tell me. Either way, we get to have a conversation and that's the most important thing.



Kim Johnson

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Ryan Papandria '26, Cpray Wingo '28, Javion Montgomery '27, Augusto Ghidini '26, Zach Geleott '27, Carson Chadd '27, and Kim Johnson at the first Breaking Bread dinner and conversation series.

Finding Community

WHILE OREGON CONTINUES TO FEEL LIKE HOME in some ways, Wendy and I have now lived in Crawfordsville longer than any other place. Our children were Crawfordsville Athenians and North Montgomery Chargers. Amanda was a Montgomery County Fair princess, and Jake competed in the Ironman ATV race that brings thousands of people to our community each year.

In our 27 years here, I suspect we have attended more events in the Crawfordsville community than any president in living memory. I know that I have cooked more lamb burgers at the county fair than any of my predecessors, and I can't recall a presidential spouse who established a thriving business downtown the way that Wendy and her partners did in forming Four Seasons Local Market.

While I feel our sustained engagement with Crawfordsville helps me every day in my work as president, I was recently reminded that sometimes you need fresh eyes to appreciate a place.

At the October meeting of our Board of Trustees, we did a deep dive on Wabash's relationship with Crawfordsville and Montgomery County. We invited leaders from the office of Mayor Todd Barton '00, the Montgomery County Community Foundation (MCCF), and the Crawfordsville Community School Corporation to talk about the state of our community, challenges they are facing, and opportunities they are embracing—including new and strengthening partnerships with the College.

Brandy Allen, director of operations and community development for the city, walked us through hundreds of millions of dollars in private and public investment in our area over the past few years. These investments

in new and expanded factories, roads, and infrastructure have paved the way for some of the most exciting developments in many years—a new home development of more than 100 units, a new apartment complex, and new retail establishments, including an additional grocery store.

We have new parks and trails, contributing to quality of place, and the historic Ben Hur building downtown is being restored to its former splendor and will provide additional apartment housing.

Kelly Taylor, executive director of MCCF, shared plans and progress to date on the Montgomery County Early Learning Center. Just a mile down Grant Avenue from campus, this project will provide 124 spots for children from six weeks to five years old and will open this spring. Wabash is a participant in this public-private partnership that has attracted national attention as an innovative model for providing care that is both affordable and high-quality.

Rex Ryker '97, superintendent of Crawfordsville Schools, closed the session with an enthusiastic presentation on the

state of the Crawfordsville school district. In particular, he shared with trustees the difficulty he faces while managing the smallest tax district in the county, yet Crawfordsville Schools continue to offer tracks for gifted students, those with disabilities, and vocation-based learning.

As active as Wendy and I have been in this community, Ryker's presentation brought home how difficult it is to provide high-quality education across all ages and abilities while tax rolls remain flat or decrease.

Our trustees gather on campus three times a year, and we try to have these deep dive discussions at least twice a year. Yet

I don't recall a session that inspired more conversation. All of us left feeling informed, but also buoyed by the way our community leaders are working together to strengthen Crawfordsville and Montgomery County.

Mayor Barton likes to use the phrase "next level" when talking about improving the quality of life for our residents and quality of place for visitors. The Early Learning Center is an incredible example of public-private collaboration and will be the foundation for attracting people to our community,

who will then discover new housing developments, retail and factory expansion, and school corporations focused on meeting the needs of all children.

Indeed, Wendy and I feel at home here in Montgomery County and are proud to be part of the progress being made.

Scott Feller

Scott Feller

President | fellers@wabash.edu



Wabash Wrap-up: A Look Back



Ringin In

Students in the Class of 2028 were rung in by President **Scott Feller**, linking them to 191 years of tradition since the first students were called to class by the same bell.



Back to Bash

The new school year kicked off with Back to Bash on the Mall. The celebration included food trucks, a cornhole tournament, and a concert featuring Overlook, a band based in Nashville, Tennessee.



Headshots

Students sported their best suits and ties for the College's annual photo days. Professional headshots are provided for free by the communications and marketing department.



Off-Campus Study Fair

Students interested in studying abroad or studying away in a domestic program had the opportunity to explore options at Wabash's annual Off-Campus Study Fair in Detchon International Hall.

Moments



Greg Huebner Art Exhibit

“Imagining Balance Amid Chaos & Harmony: Gregory Huebner Paintings 1974–2024” opened in the Eric Dean Gallery. The exhibition served as a tribute to Huebner’s illustrious painting career. As a professor and founder of Wabash’s art department, Huebner played a pivotal role in establishing the Wabash College Collection of Contemporary Art in 1979. The exhibit was curated by Wabash College students.



Glee Club

The Glee Club hosted its annual fall concert in Salter Hall under the new leadership of Choral Director **Juan Hernandez**. The ensemble sang music from different countries in their respective languages, including Spanish, English, Quichua, Kiswahili, Korean, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole.



Class Agent Forum

Alumni returned to campus to participate in the **J.B. Bachman ’61** Class Agent Forum. The class agents discussed how to better engage classmates, fellow alumni, and friends of the College, and then enjoyed the first home football game of the season.



◀ Moot Court

Jake Weber ’25 claimed top advocate honors and the Floyd Artful Advocate Prize at the 31st Wabash Moot Court Finals. Through support of the Wabash Club of Indianapolis and the rhetoric department, the competition gives students the chance to be a lawyer for a day, arguing a case in front of an appellate court panel of judges which advances participants based on the strength of their arguments within the law.



◀ Tartuffe

The Wabash Theater Department opened its 2024–25 season with “Tartuffe,” a 1664 comedy about family, religious differences, and a charismatic charlatan.



◀ LaFollette Lecture

The 44th LaFollette Lecture, titled “Neurosis Spasmodica and the Myth of the Well-Composed Man,” was delivered by English Professor **Crystal Benedicks**. The lecture is given annually by a Wabash College faculty member who is asked to address the relation of their special discipline to the humanities, broadly conceived.

President's Distinguished Speaker Series

Dr. Richard Gunderman '83 and Dr. Robert Einterz '77 gave presentations this fall as part of the President's Distinguished Speaker Series. Both physicians are exceptional examples of Wabash alumni living out the College's mission—in their professional achievements, commitment to teaching, and unwavering efforts to build and sustain communities on a global scale.



WE ARE A FLAWED, imperfect species that exhibit an astonishing duality: the power to love and serve others with compassion and empathy and the power to hate and commit heinous acts of violence.

When relationships are based on mutual trust and respect, our communities will thrive and flourish. When our relationships are disrespectful or mistrustful, we will not achieve the

potential that derives from collaboration and cooperation. The common good will suffer, and our communities will wither.

Every individual has a voice that is great within them. The importance of respecting and acknowledging the dignity of every single person cannot be overstated, but that respect and acknowledgment does not come easily. Humans have an unfortunate tendency to be tribal and divisive. We're white, they're Black. We're male, they're female. We're Republicans, they're Democrats. We're Little Giants, they're Tigers.

There are positives that come from being members of a group. As French political philosopher, Alexis de Tocqueville, observed, it was small group associations that made America unique and strong. However, when the identification with a group trumps the common good, such incivility destroys community and robs individuals of their dignity.

Communities and relationships are inherently fragile. Building relationships, programs, institutions, and systems takes a lot of time and a lot of effort. Destroying relationships and the communities that they form is, unfortunately, relatively easy.

I trust that you chose to attend Wabash College because you recognized within yourself the potential to change our world for the better. You made the right choice. Respect and nurture the inherent dignity of all people, and surrender your ego to the common good, and you will succeed.

—Robert Einterz '77

Respect and nurture the inherent dignity of all people, and surrender your ego to the common good, and you will succeed.

Robert Einterz '77



THE HUMAN EXCELLENCES

that American poet, Walt Whitman, brought to life are the very same excellences to which we aspire, and they have to do with being more fully and deeply human. To me, that's what it means to live humanely. In that he extended to us a great gift that would be a shame to squander. What a shame it would be not to receive

that gift with open hands and grateful hearts.

We think, "Ah, Walt Whitman—I can go to the internet and download Whitman's entire corpus for nothing. It's available for free; it can't be worth very much. Can it?"

That which is free must be worthless, right? But hopefully, by virtue of your Wabash education, you understand things that are free are sometimes far from worthless, but in fact, utterly priceless and the very most precious resources we have available—they can't be purchased at any price. To read Whitman's poetry with care, to discuss it with others, to let it loosen the bounds of your imagination, and follow where it leads, that takes real effort. And if you could do that with Whitman's poetry, you can do it with other human beings too.

—Richard Gunderman '83

Moments



Dia De Los Muertos

La Alianza, along with Spanish Teaching Assistants **Nancy Calvillo Gaspar** and **Brayan Torres**, hosted its annual celebration. The event featured food, a campus-wide Altar de Muertos, and an explanation by club members on the meaning and history behind the Mexican holiday honoring loved ones who have died.



X-Tacy

The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies presented its annual slam poetry competition, X-Tacy. **Jeremiah “JC” Clayton ’27** won the contest, **Preston Reynolds ’25** came in second, and **Jonah Billups ’25** claimed third place.



ROTC Lift

A U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter landed on Mud Hollow Field to pick up six Wabash students who are ROTC cadets. This was a ceremonial gesture by the Army to honor their service and give them a lift to training at Purdue University.



Mental Health Mile

Students, faculty, and staff participated in a mental health mile following a Chapel Talk from Leslie Weirich, mother of Austin Weirich ’18, who died by suicide in 2016. The event was one of many activities on campus organized to raise awareness about men’s mental health.



Ides of August

Faculty members participated in the Ides of August, a decades-old tradition that brings Wabash scholars together at the end of the summer to discuss their personal scholarship and research.



Halloween

Wabash community members got in the spirit by dressing in costume on Halloween. Students also handed out candy at a local trunk or treat event to celebrate the holiday.



◀ Sandbox Percussion

Sandbox Percussion performed in Salter Hall as part of the Visiting Artist Series. Ahead of their performance of the Grammy-nominated piece “Seven Pillars,” the group hosted an open rehearsal. The drop-in event allowed attendees to see the artists at work, ask questions, and learn more about their process.

Asian Studies Bubble Tea ▶

The Asian Studies Minor Steering Committee hosted a bubble tea celebration. Students enjoyed delicious options such as the rich matcha tea, bubble tea flavors like sweet vanilla, and some traditional snacks.



Moments



Rivals, Not Enemies

Wabash College and DePauw University jointly hosted a “Rivals, Not Enemies” luncheon in Indianapolis during Monon Bell Week to celebrate the long-standing rivalry between the two teams.

THE MONON BELL RIVALRY should bring out the best in us, shouldn’t it? Does it always? No. But shouldn’t it? Competition alone is insufficient. History, tradition, community, longevity, and emotion are the ingredients that bring out our best.

The collegiate classroom and playing field were integral to rebuilding me. I found confidence, a team, grit, strength, and physical and mental health. I found out that Wabash Always Fights. I found my voice and my passion for learning. I learned to deal with conflict and loss and the joy on the other side of pain. I gained a sense of pride being a student athlete at a rigorous liberal arts college. I was proud to be a Little Giant.

We’re so incredibly lucky to have this rivalry. Something to fight for. Always a reason to be our best. A reason to push ourselves to do more in our community, for our city, for our country. Because a rivalry like the Monon Bell teaches and pushes us to be our best.

—**Aman Brar ’99**,
at the “Rivals, Not Enemies” Monon Bell Luncheon



WDPD Community-Engaged Alliance Retreat

Members of the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) initiative attended the annual retreat of the Community-Engaged Alliance in Indianapolis to educate members on deliberative dialogue techniques.



Jazz Ensemble

Led by **Scott Pazera**, the Jazz Ensemble presented its fall concert. The set list included “Lady Bird,” “Chameleon,” and “Eye of the Tiger.”



’shOUT Chapel Talk

’shOUT members **Joshua Massaquoi ’26** and **David Leal ’26** presented a Chapel Talk in October in celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month. See page 50 for excerpts from Leal’s talk.



Sushi Rolling

The Asian Culture Club and Cooking Club hosted a sushi-rolling class in Detchon International Hall.



Alma Mater Sing

The Sphinx Club and Glee Club invited students to learn and sing “Alma Mater” in celebration of Founders’ Day on Nov. 21. Students received pins as another way to celebrate the day.



First-Gen Day

Wabash students, faculty, and staff members sported “First Generation Proud” T-shirts on Nov. 8 in celebration of National First-Generation College Student Day.

Moments



Thanksgiving Dinner

Each year, local churches partner to prepare and serve a traditional Thanksgiving feast for the students who stay on campus during the weeklong break, as well as any faculty or staff member who would like to attend. Many of the students who stay on campus are international students and this becomes their first traditional Thanksgiving dinner experience. The event was hosted by Bethel AME Church of Crawfordsville, Second Baptist Church, Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church, and First Christian Church.



GHI Advisory Board

Taylor Lorsung '25, Evan Baker '26, and Jacob Ramirez '25 met with the Global Health Initiative Advisory Board in September to share their experiences serving in GHI-sponsored internships during Summer 2024. Lorsung served with Montgomery County Paramedicine, Baker with GHI-Peru, and Ramirez with Gundersen Health Systems in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The Global Health Initiative is celebrating its 10th year.



Scarlet Honors Weekend

High school seniors joined current Wabash students and faculty for Scarlet Honors Weekend in December. The visit allowed prospective students and their families to meet current students, attend a class learn from world-renowned faculty, like **Wally Novak**, discover campus life, and potentially earn scholarships.



Mark on Sparks

The Health and Happiness Committee invited campus community members to “Leave Your Mark on Sparks,” an event that gave participants an opportunity to leave a handprint on one of the two large columns inside the Great Hall ahead of the Sparks Center official closing.



◀ Kline '99 Visit

Josh Kline '99, founding partner of Ground Game Ventures, returned to campus to offer professional advice and mentorship to members of the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship (CIBE)—some of whom have interned for Kline at the investment fund.



Christmas Festival

The 56th Christmas Festival of Music and Readings was hosted in Pioneer Chapel. The event, which began at Wabash in 1968, alternates musical performances, congregational hymns, and Bible readings, and features songs by various vocalists, instrumentalists, and the Glee Club.



Student Art Show

Students in Art Professor **Annie Strader's** studio art class showed off their work in the “Zeitgeist” exhibit in the Eric Dean Gallery. Works by students—many of whom are not art majors—included photos, paintings, interactive videos, and sculptures.

Moments



Paws Before Finals

Students took a study break to entertain dogs from the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County in December. “Paws Before Finals” is one of many events put on by the College to encourage students to decompress during the busyness of the end of the semester.



Election Polling

Students in Professor **Shamira Gelbman**’s PSC 211: Election Polls and Public Opinion class facilitated a “Lunch With the League” discussion of election polls and their coverage in the media. The event took place at Fusion 54 in October and was sponsored by the Montgomery County League of Women Voters and the Community-Engaged Alliance.



Latino Community Center

Wabash had an official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Latino Community Center, located at the northeast corner of Wabash and Grant avenues. “The Latino Community Center will serve as a home away from home for Latino students and a vital place for community partners to connect and serve the Latino community,” says **Julio Enriquez Ornelas**, inaugural director of Latino partnerships.



Tacos With Alumni

The Latino Community Center hosted **David Wagner ’05** and **Juan Carlos Venis ’09** as part of its “Tacos with Alumni” speaker series on professional success and community commitment.



Flu Shots

The Student Health Center provided flu shots at the Allen Center to campus community members.



Theta Delta Chi National Award

Theta Delta Chi was awarded the Victory Cup as the top chapter in the nation. In addition, **Carter Bertsch ’26** was named top undergraduate of the year.



Coons Internship

Coons Public Service Interns **Luis Rivera ’25**, **Ben Cody ’26**, and **Sam Benedict ’25** spent an evening with **Phil Coons ’67**, **Steve Coons ’63**, and **Liz Bowman**. The fund was established 22 years ago and supports internships in the areas of public service and law.



Posada Celebration

La Alianza hosted Posada, a holiday celebration that included dinner, carols, and games, in December at Detchon International Hall.

Moments



Costa Rica Immersion

Students in ECO 358: Growth and Inequality in Latin America, taught by Professor of Economics **Peter Mikek**, spent a week in Costa Rica as part of the semester-long course. The interdisciplinary course focused on developing an understanding of the economic situation on the continent using economic theories and data to explore racial and income discrimination (and discrimination more broadly) in Latin America, and developing an understanding of the tight connection between economic growth and inequality outcomes. Understanding of the historical background served as a starting point to examine economic policies and realities related to inflation, poverty, stabilization, and debt.



◀ Byun Book Reception

The campus community celebrated the publication of Associate Professor of Economics **Christie Byun**'s new book, "The Economics of the Popular Music Industry: Modelling from Microeconomic Theory and Industrial Organization."



Baseball in Dominican Republic

After final exams, the Wabash baseball team traveled to the Dominican Republic for an immersive, weeklong experience that centered on history, baseball, and the community. The Little Giants had four games scheduled against local competition, completed two service projects, and learned the history of the island that dates back to Christopher Columbus' landing in 1492 and issues of colonialization under occupations that included the Spanish, French, Haitians, and the U.S. The trip was in collaboration with SPA 312/HSP277 class, The Dominican Republic and Baseball, taught by Spanish Professor **Dan Rogers H'12**.



Pastoral Leadership

The Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program's latest study tour took place in Ghana, Western Africa. The pastors visited significant places in the transatlantic slave trade history, which helped them shape their pastoral imaginations around new stories and new futures.



Kappa Sigma Anniversary

Kappa Sigma fraternity celebrated its 130th anniversary with informal gatherings, a football tailgate, and a banquet. More than 100 guests participated in the events.



Senior Dodgeball

As part of Homecoming festivities, seniors competed in a dodgeball tournament on the Mall.



Professional Development

Career Services held several special networking events with recruiters from companies and organizations including Eli Lilly, Indiana University McKinney School of Law, and Enterprise. Coffee and Careers is held every Thursday throughout the year at 1832 Brew. During the 2023–24 academic year, Career Services hosted 92 events, including employer and graduate school recruitment, entrepreneurship talks, and professional development workshops, plus two larger networking events, and 33 Coffee and Careers. More than 500 students gained experience through on- and off-campus student employment, and 170 completed internships and summer experiences supported by Wabash funds. Wabash is ranked #5 by Princeton Review for Career Services, and #2 for Best Internship Opportunities. Six months after graduation, 97% of the Class of 2024 had secured their first destinations, including graduate and professional schools such as George Washington University, University of Notre Dame, and Indiana University; the military, including the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy; and various employers, including Capital Group, Eli Lilly, and Amazon.

Wabash Moments and Alumni in the Community



Celebration of Unity

Student leaders, including members of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS) and La Alianza, joined Montgomery County neighbors and friends at Pike Place for the sixth annual Celebration of Unity hosted by Humans United for Equality.



Community Service Day

Freshmen participated in a morning of community service as part of new student orientation. Students volunteered at locations including the Crawfordsville Community Garden, General Lew Wallace Study and Museum, and Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County.



Hose Elementary Visit

Members of La Alianza played and participated in fun activities with students while volunteering at Hose Elementary School in Crawfordsville.



Wabash Ave 200th

Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church celebrated 200 years in the Montgomery County community with a meet and greet, worship service, and celebratory dinner. Crawfordsville Mayor **Todd Barton '00** and Wabash College President **Scott Feller** brought greetings from the city and the College during the banquet following the worship service. Feller pointed out that the original Presbyterian ministers who planted the church in Montgomery County were also founding fathers of the College and stated that the congregation continues to be an important church for Wabash students, faculty, and staff.



Books, Basketball, and Beyond

Books, Basketball, and Beyond, an ongoing partnership with Hose Elementary School, brings together Wabash basketball players and elementary students once a month on campus or at the school. While activities vary from month to month, each time the kids get a free book that one of the players reads aloud to them.



Farmers Market

The Crawfordsville Farmers Market hosted a Wabash Day at one of the Saturday markets in the fall. Wally, along with several members of the campus community, greeted market patrons and shared information about activities at the College.



Kinders and Swimmers

Members from the Wabash Swimming and Diving Team visited a kindergarten class at Hose Elementary School for some Halloween fun as part of the partnership “Kinders and Swimmers.”



Benchmark Family Services

Several Wabash students have partnered with Benchmark Family Services (a local foster care agency) on various activities throughout the semester. The “Shop with a Wabash Student” program joined College students with children to pick out toys, games, and other gifts to be given away during Benchmark’s Community Christmas Party. Later, Wabash students, faculty, and staff held a wrapping party in which they wrapped hundreds of gifts for families in need.

Moments



Montgomery County Day of Service

The inaugural Montgomery County Day of Service, led by the Montgomery County Leadership Academy, had nearly 200 volunteers—including 30 employees from Wabash College.



Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Zachary Anderson '18 works for the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence at the Recovery Coalition in Crawfordsville. The coalition is the statewide body supporting domestic violence service providers, state advocacy, and economic support for survivors. He also serves as a board member for Humans United for Equality.



North Montgomery Schools

The North Montgomery girls wrestling team, coached by **Lincoln Kyle '17**, won the sectional championship. **Triston Carson '23** served as an assistant coach during the 2023–24 season. Several other Wabash alumni teach, coach, and serve as administrators in the district, including **Charlie German '70**, **Tom Lutz '91**, **Ryan Nuppnau '08**, **Clayton Randolph '16**, and **Josh Thompson '00**.



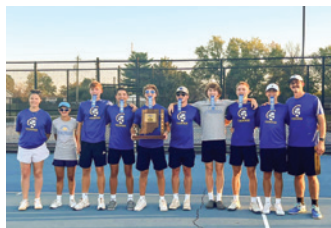
Southmont Schools

Desson Hannum '02 has been head coach of the Southmont Mountie football team since 2007 and is also a teacher at Southmont High School. The 2023 team won sectional and regional championships.



Crawfordsville Schools

Superintendent **Rex Ryker '97** spent time at Hose Elementary School reading to kindergarteners and first graders. **Seth Nunan '07** was named a “Game Changer” at Crawfordsville Middle School in the fall.



Craig Brainard '16 led the Crawfordsville boys tennis team to a sectional championship in October. Other alumni who serve in the Crawfordsville School District include **Eric Danforth '91**, **Sean Gerold '05**, **Takeshi Greiner '24**, and **David Pierce '04**.



MXoN

Crawfordsville Mayor **Todd Barton '00** has been an integral part of the team bringing the world's largest motocross event to Crawfordsville. The 78th Monster Energy FIM Motocross of Nations (MXoN) is coming to Ironman Raceway Oct. 3–5, 2025.



In addition, former governor Eric Holcomb recently named Barton a Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest civilian honor the Governor of Indiana can bestow on individuals who go above and beyond in their contributions to the Hoosier State.



Email johnsonk@wabash.edu to share how you are involved in your community!

Leading the Change

Student organizations are an integral part of campus life, and participation often creates meaningful opportunities to build a culture of belonging. Leaders in several of the largest and longest-running clubs on campus share their thoughts on community and how Wabash can continue to bring people together.



Jonah Billups '25

Brownsburg, Indiana

**PPE Major | Business Minor | Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS) |
Student Body Vice President**



Community means togetherness. A group of people who might not necessarily have the same beliefs come together and treat each other fairly and equally.

My introduction to Wabash was so fun. Everyone was always out doing stuff on campus. Come to events—once you go to one, you want to keep going to more. At first, I thought, “Why would I want to go to these things?” I just didn’t think it was worth my time. I made so many more friends and created such a sense of community here for myself.

I went to a TGIF (Sphinx Club’s weekly social event) and it was just the vibes. The music was playing. There were a bunch of people talking, the sun was shining, and I was feeling good. That was the first moment I thought, “I don’t know why I don’t do this more often.” It just feels good to be out with everyone, meeting new people.

Nate Joven '26

Indianapolis, Indiana

**Psychology Major | Classics Minor | Track and Field Team | Asian Culture Club |
Phi Gamma Delta | Sphinx Club | Wabash Acts Responsibly (WAR) Council |
Psychology 101 Supplemental Instructor | Volleyball Team Bookkeeper | Psi Chi**



Through community, it is possible to cultivate meaningful, long-lasting friendships and feel that you belong. It motivates me to better myself and to improve the lives of those around me. I build community by being grounded in gratitude. I am deeply grateful for the lessons I have learned at Wabash College. Within this community, I have discovered myself and grown in ways I never could have imagined.

It is important that Wabash’s brotherhood remains united. To build community, Wabash men need to focus on building each other up. We cannot let our differences divide us. We must actively choose to celebrate our differences. Making one Little Giant better improves our whole community.





Juan Calvillo '26

McKinnon and Edinburgh, Texas

Spanish Major | Education Studies
and Computer Science Double Minor |
La Alianza

In high school, I didn't think about college much. I knew it was something I wanted to do, but I didn't know if I wanted to leave the state. I related to Wabash because my high school was small. The only thing that bothered me was it is so far away from home. It was hard for me to be able to justify going so far away from my family. It was something I had to battle with a lot.

My parents were protective of me and my siblings. We never went to after-school activities in the areas that we lived in because it just wasn't safe. I'm a first-generation college student. They work so hard, and my sisters give money to help me either go home or pay for my school.

I got a better sense of what community means when I came to Wabash and joined La Alianza. La Alianza tries to be a club that is more about empowering people and the culture we strive to represent, but not in an exclusive sense. I'm excited to see what kind of projects we can come up with for the Latino Community Center. We want to make an impact in any way we can.

Christian Gray '25

Indianapolis, Indiana

Psychology Major | Asian Studies Minor | MXIBS

Community is more than just a network of people in the same place. It's also largely about whether those people feel as if they belong. A good community is when people feel like they belong.

Until I joined the MXIBS, I wasn't sure if Wabash was for me.

Part of the "Brother to Be" program through the MXIBS is setting up a tailgate for one of the football games. When it was my turn, I felt like the pressure to perform a certain way just lifted off. I thought, "This is awesome." I was super excited at that point.

I recognize that a lot of students at Wabash feel like a place like the Malcolm X Institute is not theirs—that they would be intruding if they enter that building. And there are students within the MXIBS that don't feel comfortable outside of the MXIBS. Why is that?

There's a lot of mental gymnastics we do when we're in uncomfortable situations, particularly regarding identities. There's not exactly an easy solution, but one thing that would really help is if we were to say, "We know the Institute is perhaps intimidating, and we know the ideas we talk about and the conversations we have are perhaps intimidating." We're not trying to shut you out. It's a learning experience, a genuine exchange. You need to be willing, ready, and eager to learn as much as you are willing and eager to communicate.



Works in Progress



Cristian Cantú '26

Hidalgo, Texas

English Major | Rhetoric Minor
La Alianza | Sphinx Club |
Crawfordsville Middle School
Soccer Coach

I left my home and my childhood dream of playing soccer to come to Wabash for financial reasons. It's come to be the best decision I could have made. I got super involved right away and learned that my passion is in community work.

I don't think community is a physical thing. I don't think it's a metaphorical thing. It's what you make it. I'm part of the Wabash community because I live and study here. I've now become more a part of the Crawfordsville community because I also live in Crawfordsville. But I still have my community back home that I stay in touch with virtually. You have to work together as a community to make it the best you can make it.

Coaching middle school soccer last year showed me how much I can impact the kids. People have taken me in and given me home-cooked meals just because I'm able to help their kids in soccer. I want to show the kids they can go to college too. It doesn't matter what your background is.



Matt Lesniak '25

Bloomington, Illinois

Economics Major | Business Minor | Sphinx Club | Interfraternity Council |
Tau Kappa Epsilon | Golf Team

Community means a sense of camaraderie. It's a sense of everybody striving for one goal, and that one goal could be anything from bettering the world to bettering the environment or winning the Monon Bell.



Alejandro Cruz '27

McAllen, Texas

Computer Science and Rhetoric
Double Major | Music Minor |
La Alianza | Phi Gamma Delta |
Mariachi Pequeños Gigantes
(also starting a high school
Mariachi band)

Community is a support network that can help on a variety of levels. In the sitcom "Parks and Recreation," the main character, Leslie, asks for a favor, and the police chief says yes without even thinking about it because she's always working to help.

She always gets it done. I strive

for that anytime someone asks a favor of me. I try to do it to the best of my ability, hoping that they feel that support from me. I hope in turn that builds a sense of trust which will eventually transform into a community.

When people would lend my grandpa stuff, he would say, "You need to give it back better than the way it was." He also said, "Always leave your footprint wherever you go." So that's what I'm hoping to do here—leave Wabash better than it was when I got here.

Building community at Wabash includes forgiveness and being there for one another. In Crawfordsville, it's putting yourself out there and making connections. Both are needed to build a network of people that support one another.



Evan Bone '26

Indianapolis, Indiana

English Major | Education Studies and Black Studies Double Minor | College Mentors for Kids | Writing Center Fellow | Tau Kappa Epsilon | Sphinx Club | Indoor Soccer Club

Community is a bond you share with others that gives your life meaning, purpose, and a sense of connection. Before Wabash, I often did not feel as though I belonged to a community outside of the clubs and sports I participated in sporadically.

Community building starts with how you carry yourself and how you interact with others. Communities only function well when everyone feels they belong and they matter. Mutual respect, empathy, and honesty are needed for living a moral life and for building a strong community.

Wabash is a place where if you put yourself out there, you'll typically find a club or an organization you feel like you belong to. Wabash is as much about the relationships you build and the organizations you involve yourself in as it is about academics.

Ryan Papandria '25

Indianapolis, Indiana

German and Economics Double Major | Independent Men's Association | Track and Field | German Club | RA | Center for Innovation, Business and Entrepreneurship (CIBE) | The Bachelor

Community was the first thing I noticed at Wabash. I visited lots of colleges, and that sense of community didn't really exist like it existed here. You're never afraid to go out and talk to someone. That's what it's about for me, being able to get to know different people. We need to listen to different people's viewpoints and be open. It's not all about your intelligence. It's just as valuable to look at situations through a different perspective.

As an RA and as president of the Independent Men's Association, I asked myself, "What are the best ways to get guys out of their rooms to mingle with each other and to find new friends."



Ryan Frazier '26

Gary, Indiana

Economics Major | Education Studies Minor | College Mentors for Kids | Tau Kappa Epsilon | MXIBS | La Alianza | Lead Studio Carpenter in the Fine Arts Center

Community is the ability to support the people around you and help them grow. Community is picking each other up in the places where somebody may not be thriving and helping in any way we can to make each other.

Community is built of different people. For a community as a whole to be better, we have to better those people individually.

I've been interested in the education studies classes even though I don't want to teach. They relate well to my life in general, with College Mentors for Kids (CMFK), and for when I have my own kids. Adolescent Literacy Development (Education 370) has shaped the way I've thought about the kids in CMFK and how they communicate, read, and express themselves. We're learning about different demographics and how that can affect their learning, understanding that each kid is different and unique.

College Mentors for Kids has been a great way to put myself out there. It is also a great way to relieve my own stress and have a fun break where I get to be a mentor and hang out with fourth and fifth graders.



➤ **Arman Luthra '26**
Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India
Computer Science Major |
Economics and Art Double Minor |
International Students Association
(ISA) | Indoor Soccer Club | Senate
Representative for Class of '26 |
RA | Computer Science Club |
Intramural Activities Committee |
Qualitative Skills Center Tutor |
Videographer for the Wrestling
Team | MXIBS | Stephenson Institute
for Classical Liberalism

▼
Community manifests as this weird alchemy where individual lives start bleeding into each other—not in the kumbaya way people expect, but in

the way my homework sessions at 3 a.m. somehow turn into this impromptu support group where exhausted computer science majors, or international students, or the brothers of the MXIBS, trade energy drinks and debugging tips with equal desperation. It's less about planned togetherness and more about the accidental intimacy that comes from repeatedly occupying the same spaces, making the same mistakes, and finding yourself tangled in other people's solutions.

I build community in ways that probably wouldn't make sense on a resume—like turning ISA meetings into hybrid therapy-cooking sessions where we're simultaneously stress-eating homemade biryani and helping each other decode American social cues. Or how our indoor soccer matches evolved into this cultural symposium where we're not just playing, but accidentally creating this universal language of competitive trash talk that somehow works across seven different native tongues. Even my RA duties in Martindale Hall become less about enforcing quiet hours and more about creating these micromoments where a guy from rural Indiana and another from urban Bangladesh can find common ground over their shared confusion about Professor Eric Dunaway's microeconomics exam at midnight.

What Wabash and Crawfordsville need most (and here I'm painfully aware of my status as both insider and outsider) is more bridges—the metaphorical ones that connect College and town, international and domestic, traditional and progressive. We need more spaces where different worlds can collide in productive ways, more moments where the guy who's lived here his whole life can share a conversation with the kid who just flew in from halfway across the planet.

Community building morphs based on context. Post-Wabash, I want to re-create these peculiar spaces of belonging I've stumbled into here—not through grand initiatives or corporate diversity programs, but through the kind of organic relationship building that happens when you're the guy who knows what it's like to be simultaneously from somewhere else and somehow exactly where you need to be. I want to take what I've learned from straddling multiple worlds at Wabash and turn that into something practical in a “here's how you navigate being perpetually foreign while making everywhere feel like home” kind of way.

Anthony Donahue '25
Indianapolis, Indiana

Rhetoric Major | Business and
Economics Double Minor | Student
Body President | Basketball Club |
Student Life Committee | Lambda Pi
Eta | Pickleball Club | Neurodiversity
Club | DJ and Producer Club | Ping
Pong Club | Intramural Sports |
Soccer Team Social Media Manager

▼
Community embodies creating environments where individuals feel a strong sense of belonging, shared purpose, and mutual support. It is about bringing people together to share experiences, foster growth, and cultivate respect. Community is the space where we find companionship, encouragement, and motivation to become the best versions of ourselves.

As Student Body president, my mission is to foster a sense of unity by amplifying the voices of students from all backgrounds and ensuring that everyone feels valued and heard. I am committed to increasing engagement across campus, organizing events that appeal to a broad segment of the student body, and encouraging cultural and ethnic organizations to do the same. By bringing people together—often through shared experiences, food, or music—we strengthen connections among individuals whose paths might not otherwise cross.





► **Quinn Sholar '26**
Indianapolis, Indiana

Art Major | Economics Minor | MXIBS | Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Student Representative | Student Athlete Advisory Committee | Wabash Christian Men | Leadership Academy | Sphinx Club | CIBE | Football | Track and Field

▼
Your community makes you who you are.

I like to build community by showing a smile. Every day when I walk across campus, no matter what I'm going through, I just keep a smile on my face. I feel like it helps people realize they are welcome at Wabash and specifically within the MXIBS. There are no stipulations on who's allowed into the MXIBS. We are brothers. We don't see Black brothers, white brothers, Indian, Mexican. We're just brothers. We have also gotten outside of the Wabash bubble and expanded into Crawfordsville with our community service. We've volunteered at churches, food pantries, trunk-or-treats—we're getting our faces and our name out there. That has helped us realize there's more to Crawfordsville than Wabash.

Another thing I figured out being chairman of the MXIBS is that Black people flock to Black people. So that's why a lot of Black students on campus come straight to the MXIBS because they see people like them. So, we expanded the Brother to Be (initiation process) for the MXIBS. We require two hours of community service, attendance at two Coffees and Careers (hosted by Career Services), at least one Chapel Talk, and outreach to at least 50 alumni through LinkedIn. We're trying to show guys there's more to Wabash than just the MXIBS.

Javion Montgomery '27
Brownsburg, Indiana

English Major | Psychology Minor | 'shOUT | Writing Center Consultant | Campus Climate and Culture Committee Student Representative | Academic Policy Committee | La Alianza

▼
Community is where you feel free to be the unabridged version of yourself.

On campus, I have built a community for myself out of my friendships with like-minded people. I tried to be selective in the bonds I made and distance myself from those who I believed to jeopardize my sense of self. It was grueling and took practice and patience as I navigated those tougher conversations when I felt like my identities weren't being respected. From those conversations, I have noticed the support and love I got in return was far more precious.

Wabash needs a more diverse campus that celebrates differences rather than embracing the things that make us similar. Differences in race, sexuality, or culture are naturally occurring things, and the more we treat our differences like "taboo" topics, the less educated about each other we become. We need to embrace uncomfortable conversations and accept the differences that make each person unique without the lingering pressure of conformity.

I hope to continue the work I do at Wabash through challenging myself to bring an unapologetically queer and Black voice to every conversation. I have realized throughout my short time at Wabash that people are willing to listen and be challenged on their ideas, but those ideas can never be challenged when you are quiet. Finding my voice and being authentic or vulnerable about my experience as a Black queer person has allowed me to create a space where people can share those experiences with me.



Season in Sports



photo by Tom Runge '71

Football

The Little Giants went 8–3 overall and represented the NCAC in the inaugural ForeverLawn Bowl played at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio, as part of the Opendorse Bowl Series.

Fifteen Wabash College players were named to the 2024 all-North Coast Athletic Conference football team. **Connor Thompson '25**, **Quinn Sholar '26**, and **Mike Holsclaw '26** were named to the all-NCAC first team. **Brand Campbell '27**, **Xavier Tyler '26**, **Kanon Kelley '25**, **Cameron Ford '25**, **Samuel Ringer '26**, **Gavin Ruppert '26**, **Jordan Cree '27**, and **Avery Epstein '25** were second-team selections. **TJ Alexander '26**, **Enrique Ruiz '25**, **Jerry McBee '26**, and **Brody Rucker '26** received third-team honors. In addition, Sholar earned 2024 D3football.com first-team all-Region 4 honors.

Head football coach **Jake Gilbert '98** added three new assistants to his staff for the 2025 season. **Brian Baker-Watson** serves as the Little Giants' running backs coach and the scholar-athlete success coordinator. **Noah Pierre** is the defensive backs coach. **Casey Gillin** serves as the team's offensive coordinator.



photo by Morgan McEnroe

Cross Country

Brayden Curnutt '25 closed his cross country career with an All-American effort, placing 18th at the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships. He turned in the best time of his career, finishing in 24:30.1. Curnutt won the North Coast Athletic Conference and NCAA DIII Great Lakes Region men's cross country individual titles to earn NCAC and USTFCCCA DIII Great Lakes Region Men's Runner-of-the-Year honors.

At the 2024 Great Lakes Regional, Wabash finished 21st out of 42 teams. Behind Curnutt's top time, **Jacob Sitzman '25** raced to 86th place with a time of 26:41.97, **Will Neubauer '26** finished 120th with a time of 27:08.11, **Johnathan Loney '28** placed 143rd at 27:27.50, and **Alex Orihuela '28** finished 238th at 29:44.83.

The Little Giants finished fifth at the 2024 NCAC Cross Country Championships. Curnutt earned First Team All-NCAC honors, crossing the finish line in 25:23.52, five seconds ahead of the second-place finisher. **Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26** and Sitzman received Third Team All-NCAC honors.



photo by Elijah Greene '25

Soccer

Wabash soccer finished its season at 10–6–2 for fifth place in the NCAC standings. **Jose Escalante '26** was named to the all-Region VII third team by the United Soccer Coaches. Three team members were named to the 2024 all-NCAC Team. Escalante received first-team all-NCAC honors. **Emilio Paez '25** garnered second-team all-NCAC honors, and **Alfredo Campos '27** earned third-team all-NCAC accolades.



No. 28 Samuel Ringer '26, No. 40 Richard Clevenger '25, No. 59 Steven Thomas '25, No. 45 Carac Johnson '27

photos by Elijah Greene '25



Emilio Paez '25

Making Waves

by Richard Paige

Connor Craig '25 has been making waves in the pool for most of his life. At Wabash, his ripples reach far beyond the water.

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER his first meet, Connor Craig '25 swam his last meet with the same coach on the pool deck as the one who had coached him at the beginning.

"I was swimming for a summer league team, and I hated it," Craig says. "My coach (Will Bernhardt) came over and talked to me. He said, 'Just go have fun. Pretend like a shark is chasing you and go as fast as you can.' I ended up winning the 25-meter backstroke by the end of the season.

"Coach Will is my last-ever swim coach," he continues. "It's full circle. I get a little emotional thinking about it because I'm at the end of the journey with the guy who helped me start in the first place."

Craig is the first of Bernhardt's club swimmers to matriculate to Wabash since Bernhardt took over as Wabash's head coach in 2018.

"When I found out his grandfather, Richard Helm '67, is a Wabash alum, I thought, 'This is meant to be,'" Bernhardt says. "We started this journey together—the little boy on the summer league team—and now we have developed a relationship through the recruiting process that has amplified over our four years together at Wabash. It's truly special. You don't get to do that often, or for a lot of coaches ever."



Craig appreciates the extra benefits of being a student-athlete.

"Swim has not only helped me be a good athlete, but it's also helped with work ethic and how I handle every single day and balancing everything else I've got going on," he says. "Overall, what I've gotten out of it is being a better person and knowing how to go about being busy but not letting it overtake me."

Craig struggled as a freshman to meet his own expectations and deal with feelings of disappointing his teammates. Rather than see teammates face similar feelings alone, he came up with a plan to make sure everyone on the squad had someone they could talk to. Now, three years later, it's fully ingrained into the team structure.

The team implemented a mentorship program that pairs incoming freshmen with upperclassmen to foster open communication, provide support, and build stronger bonds. This initiative, inspired by Craig's fraternity experiences, aims to help teammates navigate academic, personal, and athletic challenges by encouraging honest conversations and consistent peer support.

"Our team culture right now is phenomenal," says Bernhardt. "We encourage our upperclassmen to connect outside of the pool where they can actually talk about life and about school."

Retention rates and a sense of belonging have improved team-wide. The program promotes mutual care, with upperclassmen gaining leadership experience and underclassmen feeling more supported. The deepened connections have improved the team's social fabric.

"You see teammates have more conversations about the real stuff," Craig says. "I could be in the middle of warm-up, and I'll talk to a teammate that I haven't touched base with in a while. And if I find out he's struggling, it's like, 'How can I help you? Do you want to hang out after practice?' Establishing that sense of care amongst teammates has really been important."



It wouldn't be surprising that a sprinter on the swim team creates ripples, but in Craig's case, those ripples are impressive and far-reaching. He served as academic chair of Delta Tau Delta, is a brother of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies, and is a chemistry peer tutor for the Quantitative Skills Center. In addition, as vice president of the Sphinx Club, he was part of the leadership team that revamped Homecoming, including a streamlined Chapel Sing.

"Giving back to this community has been something that I've focused on because I feel something in my heart and in my gut to constantly make this a better place," says the biology major and Spanish and chemistry minor. "I work to continually improve our sense of community."

Anne Bost, associate teaching professor of biology, has taught Craig in several courses, beginning with freshman tutorial, and has seen the growth in him throughout his Wabash career.

"His social ability is strong and mirrors his scientific ability," says Bost. "Connor can see things that seem completely unrelated, put them together, spin the prism, and see what the goal is. He's got ears to the ground in a lot of different areas so he can find the heartbeat of the problem and then put the pieces together to make a difference."

As his Wabash career winds down, Craig has plenty of goals ahead of him. He's aiming for medical school and, perhaps, a pathway to a career in national or international public health. He wants to learn how to make bigger

change in the world. All that lies ahead is the work.

"He's a gamer," says Bernhardt. "I wouldn't bet against him. He always delivers."

One thing is certain. He will continue to participate in memorable conversations.

"I'm going to be a student for the rest of my life," Craig says. "You can put your nose in a book all you want, but you're not going to learn unless you're asking people questions and working with them. There's something quite interesting about a conversation, especially in the many ways it can beneficially impact others' days, or even lives. I make it my goal to always have fulfilling interactions with others whenever I can." ■

Facing Page: Connor Craig '25 at his first swim meet in 2010 for the Morris Park Country Club Summer League. **Above left:** Craig received his first trophy in 2010 for the 25-meter backstroke. **Above center:** Coach Will Bernhardt and Craig at the Senior State Long Course Meet in Bloomington, Indiana, in 2018. **Above right:** Craig and Bernhardt at Wabash senior night on Jan. 17, 2025.

Pigskin and Pig Skin

by Kim Johnson

THE SUN SHONE BRIGHTLY on Little Giant Stadium at the Homecoming game against Denison University on Sept. 21, 2013. The wide-eyed fourth grader assisting as a ball boy plucked a game ball out of a puddle and, with a hand barely big enough to grasp the ball, tossed it to the official.

While he felt dwarfed by the players on the football team then, Noblesville, Indiana, native Aidan Walker '25 graduates from Wabash in May having been one of those Giants on the sideline for the past four years.

"Wabash just came and found me," Walker says. "My dad went to the same CrossFit gym as the Wabash defensive coordinator, and he gave me the chance to be a ball boy at a game. Then, senior year of high school in the middle of the season, I got a text from one of the coaches. We had an hour-and-a-half phone call. After that, it seemed like a no-brainer to me."

The safety battled injuries multiple years—a broken arm as a sophomore and a torn ACL as a junior—but kept showing up and continuing to work and improve.

"The train keeps moving," he says. "You get left at the train station—it's a barrier you can't control, but I've learned a lot from that, like knowing how to take care of my body and just be a better teammate."

I loved owning my role on the team—making the people around me better.

"We had goals we wanted to accomplish, and I wanted to do that with my teammates. I loved owning my role on the team—making the people around me better. I was addicted to the process, having great moments with my teammates, seeing them succeed or make a good play, because I know how much work they put in in the offseason,



in practice, every week in film. We can't do that on our own. So when somebody makes a play, it's like everybody makes a play."

Professor of Chemistry Laura Wysocki, Walker's academic advisor, saw the selflessness in the biochemistry major and biology minor.

"He was never about being a star player. He was always talking about how the team performed, how the defense as a whole performed," she says. "The motivation for him wasn't to play in the most games, to get the most tackles, to be the very best at that particular position, although he pushed himself really hard. It was more to help the team reach their goals, to be with everybody. He's somebody who really appreciates that community and is willing to do the work to get there, whether he gets recognition or not."

"He had to have a surgery on his dominant arm while he was in my organic chemistry class," Wysocki continues. "I remember thinking about making accommodations so he could write for exams and be in the lab. I asked him what he thought he would need, and he said, 'I'm just going to recover a little faster than what the typical time is.' Sure enough, he almost didn't skip a beat. He was really resilient and

backed up the 'I'm not going to let this stop me' attitude. He basically said, 'I'm going to study while I'm in recovery, make up that time, and just hit the ground running when I get back.' That encapsulates how Aidan approaches things. He's not afraid of a challenge, and he's enthusiastic about finding ways to push through."

ORIGINALLY A HISTORY BUFF, Walker, with the help of his mom, found a volunteer opportunity as a boy at Conner Prairie. He worked as a volunteer and later as an employee from elementary school through high school.

"I naturally gravitated toward the animal barn and animal encounters experience, but I also volunteered with the agriculture department and interpreted the animals to guests," he says. "Sometimes the inner-city school groups would come, and a lot of them had never seen a calf before. I would tell them fun facts, stuff we did at Conner Prairie, why our breeds of livestock were unique compared to others."

In addition to his work with animals at Conner Prairie, Walker assisted a nearby dairy farmer; showed, bred, and sold rabbits for 4-H; and completed numerous 4-H projects on cattle.

"I love cows," he says. "It was fun to halter train calves, just interacting with domesticated animals, learning their personality, because they're a lot different than dogs or cats, but sometimes they can be like a dog too. I did a bunch of 4-H projects on cows, on artificial insemination and embryo transfer, and from feed to milk, diving into the intricacies of how a cow turns grass into milk, and how there are two different industries with cows—dairy and beef."

Walker's activities as an adolescent pointed him toward an obvious career path.

"I want to be a large-animal veterinarian," he says. "I believe animals are here for a

purpose and for the betterment of humans. I'm fascinated with how animals can make people feel and the purpose they serve, and I want to take care of them."

Jill Rogers, health advisor and program coordinator for the Global Health Initiative, says Walker displays the initiative Wabash desires from all its students.

"I was impressed early on with how devoted he is to animals," Rogers says. "I know that's what we hope for in our future vets, but Aidan has taken this to a new level; he's worked with all kinds of animals—farm animals, pets, even animals at exhibits—since he was in middle school. Aidan examines animal health through many different lenses and has done this while being a varsity athlete and excellent student."

Walker credits his success to the pre-health program, resources available on campus, and through alumni, saying, "I've been able to talk to a few alumni who are veterinarians and also get internship experience."

One of his internships was at Corvus Biomedical (north of campus in Montgomery County).

"It's cardiovascular research for things like diabetes and obesity using a unique swine model that mimics the human prediabetic genotype," Walker says. "I'm a laboratory technician, so I'm running a lot of experiments for universities like Northwestern, Louisville, and Stanford, and a few companies."

"I didn't have a lot of experience with pigs before. I liked learning pig behavior and learning how they communicate. Sometimes they'll bark at you. It sounds scary, but they're not. They're just talking to you."

Wysocki knows Walker will be in his element when he begins working toward his doctor of veterinary medicine at Purdue University in the fall.

"He gets a twinkle in his eyes whenever he talks about something he's really passionate



Left: Aidan Walker '25 as a ball boy at Homecoming 2013—his first time on the field at Little Giant Stadium. Photo by **Corey Egler '15**. **Above:** Walker's senior season.

about—animals and outdoors," says Wysocki. "Once you get him going on those topics, he explodes with enthusiasm. You can tell that he really loves what he does and what he's going to do as a veterinarian in the future."

What advice does Walker have for the 10-year-old self who was tossing footballs on

the Wabash sideline more than a decade ago, oblivious to the path set in motion that day?

"Just get ready," he says. "There's going to be a lot that happens. It's going to be really cool." ■

» What does community mean to you? How did you know you belonged at Wabash?

ANDREW FORRESTER '11

I found community through Wabash Christian Men (WCM). My faith is very important to me, and when I came to Wabash for an overnight visit, I stayed with some guys who were involved in WCM. They were able to tell me about their faith, the WCM organization, and life at Wabash. That visit sealed the deal.

ZECHARIAH BANKS '16

A community's strength comes from the collective effort of its members. The Wabash community thrives because we all contribute—our time, skills, ideas, and hard work—to ensure the College continues to move forward. A true community is a place where individuals feel safe, supported, and inspired to grow. Before arriving on campus, I was incredibly nervous about meeting my academic and athletic goals. But the moment I experienced the incredible support of the Wabash community—people who were eager to help me succeed in every aspect—I knew I was in the right place. Surrounded by that unwavering support, I found the confidence to lock in, push myself, and truly make Wabash my home.

CHAMP MCCORKLE '24

Community means having each other's backs. It's knowing that when you face difficulties, there is a network of people ready to offer support, guidance, or an ear. This sense of solidarity is what makes a community resilient and impactful.

CHARLES MCCARTHY '75

I arrived on campus in the fall of 1971 as an honor scholar and was nervous about living up to that moniker. Plus, I was determined to major in physics as my older brother had done. I suffered from depression and lack of confidence. My advisor, John Fisher, was very helpful and calmed my anxieties. And my fellow Martindale Hall residents were warm and welcoming.

HEAD LACROSSE COACH

CHRIS BURKE

Almost immediately, I felt like Wabash was a community where greatness could succeed through hard work, dedication, and passion. This community is unique. Everyone chose a harder path, one with adversity, one that's not for everyone. I appreciate that Wabash is hard and not the norm. This community sees that as a positive and faces it head-on.

DAVID VARGO '69

It only took a few days wearing the beanie and participating in fraternity life for me to feel like a full member. Community means people living, working, studying, and playing together.

A true community is a place where individuals feel safe, supported, and inspired to grow.

Zechariah Banks '16

JOHN PENN '14

The thing I was most worried about attending Wabash was that I had no connections to anyone on campus. I couldn't attend Honor Scholar Weekend, so I missed out on the opportunity to connect with other prospective students or get a chance to rush a fraternity or build friendships with others. When I moved in, I didn't know anyone and it felt kind of lonely! I remember sitting outside of Martindale under a tree with my dinner by myself when Rudy Altergott '13 and Reggie Steele '12 sat down with me so I wouldn't be alone. It was the first time I felt like it wouldn't be that bad. They were a big reason I became a freshman orientation leader my senior year so that other young men didn't have to eat alone on their first day on campus.

I have discovered this environment encourages young men to be more open and reflective, creating a unique and supportive atmosphere.

Glee Club Director Juan Hernández

ERIC FARBER '65

It's thanks to community involvement that I have remained fairly healthy all these years. We read a lot about how community life in America has been eroded and about the dangers of isolation for Americans' health and spirit. Community life and belonging have never been more important.

PAUL HUDAK '13

I didn't know if I belonged at Wabash, but I knew I was welcomed. When I visited for Top 10 Weekend in January, I was placed at Kappa Sigma fraternity. The guys there made me feel welcomed, and when I met with people from the College and professors, I felt supported. Community means people that you connect with and stay connected with. People you can share and walk life with.

JASON HOOD '91

I knew I belonged at Wabash when after I'd studied all night for a final exam, my alarm did not go off to wake me the next morning. Professor Don Herring called me personally to ask if I intended to come take the final. I was mortified. I jumped out of bed and started apologizing while trying to throw on some clothes. Herring told me to calm down, not to worry, and that he would see me soon. I ran to class, took the final, and got an A. I couldn't believe that Herring would take the time to call me to make sure that I was OK. I never forgot that!



JOHN GREVES '68

I practiced cardiovascular medicine for more than 40 years. The CV operating room is like a finely tuned orchestra that operates with the surgeon as the conductor—amazing to watch and even more to be part of. The same for the catheterization laboratory and the CVICU. There is a great sense of blessing to be a part of these “communities.” I recognize that all started at Wabash—fraternity, football, chemistry, biology—all subcommunities that had real impact.

GLEE CLUB DIRECTOR

JUAN HERNÁNDEZ

When I first arrived at Wabash for my on-campus interview, I was immediately captivated by the beauty. The stunning architecture, combined with the lush trees and vibrant flowers, created an inviting and inspiring atmosphere. However, it was the warm and supportive nature of everyone at Wabash that truly made me feel I belonged. At that moment, I knew without a doubt, “I need to be here!” Initially, I was mostly curious about working at an all-male institution. I was also concerned about how the culture of an all-male campus might differ. I have discovered this environment encourages young men to be more open and reflective, creating a unique and supportive atmosphere. As a musician, I am fortunate to bridge gaps between individuals from diverse backgrounds. Music fosters deep connections and a sense of community. I take pleasure in creating opportunities for collaboration and bringing together people from various walks of life.

RAY BENTLEY '51

I was brought up in Massachusetts and didn't give too much thought about college until my senior year of high school. After visiting a local college in Boston, I knew a large college was not for me and I wasn't sure what to do next. World War II had just ended, and many were taking advantage of the GI Bill to go to college. I came across a story in Reader's Digest about Frank Sparks and his theory of running a small college in Indiana. One thing led to another, and I ended up in Crawfordsville. It was a great four years as I became involved in any number of organizations and made many local friends. College education was more than hitting the books. I became secretary of the Glee Club and president of the Independent Men's Association. Wabash became a wonderful period in my life and a time and place where I made many friends and got a great education.

MARK SUTTON '92

Christmas Eve of 1988, my grandmother passed away. I had a wonderful relationship with her and my grandpa. Dean David Miller heard about her passing and called me into his office early second semester. I was surprised he knew about her death and that he expressed such genuine sympathy for me. In March, during my spring break, a very close friend of mine back home died by suicide. Again, somehow, Miller heard about this and called me into his office to offer help. I appreciated this and asked myself, "Who are these Wabash people? How can they know what is going on in my life two-and-a-half hours away from Crawfordsville?" It was then I realized this Wabash College I chose in July 1988 is the real deal.

CARROLL RAGAN

"CAL" BLACK '66

It seemed certain I would follow the 16 members of my family who attended Wabash dating back to 1844. My father, Carroll E. Black W1928, was the admissions counselor in Chicago, having been hired by President Byron Trippet W1930, who was his fraternity brother. None of my relatives ever pressured me to attend Wabash; and I investigated and visited several other colleges.

On a visit to Wabash in 1961, I had an appointment with Trippet. As I prepared to leave his office in Center Hall after a wonderful conversation with him, he said, "Cal, you belong at Wabash College."

LARRY LANDIS '67

My father, Don, was a Wabash graduate in the Class of 1939. I was impressed when I got a personal letter from President Byron Trippet after being accepted to the College. But the exact date I knew I belonged at Wabash was on Freshman Sunday. This was only the second time my parents had visited campus since my dad graduated. We were walking up the sidewalk and as we approached the president's residence, Trippet came out the front door and walked toward us. He extended his hand and greeted my father, "Don, it's great to see you back on campus." Then he turned to my mother and greeted her by her nickname, "Sally, so good to see you again. I hope we'll see you both more often now." Then, turning to me, he blew me away with, "Larry, this should be a very special day for you. I hope you will have a great four years here."

ROBERT KACHUR '87

A community is a place where you realize what binds you together is greater than what divides you. Wabash was always a great place where our respect for each other and the school supersedes myriad differences of opinion.

DAVID LEVI '88

As a freshman in Fall 1984, I didn't know if I belonged. The feeling of belonging is an elusive thing. I grew up in Miami, Florida, and was attracted to Wabash by the promise of a liberal arts education and the prospects of the football team. My first semester went well on all fronts. There was no doubt that Wabash was a special place, but even with the support of professors, coaches, and classmates, I felt like a fish out of water. I returned to Miami for the winter break with all my belongings and a decision to make: return to Wabash or transfer to another school closer to home. After much deliberation, I returned to Wabash, unsure I had made the right decision. Then, one cold January evening, I made the trek across campus to study. As I approached the Lilly Library, walking toward me was Dean Norman Moore. He was a Wabash icon, having just completed his long tenure as dean of students. He stopped, called me by name, and asked about my winter break in Miami. I would never have guessed he knew who I was. At that moment, I knew I had made the right choice. I belonged at Wabash.

That's what I learned most at Wabash—be honest and let people see the mechanics behind decisions.

Roy Sexton '95

ROY SEXTON '95

I learned at Wabash—through my fraternity, my faculty mentors, and the theater program—how collaboration and community are key to success and fulfillment. I've tried to expand those lessons learned in every professional and personal endeavor since, most recently, as international president of the Legal Marketing Association. Coming out of the pandemic that created pockets of isolation alongside self-discovery, it was crucial for me to lead with authenticity, humor, visibility, and, quite frankly, ubiquity. For our 4,000 members, I couldn't be a leader that hid behind prepackaged messaging, but one who shared the journey, warts and all. That's what I learned most at Wabash—be honest and let people see the mechanics behind decisions. With context, people feel connected and that they are part of something larger than themselves. It also doesn't hurt to show up at the opening session of your annual conference at 8:30 in the morning, wearing sequins head to toe, singing "Born This Way," alongside drag queen Athena Dion in front of 1,200 screaming attendees. Go big or go home!

STEVEN ANDREWS '05

I was not expecting to join a fraternity. During Honor Scholar Weekend, I wound up at Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE). I was a bit of a loner, definitely weird. I certainly had an independent spirit. But for some reason, TKE offered me a bid. It was known at the time for geekiness and diversity, and I liked both of those things, but I was pretty sure I was bound for a dorm. Still, I visited other fraternities, just to see what they were like. The main thing that did for me was make it clear I wanted to spend time at the TKE house. Finally, I asked the rush chair what he thought about me being bisexual, and it turned out that was cool, too. I wasn't expecting it, but TKE embraced me in all of my weird, geeky uniqueness.



ROGER ALIG '63

I arrived at Wabash in September of 1959 an awkward nonentity. Later that month I was publicly associated with a successful heist of the Monon Bell. Despite many later successes at Wabash, and even today, my Wabash identity is defined by that event.

NICK NUSSBAUM '01

I was certain I had no interest in Wabash whatsoever. I agreed to a campus visit just to get the admission folks, local alumni, and football coaches to stop pestering me. I spent a weekend at Wabash and probably had more real, spontaneous, back-and-forth, peer-to-peer conversations in those two days than I had had in my entire lifetime up to that point. I had already visited more than 15 colleges. Two weeks later, I visited DePauw, for most of the same reasons I visited Wabash. I came home and told my parents I was going to Wabash. I knew where I belonged from that moment forward.

JERRY BLOSSOM '66

I knew I belonged in the Wabash community even before our class was rung in on Freshman Sunday. I had arrived two weeks earlier with football teammates for preseason practice. Freshmen became acquainted and made fast friends. The upperclassmen were supportive as we went through tough training. We quickly bonded. After two weeks I had many friends as we took the field. I knew my way around the campus. I knew the coaches. It felt so right to be at Wabash. I wanted to be nowhere else!

FIRST LADY

WENDY FELLER

When Scott and I arrived in July 1998, we were warmly welcomed by the faculty and staff. We were invited to multiple small events that helped us, as a family, become acquainted with the College. The kids were in preschool and second grade, and we did not use a sitter when Scott taught at Whitman College. There were no events that gave us a reason to get one either. Those two years at Whitman College were so starkly different from Wabash. The Wabash Women's Directory was so helpful in finding trusted sitters to stay with the kids. We felt like that helped us become more engaged and connected. The Midwest hospitality may be a real key as well—and the fact that the president knew everyone by name!

HOMECOMING 2024



Philanthropy is in our blood, sweat, and tears. It fuels our dreams for what Wabash can be. We can have and always do have big dreams at Wabash College because we know that one generation will pay it forward for the next generation, ad infinitum. Philanthropy is in our shared experiences and our sincere desire, our selfless desire, to make absolutely sure that the Wabash of tomorrow is better than the Wabash of our time. We share an expectation that every generation will have more and better opportunities than the last.

Scott Feller
Wabash College President





No one does anything alone.
Wabash is this place where we all
come together to learn, challenge
ourselves, and spend time helping
each other become our best.

Some places crank out diplomas.

The thing Wabash focuses on is
teaching a community mindset.

Emmanuel Aouad '10
at the Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



“Wabash Always Fights” wasn’t just a slogan; it was a guiding principle for me on and off the field. Wabash teaches you to fight not with brute strength, but with purpose; to fight when the odds are stacked against you; when you’re down; when you’re tired; when the easiest thing would be to quit. Wabash fights because it believes in something greater—that hard work, discipline, and tenacity will carry you through the toughest moments.

Matt McGuire '00
at the Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



I played sports, particularly track and football, where you lined up with people every single day. You gave your all—blood, sweat, and tears—and you knew you had to count on that person next to you, because alone, you couldn’t do it by yourself.

Wes Chamblee '12

at the Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

WABASH ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Tom Bambrey '68

Special Inductee

1972 Soccer Team

Matt McGuire '00

Baseball

Emmanuel Aouad '10

Track and Field

Matt Hudson '10

Football

Evan Rhinesmith '11

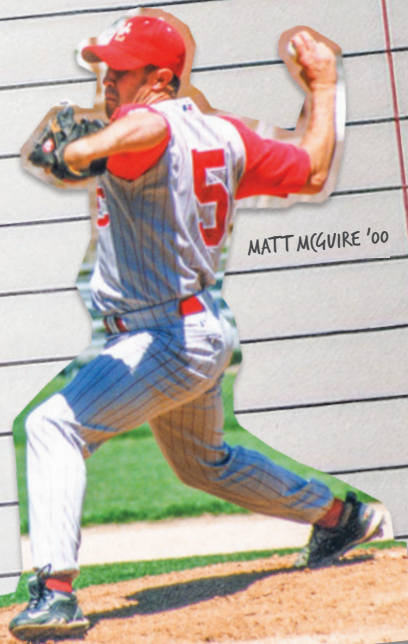
Swimming

Wes Chamblee '12

Football,
Track and Field



TOM BAMBREY '68



MATT MCGUIRE '00



EVAN RHINESMITH '11 (CENTER)

If I learned anything from swimming,
it's that you're to get out of it
what you put in; that you have to be
comfortable with being uncomfortable;
and the water doesn't get any warmer
by just staring at it. So go ahead, get in.

Evan Rhinesmith '11
at the Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



MATT HUDSON '10

1972 SOCCER TEAM



HOMECOMING ALUMNI CHAPEL AWARD WINNERS



Joanie Bowen H'68
Honorary Alumna
in the Class of 1968



Peter C. Wright '81
Frank W. Misch Alumni
Service Award



Charles E. Crowley '70
Alumni Admissions Fellow



Jamie Douglas H'84
Honorary Alumna
in the Class of 1984



Dr. Gordon A. Vogel '72
Artium Baccalaureus,
Honoris Causa



Benjamin W. Grisemer '88
Alumni Career Services Fellow



Dr. William P. Deschner '75
Artium Baccalaureus,
Honoris Causa



Noel J. Kammerman '00
Fredrick J. Urbaska
Civic Service Award



**Betty O'Shaughnessy
Woolls H'75**
Honorary Alumna
in the Class of 1975



George S. Vinihakis '15
Jeremy R. Wright Distinguished
Young Alumnus Award



Dr. Dale A. Sorenson '78
Artium Baccalaureus,
Honoris Causa

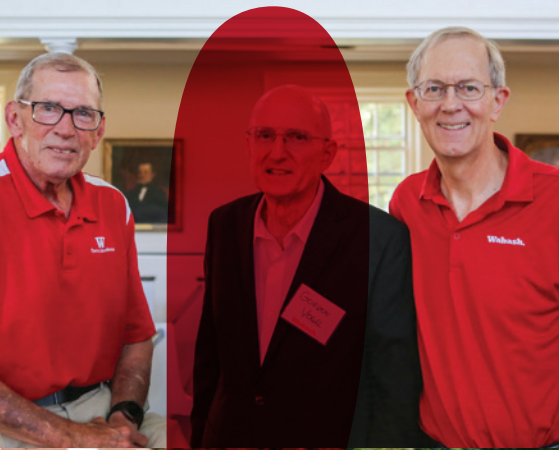


Cyrus Zion Anton H '27
Honorary Alumnus
in the Class of 2027
(posthumous)



Hilton M. Hudson II '80
Clarence Jackson
Distinguished Career
Achievement Award





HOMECOMING







CONNECTING INDIANA TO KENYA

by Logan Weilbaker '25

FIVE YEARS AGO, when the request for help for a victim of sexual violence came from thousands of miles away, Luke Robbins '11 knew he had to act.

"A survivor is a survivor, regardless of where they are," Luke says.

He had recently started as director of counseling for the Rowan Center, a sexual assault resources agency based in Stamford, Connecticut. It provides free counseling and 24-hour advocacy services for sexual violence victims and survivors.

"We got a request on our website asking if anyone could provide remote services for a woman in Kenya," recalls Luke, who currently serves as the center's clinical director and works as a trauma therapist. "At the time, we were not aware of any sexual violence resources in that country."

The agency was able to counsel the woman while Luke tapped into connections he made years earlier as a high schooler to find next-level care for her closer to home.

IN THE SUMMER OF 2005, Luke and other members of his Indianapolis hometown church, North United Methodist Church, traveled to Kenya to support the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) Consortium.

Co-founded in 1989 by Dr. Bob Einterz '77, professor emeritus at the Indiana University School of Medicine,

AMPATH is a network of academic health centers that aims to foster long-term, equitable, and cross-cultural partnerships with host health centers and universities that serve populations with significant unmet needs.

"Dr. Joe and Sarah Ellen Mamlin, leaders in the AMPATH Kenya HIV care programs, were members of my church and wanted to take those interested in learning more about the operation to Kenya," says Luke.

"(AMPATH) pioneered a different way of treating HIV/AIDS as a social and all-encompassing global condition rather than just a medical issue," he continues. "(That trip) changed the course of my life. My time volunteering and playing with the kids on the children's ward at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital helped me see how much I took for granted in my own life."

The trip inspired Luke to then spend two years in high school doing an independent research project on the social causes and indicators of the HIV/AIDS epidemic using Kenya as an example. Einterz volunteered to be his advisor for the project.

"Some of the kids were living with HIV or their parents were hospitalized with HIV," Luke says. "Others were there because of other conditions. One child, Alvin, had been abandoned by his parents because Burkitt's lymphoma had distorted the shape of his face, and they didn't want him. It was the first time I was confronted with the reality

that not all children have parents like mine, who make them feel loved every day. It was heartbreaking and eye-opening. I could show love to Alvin, and other children like him, by encouraging my community to continue supporting the work."

YEARS LATER, LUKE KNEW he could reach out to Mamlin for guidance on how to best help the woman in Kenya who needed services. Mamlin put him in contact with Maggie and Grace.

"Maggie and Grace traveled five hours by bus to the town where this woman was," Luke says. "They took good care of her and got her plugged into services."

Maggie and Grace, who are Kenyans and former employees of AMPATH, were inspired by their work with AMPATH and wanted to find a way to address the gap they saw related to the needs of child victims of sexual violence. So they co-founded G-MARC, a safe house and crisis center in the Uasin Gishu county of Kenya. G-MARC is the only place of its kind in that region.

"They did this work for free, in their spare time, while working full-time elsewhere," Luke explains. "I do the work I do in large part because of my experience visiting AMPATH and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in 2005. It is thanks to connections I made on that trip that I got connected with Maggie and Grace in the first place."

Facing page: Grace Kuria (left) and Margaret "Maggie" Alegwa co-founded G-MARC safe house and crisis center in Kenya.



Top (left to right): Sarah Ellen Mamlin, Dr. Joe Mamlin, Dr. Robert “Bob” Einterz ’77, and Lea Anne Einterz; above left: Luke Robbins ’11; above right: Amy and Clay ’79 Robbins.

LUKE KEPT IN CLOSE CONTACT with the two women and learned more about the organization's mission to provide counseling, community education, and advocacy services, with the hope of one day offering short-term safe housing for child victims of sexual violence.

"Working in mental health (in 2020 during COVID) was exhausting," Luke says. "I would come home after a day of my own work and just want to unwind. But here were these two incredible women who spent their days working full-time, only to come home and spend their nights and weekends supporting child victims of sexual violence for free."

Luke spent his nights and weekends for a year helping write policy documents, set up data systems, do trainings, and advising the women as best he could. He now serves as a volunteer consultant on the board and meets with them monthly to review and help them with whatever else they need, like writing and submitting grant applications.

"I remember one call with them in January 2021," he continues. "It was dark on their end—probably 10 p.m. They were just smiling and so excited to be learning what I was teaching them. The fact that they could do all of this with a smile, genuinely happy to be of service to these kids, motivated me to do what I could to support them."

RUNNING A FULLY OPERATIONAL safe house takes time, effort, and money.

Through AMPATH, the two founders of G-MARC connected with a couple in Missouri who donated funds to help establish programming and purchase land to build the brick-and-mortar safe house. To cap their investment, in December 2021, the donors gifted six months' worth of operating budget to the organization.

"Up to that point, Maggie and Grace were doing the counseling and community services as volunteers," Luke says. "Many of

the children they serve are witnesses in the criminal cases against their perpetrators. Families have been harassed, and there is concern that the children could be targeted by accused perpetrators as a means of disrupting the justice process.

"Once they received funding, they were able to open the safe house, hire a house mother and two armed guards, and start paying themselves a wage as well," he continues.

Nearing the end of the initial six months of funding, Luke wanted to ensure the ongoing success of G-MARC. He gave his parents, Clay '79 and Amy Robbins, a call, hoping they could provide some advice on how to help secure future funding for the safe house and crisis center.

"Because of my father's work in philanthropy and my mother's work helping deaf and hard-of-hearing children around the world, I thought it would be beneficial to consult them about where we should go and whom we should talk with to keep G-MARC operating," says Luke.

Clay is the chair and CEO of Lilly Endowment Inc., one of the nation's largest private philanthropic organizations. He has also served in leadership and board roles with the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, United Way of Central Indiana, the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee, and Damar Homes Inc. His years of philanthropic community contributions were recognized in the fall by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, who awarded him the 2024 SACHEM Award. The SACHEM Award is Indiana's highest honor and is presented to a civic leader who has demonstrated moral character and a commitment to service.

While simply looking for advice, Luke was not surprised when after careful consideration Clay and Amy decided they would fund G-MARC themselves.

"They were so moved by the dedication and drive of Maggie and Grace, and the importance of the work the women desperately wanted to do, that they made the decision to provide funding for the operating costs for a year," Luke says.

"My wife and I have supported AMPATH financially for several years, but we decided there was a real need to also support these women (G-MARC founders)," says Clay. "They are like saints on earth. The work they are doing is just incredible."

Thanks to continued funding from the Robbinses and others, since the safe house opened its doors in 2022, the staff of five has been able to continue counseling and advocacy work while the safe house has provided refuge to more than 200 children ranging in age from one to 17.

DESPITE THEIR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS, Clay and Amy have always been quick to credit and show gratitude toward anyone else, including their son, before themselves.

"We encouraged them to make a difference in the world in whatever way fit them with the abilities and resources they have," Clay says about what he and Amy tried to teach their three sons, Luke, Campbell '09, and Peter '12, growing up. "All three of the boys have been involved with different kinds of service projects since they were young. ... It has helped them understand different parts of the world and the challenges and strengths that people of other backgrounds and cultures have.

"Luke saw there was some value he might be able to add, and he knew he had connections to the Mamlins and Einterz, so it could all come together," says Clay. "It's all these relationships and community that get built over the years that could be activated in a way that is quite impactful." ■



CREATING GREEK COMMUNITY

by **Kim Johnson**

Building community and cultivating leaders are often seen as two advantages of fraternities and sororities on college campuses. Eric Rowland '86 and Patrick Rezek '15 bring intention to their work to build structures that support both in the changing Greek Life landscape.

TAKE 30, 40, 50 YOUNG ADULTS, put them in a fraternity or sorority house, and a community is bound to form. Thinking deliberately about the literal and figurative structures in place is critical to the success and growth of the group. With the constant change in the student population on campuses and in houses, the work is never-ending.

“Where you live is a strong element of your sense of community,” says Eric Rowland ’86, architect at Luminaut and Rowland Design Inc. “Greek housing defines a community. There are social dynamics in the planning of a Greek house. You need to be deliberate about how you go about doing that.”

Culture and expectations of what Greek Life should look like change over time across campuses and across the country. Recognizing and adapting to change is necessary to keeping Greek Life relevant.

“If they don’t change, we’re not going to see an increase in students because students get leadership experience elsewhere,” says Patrick Rezek ’15, assistant director of fraternity and sorority life and civic engagement in the Office of Student Involvement at DePaul University in Chicago. “There has to be knowledge of the purpose you are trying to serve. It’s not something that’s passive; you have to consistently do it.”



Eric Rowland ’86 (second from right)

ROWLAND FIRST BEGAN THINKING about the function of the building structure when he was house manager at Beta Theta Pi—a role he held for two of his four years in the house.

“I enjoyed doing it,” he says. “A lot of my fond memories from college were hanging out in the house.”

As a graduate student at the University of Illinois, Rowland learned about social scientist William Whyte in an urban planning class.

“Whyte studied public spaces, observing in New York and other cities how people interact,” he says. “What made them comfortable? Given the voluntary nature of a big public space, where did they choose to sit? If there were chairs and things you could move around, where did they move them?”

In Rowland’s last year at Illinois, the faculty awarded him a Ryerson Traveling Fellowship. He opted to do a study similar to Whyte’s.

“I went to East Berlin, West Berlin, Prague, Budapest, Paris, and Vienna, and observed some of the larger and more successful public spaces in those cities,” Rowland says. “Then I compared those with spaces in San Francisco; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle.”

One of Rowland’s first projects as an architect was renovating the Beta house at Wabash.



Facing page:
Lambda Chi Alpha
at Butler University.
Photo by The
Addison Group

< Left: Sigma Chi at
University of Cincinnati.
Photo by Phil Armstrong

“The concept of a Greek house and community are so intertwined. I’m passionate about and trying to be as intentional as we can to develop the kind of community that a particular house wants.”

ERIC ROWLAND '86



“A lot of my really good friendships are the ones that I developed when I was in the fraternity,” he says. “As an architect, I asked, ‘What influenced that? How do you encourage that kind of thing to happen?’ I was starting to apply some of Whyte’s principles to how we renovated the house, to try to open it up more.”

“Pretty much everybody comes in the back door,” he continues. “How do you make the back door feel more like a front door? How do you make it feel more welcoming? How do we design for social activities and to control access to parties?”

That gave Rowland the courage to look for more of those types of projects. Now, he’s completed renovations and new builds for more than 100 Greek houses across the country.

“The concept of a Greek house and community are so intertwined,” Rowland says. “I’m passionate about and trying to be as intentional as we can to develop the kind of community that a particular house wants. What kind of furniture do you put

in the living room? How comfortable is that going to be? What kind of chairs do you have in the dining room? Are they going to allow people to study for a while and be comfortable while they’re doing it? You want the houses to offer something students might not be able to get somewhere else.

“And now, technology is layered into that too,” he continues. “A lot more study spaces are isolated for quiet study or as a professional-looking space for a Zoom interview. A lot of the national organizations now offer online counseling for their members, so they want a designated private space for that as well.”

With increases in property values and changing policies in houses by individual campuses as well as national organizations, many chapters are looking for ways to keep their houses financially sound and responsive to the wants and needs of their members.

Rowland has worked with several groups to create innovative solutions that address these issues.

“It gets expensive to maintain the taxes and the ownership of the houses. One idea is that the fraternity would be a tenant in a facility that they control,” Rowland explains. “They could have first-floor retail space. They could even operate it, and maybe generate some revenue or leadership opportunities by how they manage and run the space. Then the second floor would be their main living areas and social space. As you move up, there might be another floor of student rooms, and a couple floors of apartments that could be rented by their upperclassmen or even non-

chapter members for additional income.”

While the wants and needs of students change over time, Rowland believes that, overall, the guiding principles of fraternities and sororities remain effective.

“The principles that Greek organizations have are all very positive,” Rowland says. “But we’ve got young adults that are developing, and part of being at a college or university is to learn how to grow up and transition from being a kid to being an adult. People will make mistakes in that process.

“Keep the emphasis on the positive side of what they’re doing right,” he continues. “Try to create an environment where it’s easy to do the right thing, and more, you’ll be an outsider if you don’t do the right thing.”

WHILE ROWLAND’S WORK FOCUSES on the physical structures, Rezek focuses on the support systems in place for building community and leadership among fraternity and sorority members.

“On the door of our office, there’s our mission,” Rezek says. “It says, ‘Our job is to create communities where everyone belongs.’”

Communities, not community.

“A lot of times we think about community as this singular aspect of one, which is great, but think of the othering aspect that comes with it as well,” Rezek says. “As a Wabash student 10 years ago, I would have said, ‘Everybody together, all is one.’ When we look at just one community, it’s this mentality that everybody fits nicely in a wrapped bow. But years in higher education have made me challenge what community and belonging mean.”



Rezek says what we need are ways to bring communities into conversation with each other.

“How do we find ways to exist together while also finding those spaces where every person can be in a community and not feel separated or othered?” he asks. “We’re going to remain in silos if we don’t intentionally create the spaces for these communities to come together and to know and be able to recognize the different identities and lived experiences that create each community. Intentionality takes time and effort.”

His focus is on leadership development theories and socially responsible leadership, particularly in regard to fraternity and sorority members.

“I tell people, for example, you can join the chess club or you can join a sorority—but if the sorority can’t justify and tell prospective what they’re going to get out of the organization, prospective are going to join the chess club,” Rezek says. “And they’re going to do it for free, and potentially get some leadership opportunity out of it.”

In 2020, Rezek saw a move toward greater appreciation of the importance of community.

“Not just with COVID, but with Black Lives Matter, a real spark and focus was placed on the ‘tell me why you’re here’ aspect of fraternity and sorority life that caused a lot of people to shift and adjust from what they had always done,” he says. “If the

chapters stay small, people know why they’re there and can articulate the values and can embody and actively practice the values. I’ll take a chapter of 30 any day over 100 people who don’t know why or what they believe in within their organization.”

Most first-year experiences within the Greek system include structured programming about the organization. Rezek recognizes a need for more emphasis on leadership beyond year one to give students a greater understanding of the next steps involved in the governing of a chapter.

“When I do one-on-one meetings with chapter presidents, I say, ‘Bring somebody new every time we meet that you think has potential to be in your role,’” Rezek continues. “Let them hear the conversations we’re having. Let them think and hear about the 30,000-foot perspective that they as a general member may only see at a 5,000- or 10,000-foot perspective. Give them an understanding of what these different elements of leadership could look like.”

Most important, understand that change is inevitable.

“Tradition is great, but the students who show up at our doors are different year to year, month to month, day to day,” Rezek says. “Tradition has to tweak and change. We need to support, advocate for, and fight for the students we currently have on our campuses.” ■

“We’re going to remain in silos if we don’t intentionally create the spaces for these communities to come together and to know and be able to recognize the different identities and lived experiences that create each community.”

PATRICK REZEK '15



Left Page: Tri Delta at Butler University photos by Luminaut. **Above top to bottom:** Patrick Rezek '15 with Fraternity and Student Life students at a quarterly Leadership Community meeting. Rezek with fellow Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values student interns as a graduate student in 2021. Rezek with students celebrating their work and contributions to Dance Marathon and the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. Rezek and students at the IGNITE Leadership Conference 2023.





Indianapolis native **Julian Jamaal Jones** is the artist-in-residence for the spring semester. Jones memorializes Black culture by presenting fresh perspectives and creative freedom within traditional landscapes. His unique practice communicates through the historical language of African American quilting tradition by implementing abstract forms and vibrant colors in his works to bypass preconceptions and open conversations around his Black experience.

"I best express myself through sketching," Jones says. "My drawings are colorful, abstract, gestural, and ultimately unexplainable. Even I can't quite comprehend what comes out of my sketchbook. I approach the making of quilts as a sketching process, working quickly to creatively process the sense of alienation that comes from being a Black man in white spaces."

His work will be on display in the Eric Dean Gallery until April 12.

Assassins

by David Leal '26

DON'T REMEMBER my exact “gay awakening.” Maybe it was watching Peeta in the “Hunger Games” movie. I was obsessed with Katniss’ confidence. Maybe it was when I played “Justice League” and “Mortal Kombat.” I always wanted to be the girl, whether it was Wonder Woman or Kitana. I found something desirable about their femininity.

The female characters allowed me to express a part of myself I didn’t fully understand yet. Looking back, I realize this was a subtle fight with myself—a battle of embracing my femininity while also trying to hide it. Every time I picked a female character, I felt a sense of joy and happiness—quickly overshadowed by guilt, embarrassment, and a growing self-loathing because of remarks from my cousins and siblings for choosing the girl.

I began to question why I was different, why I wasn’t like them. While they were busy imagining themselves as Peeta from “The Hunger Games,” I didn’t want to be the guy who ended up with the girl. I wanted to be the girl. This was about more than my sexuality; it was about being able to express my identity. I wanted the freedom to embrace the things that brought me joy.

It wasn’t my cousins’ or siblings’ intention to hurt me. As kids, we learn from our surroundings, what society shows us, and what our parents teach us. Their curiosity about why I would choose the girl characters reflected society’s stigma around boys and being feminine. What I heard was it was not OK for me to be feminine, or at the very least, I should pick a less feminine character.

This isn’t just my story. It’s the story of many. Some are even our own Wabash brothers. They, like me, have felt uncomfortable being their true selves because of comments, jokes, and homophobic culture.

Certain traits, roles, and identities like heterosexuality are normalized so early that we don’t even question it. Think about the cartoons, video games, and books we grew up with. How often did they feature LGBTQ+ characters as the heroes, the strong figures, the ones who led the story? The lack of queer representation in media has created a gap between what we see and the reality of our world.

Though subtle, these messages shape our understanding of ourselves and the world around us. They tell us that being straight is the default, what’s right and normal, while being gay, queer, or anything outside that norm is different, abnormal, or even wrong. For me, choosing female characters wasn’t about strength—it was about finding a way to express a part of myself that I couldn’t see reflected in the world around me. And when society only shows one type of story, one kind of identity as being “right” or “normal,” it makes the journey of self-expression and self-acceptance so much harder. For years I fought with my identity, trying to suppress parts of myself that I hadn’t yet learned to embrace.

I THOUGHT COMING TO WABASH would change all that. I told myself, “This is it. No one knows you. You can be whoever you want to be.” When my family dropped me off at Wabash, I felt a little spark of excitement, as if the second they left, I’d magically become comfortable with who I was. I thought I’d suddenly be free to live as myself, without fear or shame. The distance didn’t make me more confident. The hard truth was that I hadn’t accepted myself fully. I didn’t want to be kicked out; therefore, I did not come out.

In an early moment during new-student orientation, we were doing a group activity, and someone wasn’t doing well. Another person commented, “You’re soooo gay.” Everyone laughed. Using “gay” as an insult was normal and acceptable. No one questioned it. No one paused to think about the harm those words carried. It reinforced the reality that I wasn’t completely safe even in a place where I hoped I would be.

“The hard truth was that I hadn’t accepted myself fully. I didn’t want to be kicked out; therefore, I did not come out.”

However, throughout my journey at Wabash, I’ve been able to work through those internal battles and finally express myself openly. Even though self-expression and acceptance are a personal struggle, having people who actively fight against homophobic culture makes the journey easier, allowing people to believe it’s okay to be themselves on campus. I’ve encountered three types of support for queer individuals. I call them allies, accomplices, and assassins.

Think about someone in your own life who is part of the LGBTQ+ community, whether or not it’s someone you know personally. Picture yourself in a room with them. Where are you in relation to them? Are you behind them? How far? Are you next to them? Are you in front of them?

MY SOPHOMORE YEAR at Wabash, I experienced one of my first real homophobic incidents after coming out. Until then, I had only heard passive joking not directed at a particular person.

My fraternity has a tradition at Christmas where we write roasts and put them on a Christmas tree. Someone wrote a roast for one of the brothers that said, “_____ was a gay Black man.” What was supposed to be fun and lighthearted was taken too far when someone’s identity was reduced to a punch line. Most people laughed. Some just sat there awkwardly. When it was obvious to me that the leadership in the house was not going to say anything, I left.

At the next house chapter meeting, a couple of us spoke up. We received plenty of support—even some performative snaps of approval. I call this the support allies—stepping up from behind to show support when it is easy and convenient. But days later, at a brotherhood function when the f-slur was used, the room went silent. Nobody raised their voice. No one said a word.

Allies ask, “Will supporting the queer community come back on me negatively or positively?”

The risk of their own social discomfort outweighs the desire to support the queer community. They stand behind us, but to truly make a change, they need to move up. Change requires unapologetic action. We need support that isn’t just about what is comfortable, but what’s necessary.

Go back to that image of you in the room. Did you imagine yourself standing next to that person? This is what I call accomplices.

Accomplices stand beside you, supporting you even through their own potential risk. They don’t just show up when it’s easy; they show up when it’s hard as well. They are eager to listen, learn, and work toward change.



David Leal '26

photo by Julia Moravec

Last spring after a homophobic incident at one of the houses, 'shOUT held a peaceful protest at Lilly Library to demand action.

I was nervous leading up to it, wondering if anyone would show up, but they did. I walked into the library and saw faces that made me feel loved and supported. I saw my Wabash brothers, including the leadership from my fraternity. Seeing them there spoke volumes about their character, but also about the progress we were making as a fraternity.

They were taking a stand with us, moving from allies to accomplices. We haven't always been a perfect place in our support of the LGBTQ+ community, but this was a moment of growth. We're learning. We're figuring out how to do better and how to support this community more actively.

Accomplices wait until someone else speaks first, and then they follow. While this is an important step beyond allyship and is good support that is needed, it's not the most ideal version of support. It's good that they show up when asked, but what we need are those who will act before we even have to speak.

That's where assassins come in. Merriam-Webster defines assassinate as: to put to death deliberately, slay, do away with, eradicate, eliminate, shoot down, wipe out, deprive of life.

Think about that in terms of battling homophobia—doing away with, eradicating, putting to death deliberately, eliminating fear and hate—before harm has already been done.

Imagine being back in that room standing next to someone in the LGBTQ+ community. Now step in front of them.

Assassins are fearless when it comes to advocating for the LGBTQ+ community. Assassins stand. They don't speak for the queer community, but they speak up when something's wrong. They don't wait for someone else to call it out—they do it themselves. They don't do it for recognition or praise, but because it's the right thing to do and they fundamentally believe it.

During Scarlett Honors Weekend, I was talking with some prospective students. One of the guys commented he was from "the gay part" of his state. I immediately felt the weight of his comment. I was so used

to having to let comments like that slide, but before I could even react, one of my pledge brothers cut him off. He said without hesitation, "No, nope, nope, nope. We don't do that here."

He didn't wait for me to say something. He stood in front of me, speaking up because he knew it was wrong. When I thanked him later, he didn't even realize what he had done. But to me, it meant everything.

IF I HAD SOMEONE like my pledge brother when I was a kid playing "Mortal Kombat," it would have made those experiences much easier. His cutting off my siblings and cousins with a simple, "And what?" would have given me some reassurance and made my journey feel less isolating. Instead of spending sleepless nights with my thoughts and tears, I could have known that someone was in my corner.

We need assassins. Imagine if all queer individuals knew they had someone in their corner. We need people who don't just wait. People who don't just stand behind or stand beside us, but who stand in front of us when we need them the most.

I'm not asking for sympathy. I've accepted who I am, and I've moved on from those who won't. But if you can't accept and support me, then do it for our Wabash brothers who aren't yet brave enough to embrace themselves, who drown themselves with tears at night, and who might not ever show their true selves. Be an assassin. Stand up. Speak out. Be the reason someone else feels safe to live in their truth. ■

David Leal '26 is the president of 'shOUT. One of the organization's new initiatives is to collect oral histories from queer members of the Wabash community. Leal says, "These stories are meant to honor the challenges and triumphs of our community, preserve the voices of those who came before us, and inspire those who will come after. Everyone has a story to share, and if you are willing to share your voice for this project, we would love to hear from you. I have shared my own journey, and I hope doing so inspires others to do the same. If you're interested in participating or want to learn more, please contact me at djleal26@wabash.edu."

**"We need people
who don't just
wait. People
who don't just
stand behind or
stand beside us,
but who stand in
front of us when
we need them
the most."**

To the First Speaker

by **Derek Mong**

You—who are kin to all clans;

You—who called the rain

did you flinch to find

we've been drowning in for eons;

a shard of self

split off—a passing thought

unhidden?

Did it feel forbidden?

Or was it like the stone

you raised

between your hands, and—gauging

its weight against your son's—

tossed it

into a river?

Are we the mist

upon your arms?

Why do I assume you're female?

Your friends will look

away;

your dog will look and sniff

and walk—one paw

unstuck from mud—into a clearing

you're on the cusp of naming.

They will return.

They're new

to this brand of shaming.

And listening grows

more slowly

still—like a snowbank

in the evening—

as crowds form in twos or tens

to coin a word

that'll pass like a dark glance

through a wake or wedding.



Derek Mong is the chair of the English department at Wabash College. “To the First Speaker” appears in his most recent collection, “When the Earth Flies into the Sun,” a book that weighs digitalization against the joys of domesticity. Its poems speak back to mass shooters and mimic the voice of cloud storage. They leap from Greek ruins to intergalactic finales, Nebraskan highways to—in the poem above—Paleolithic hominins first learning to speak. Mong’s poems, essays, and translations have appeared widely: the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe, the Kenyon Review, and Verse Daily. You can find more of his writing at www.derekmong.com.

Spiritual Community

by Jerry Ness '76

As a parish priest in the Episcopal Church, I build community in the presence of, and through the power of, God's Holy Spirit.

As Christians we worship the Holy Trinity, one God in three. Our Divine Trinity, three in one, one in three, is community. Simply stated, our God is a spiritual community. As for the building of spiritual community, to paraphrase St. John Chrysostom's commentary on St. John's Gospel, the Holy Spirit of God, being One, binds us all together in spiritual unity.

For Christians, this begins with our baptism, when we are welcomed into the household of God. All of my life in Christ finds its meaning in my baptism, but all of my life as a disciple finds its meaning in Good Friday.

Spiritual community isn't something that just happens by accident or by itself. Of the three major world religions of the Abrahamic tradition—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—Christianity is the only one a person is not born into. Theologically speaking, no one is born a Christian. To be a Christian, one must be baptized.

All spiritual community is built through personal sacrifice, some small and some great. For Christians this is rooted in, and finds its meaning in, the ultimate, perfect sacrifice of Good Friday. I am grateful God has never asked this degree of sacrifice of me. I am also grateful our Lord has given me this example to imitate.

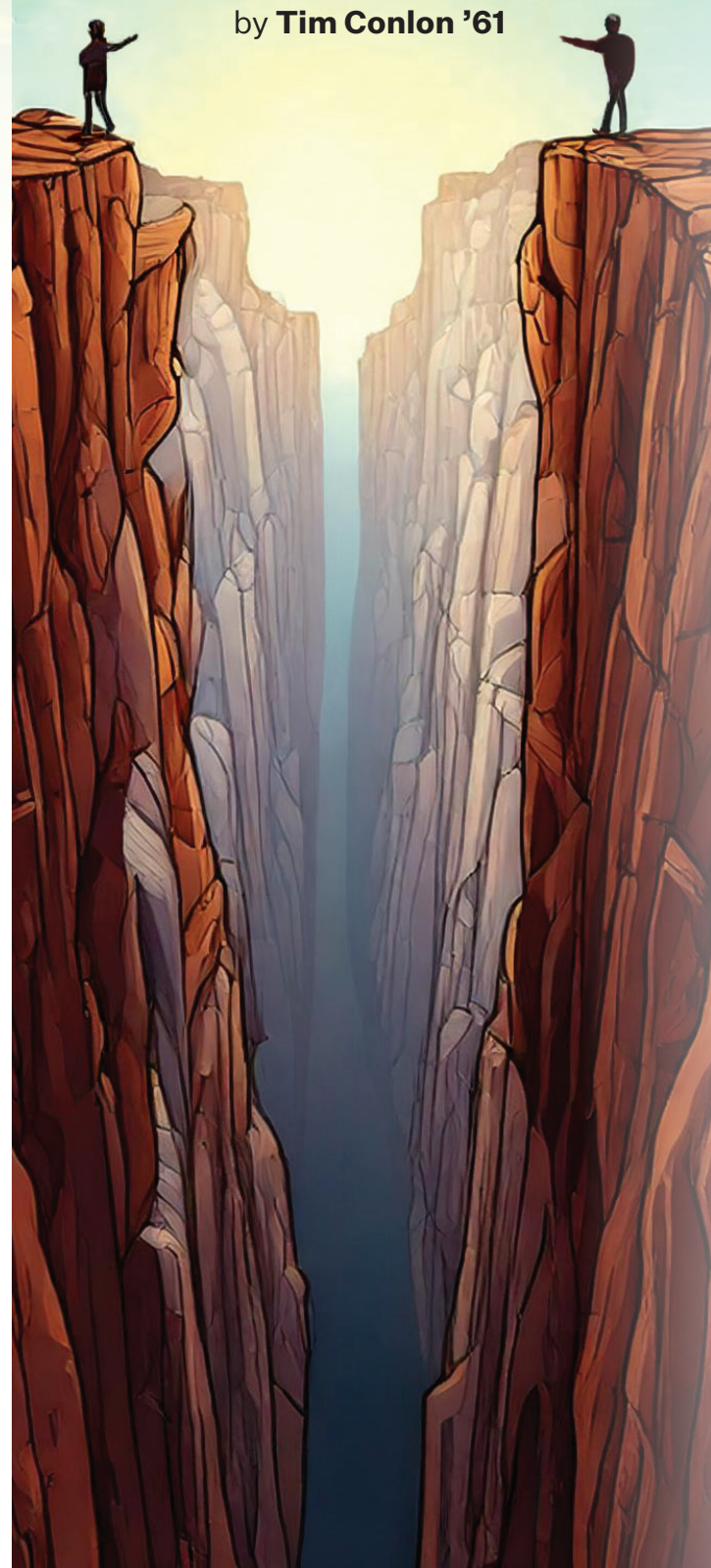
Our God is not a violator of persons and has given us the gift of free will. Foundational to this is our ability to choose. The only way God's Holy Spirit can touch my human spirit is if I choose to be open to receiving it. I must sacrifice my pride, my ego, my will. I must invite God's spirit into my life. Only then will I receive the gift of the Holy Spirit—God's power to grow in the image and likeness of God as we were all created to be.

We can use the power of the Holy Spirit to imitate our Lord, which changes our behavior and who we are, thereby becoming a new person, and through this growing toward the image of God. This is not an instant change; it is a process, a spiritual journey of growth, and it will not be completed in this life.

I have the privilege of helping others through prayer, action, and spiritual companionship to travel their own personal spiritual journey of accepting the Holy Spirit and growing in God's image. This is the praxis of my vocation. ■

Getting Along: A Greater Necessity to Resolution

by Tim Conlon '61



A little more than 15 years ago, I wrote the following:

We're preparing for the holidays, relieved this year will end. But our relief is clouded. We've been deeply affected by this recession. Economists say we'll survive the "Great Recession," but high unemployment will linger indeterminately. Without jobs, would-be consumers will bypass discretionary goods on store shelves. Two-thirds of our economy depends on those shelves being emptied. This is immediate uneasiness.

However, this unease is not loaded shelves. We see we can't get along with each other and solve problems as we did in the past. While community services assist the needy, our "we're in this together" resourcefulness to face economical and political challenges is frayed.

Healthcare reform talks were characterized by vilification of the other party's leader, not debating the issue. U.S. history shows that irrational rancor has usually cloaked policy debate. But longtime observers say they can't remember a time when bad manners and falsehoods became the norm. Finger-pointing intensifies, guaranteeing even larger audiences for pundits who secure fortunes by keeping everyone angry.

There was a prophetic observation 18 years ago when Rodney King asked, "Can't we all get along?" Despite his lifelong struggle with alcoholism, King asked the right question as this shadowy uneasiness lengthens across our land.

Money is made when we fight or whine and there's an audience to watch. The year Los Angeles erupted in riots because the policemen who brutalized King were acquitted, Jerry Springer launched his infamous TV show. Its currency continues based on the voyeur-like fascination viewers have in watching adults verbally and sometimes physically attack each other.

Much of media content is predominantly arguments, conflicts, reality TV stars versus pathetic talent, and, too frequently, denigration of whoever proposes a solution. Journalist Mark Bowden documents a new "post-journalism" era in the October edition of *The Atlantic*. His editors noted: "With journalists being laid off in droves, ideologues have stepped forward to provide the 'reporting' that feeds the 24-hour news cycle. The collapse of journalism means that the quest for information has been superceded by the quest for ammunition. ..."

Since King's question and Springer's first show, there has been a steady increase in individuals practicing law, as a percentage of the population. The U.S. has more than a million lawyers—one for every 265 citizens—a larger number per capita than any other country. And our legal system has lower barriers for a citizen to file suit, compared to other countries where lawsuit costs are borne by the plaintiff if he loses. Further, consider the attorneys who are elected officials, managing government agencies and occupying the judicial branch, and you see that much of our lives is defined legalistically—"him vs. her," or disobey this regulation and pay the penalties. This adversarial climate leaves little room for cooperation. Again, money is made when we disagree.

When a citizen offers a good morning to a stranger, that's noteworthy, given that media personalities urge audiences to be "mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any longer," phalanxes of lawyers goad us to sue, and vitriolic blog sites taunt participants to post their venom. So, how do we recapture civility and problem-solving?

We have choices when confronted with erroneous statements that challenge our beliefs. You can reply as a crusty plant manager did to me years ago: "My

"Most dogs greet each other with wagging tails and curious noses. If humans could act like that, we'd have a more civilized world."

way or the highway!" Or you can emulate my neighbor who said recently: "Most dogs greet each other with wagging tails and curious noses. If humans could act like that, we'd have a more civilized world." We can choose either response.

My pastor counsels: "Don't react when someone attacks your beliefs. Pause, respond with thoughtfulness."

Stay in the slow lane, ease up on the gas pedal, and skip the morning espresso.

To answer yes to King's question, we must try to get along, difficult as it may be sometimes.

My, how times have not changed. Well, to be fair, times have changed—just not for the better.

The divides have gotten wider across the aisle, across the church pews, across genders and races. The vitriol spewed by leaders at all levels has become increasingly toxic and decreasingly productive. Being sociable has been replaced by social media that connects people around the globe but disconnects people from others in their own homes. And the line between unbiased news and outright fake news continues to get blurrier.

Can we turn it around? It's much too simple to say, unequivocally, yes to such a complex matter and much too hopeless to say no.

It's worth a try, don't you think? Where will you start? ■

Getting Along: A Necessity to Resolution
(Published in *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon,
December 21, 2009)

Class Notes

1950s

Roger D. Billings Jr. '59 represented Wabash College at the inauguration of Cady Short-Thompson as the seventh president of Northern Kentucky University on April 26, 2024.

1960s

Robert Ouellette '63 has been working on his travel bucket list. In September 2023, he took a tour train across the Canadian Rockies from Banff to Vancouver with a side trip to Victoria and Butchart Gardens. In August 2024, he embarked on a New England coastal cruise from Nantucket to the northernmost point in Maine, Bar Harbor. Next are Key West in the spring and Alaska in the fall. His son, Craig, has recently premiered his first full-length feature film, "Straight On 'Til Morning." | **Gerald Wood '66**, Ph.D., has been included in Marquis Who's Who for his expertise in film education. He is a professor emeritus at Carson-Newman University. While at Wabash, Wood majored in English and was a member of Phi Gamma Delta.

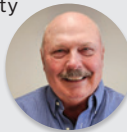


CONTRIBUTE

We love hearing from you. Submit your news to communications@wabash.edu.

1970s

Junaïd Razvi '70 has been appointed as a senior advisor in nuclear energy to the LIS Technologies Inc. Advisory Board. LIS is a proprietary developer of advanced laser technology and the only U.S.-origin and patented laser uranium enrichment company. | **Jon R. Pactor '71** represented Wabash College at the inauguration of Julie C. Kornfeld as the 20th president of Kenyon College on April 13, 2024. | **Kenneth Cornacchione '73** has been honored in Marquis Who's Who for his expertise in finance. | **Dennis Dean '73** has been named university distinguished professor emeritus by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. He majored in biology at Wabash and was a member of Kappa Sigma. | **Mauri A. Ditzler '75** represented Wabash College at the inauguration of Wayne P. Webster as the 18th president of Albion College on April 20, 2024. | **David Rea '77** has been inducted into Marquis Who's Who for his distinguished career in the financial services industry. | **Byron S. Lamm '79** represented Wabash College at the inauguration of Lance Richey as the 11th president of the University of Saint Francis on June 7, 2024.



◀ **Jon Greaves '80** was interviewed for part of a four-part series included in the BBC's pre-Olympic coverage. The four parts are also available as a single 62-minute episode on the BBC podcast "The Documentary" at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0jcyz8s. He has been featured in an online exhibit at the Georgia State University Archives titled "Cobb Citizens Coalition and Olympics Out of Cobb—Out in the Archives." He is engaged in the civil rights community and has a collection archived at the Kennesaw State University Archives. The Jon C. Greaves Jr. Collection 1987–2013 is located at www.soar.kennesaw.edu/handle/11360/1850.

1980s

Brian Dickson '80 has retired and is currently building a waterfront house near Chesapeake Bay. He is looking to connect with other classmates and alumni in the Washington, D.C., area. | **George Efstathiadis '80** is living in Greece and is affiliated with Sheffield University's campus there. | **Tim Kennedy '80** continues to practice law with Hall Render in Indianapolis. | **Ray Mitsch '80** recently published his seventh book, "The Seasons of Our Grief." Mitsch is a professor of psychology at Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, CO. | **Jeff Rensberger '80** has been appointed interim president and dean at South Texas College of Law Houston. | **Ben McCormick '84** has created a Facebook page for LGBTQ+ alumni and friends of Wabash College at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558728511655. | **Houston Mills '85** has been appointed to the Federal Aviation Administration's Management Advisory Council. He was also recently elected as an alumni trustee to the Wabash College Board of Trustees. | **Terry Sweeney '85** has been hired by the Kosciusko Chamber of Commerce to be the downtown development director for Main Street Warsaw. | **Curt Selby '89** has been named senior vice president of human resources and public affairs at A. O. Smith Corporation. | **Joseph Turk '89** has been named chairman of the board of directors of Lifeward, a manufacturer of mobility assistive devices. He has served on the board since 2022.



1990s

The Indiana State Republican Committee unanimously elected **Randy Head '91** as the chair of the Indiana GOP. | Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb has appointed **Luke Messer '91**, a former Indiana congressman, to the Ports of Indiana Commission.



| **Marc Nichols '92** and **Roy Sexton '95** both presented on panels at this year's LGBTQ Bar Association Lavender Law Conference in Washington, D.C. | **Jeremy Walker '92** has been elected to a four-year term on the Board of Governors of the American Classical League. | **John South '95** received a Ph.D. in international and public affairs from Florida International University. He is currently working as a health communication specialist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the joint office of National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR). | **Aaron Warnke '98**, director of Pangaea Global, attended "Southeast Asia Outlook 2024–2034" at the Fullerton Hotel in Singapore as a guest of presenter **Taimur Baig '94** (pictured), managing director and chief economist of DBS. Baig is also the host of the podcast "Kopi Time with Taimur Baig." | **Roy Sexton '95**, director of marketing at Clark Hill, has been selected by Corp! Magazine as one of Michigan's 2024 Most Valuable Professionals. | **Raymond Claycomb '98** celebrated his 25-year work anniversary with Hoosier Heartland State Bank. He is an internal auditor/BSA/security officer. While at Wabash, he was an independent and majored in economics.



Class Notes

2000s

Jon Gaskill '00 has been named the library director of Wabash Carnegie Public Library in Wabash, IN. | **Peter DeYoung '03**

was promoted to lieutenant with the Evansville Police Department. He is now the commander of first shift patrol. | **Jonathon Hensley '05** has been

named the director of horticulture at Fernwood Botanical Gardens in southern Michigan. | **Martin Schapp '05** has joined the Purdue University Police Department as a police officer. | **Chris Ogden '06** has been promoted to chief financial officer at CytomX

Therapeutics, an oncology-focused biopharmaceutical company. While at Wabash, he majored in economics and was a member of Sigma Chi and the football team. | **Edward Jones financial advisor Leo E Priemer '06** of South Bend, IN, was named among the 2024 Best-in-State Wealth Advisors by Forbes and SHOOK Research. This is his third time being named to this prestigious list. | **Kyle Long '07** has been selected as the fifth president of American University in Dubai. | **Dane Nutty '07** has been named to the Indiana Business Journal's 40 Under 40 list. While at Wabash, Nutty majored in chemistry and minored in history. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta.



2010s

Drew Zromkoski '11 has been named to a 20 Under 40 list by The Times of Northwest Indiana. He is a business banking relationships manager at First Merchants Bank in Valparaiso, IN. | **Shane Evans '12** has been appointed to the Carroll County Circuit Court by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. | **Francisco Guzman '13** has become an affordable lending loan officer with Merchants Bank, based at the company's Carmel headquarters. While at Wabash, Guzman was a Sigma Chi and majored in Spanish. | **Thomas Poynter '15** has joined Ephraim McDowell Health in Danville, KY, as a board-certified surgical podiatrist.



| **Reece LeFever '16** (right) has been promoted to second shift captain with the Huntington, IN, police department. | **Sam Vaught '16** married Brett Roberts at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis on Feb. 3, 2024. Vaught is now serving as the rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Stockbridge, MA. | **Will Amberger '19** concluded his clerkship at the Indiana Court of Appeals and joined the Indianapolis law firm of Barnes & Thornburg. | **Collin Luckey '19** has been named head boys soccer coach at Hamilton Heights High School. While at Wabash, he majored in economics with a minor in Spanish. He was a member of Sigma Chi.



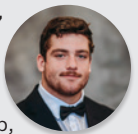
▲ "Four Wabash Marines Walk into a Bar: **Carter Adams '15, Corey Egler '15, Eddie Pingel '15, Wes Chamblee '12**. We met for dinner and beers while we happened to be in San Diego at the same time. Carter is currently serving aboard Camp Pendleton as a Prosecuting JAG, Wes is serving aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar as a Defense JAG (and yes, they have gone up against each other, lol). Eddie is serving as a Marine Officer Instructor at Norwich University, soon to be heading to Okinawa, Japan, and was in town for a course. Corey is now in the reserves serving as a Plans and Operations Officer for Headquarters Marine Corps and was in town for a planning conference." — **Corey Egler '15**

2020s

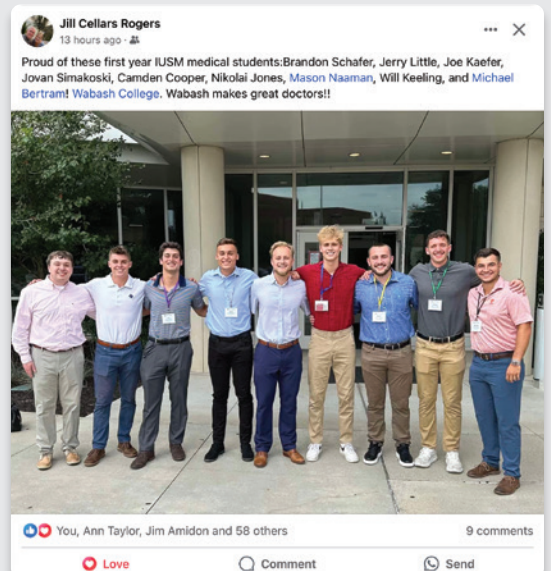
Leo Warbington '22 has accepted a consumer sales associate position with the Indianapolis Colts. | **Morgan Lamon '24** has accepted a position as healthcare consultant at City of Hope. | **Conner Taylor '24** has accepted a position as assistant director of admissions at Wabash College. He lives in Greencastle, IN.



| **Ethan Harcourt '27** is one of two recipients of the Timothy E. Schroer Memorial Scholarship, established in 2023 in honor of the late Tim Schroer, who taught 25 of 36 years at South Putnam High School. The annual scholarship is awarded to assist South Putnam graduates with college tuition, room and board, and books. Harcourt is a 2023 graduate of South Putnam High School.



◀ **Adam '11** and **Samantha Current** welcomed their first child, Gordon Michael Current, on Feb. 19, 2024. Adam recently completed his 10th year in the classroom, along with presenting at the 2024 Indiana Council of Teachers of English Spring Conference and at the 2024 AMLE National Conference in Nashville, TN.



In Memory

Rodney H. Bayless '48

Rodney Herbert Bayless, 98, of Valparaiso, IN, died March 1, 2024, at VNA Hospice of Northwest Indiana. He was born to Rodney Hiram and Esther (Beck) Bayless in Peru, IN.

Bayless graduated from Peru High School; obtained a B.A. from Wabash College; and attended Valparaiso School of Law, earning an L.L.B. and a J.D. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Bayless practiced law for 53 years in Merrillville, IN. He was admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court; the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals; the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois; the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana; and the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana. He has represented clients in many other jurisdictions as well. He was a member of the Indiana Bar Association and the Lake County Bar Association.

Bayless married Jeanne Patricia Gill of Long Beach, CA, in 1951. They were happily married for 70 years until her death in 2021. He was a longtime member of the Jehovah's Witnesses Valparaiso, IN, congregation.

Bayless is survived by his son, Beck Bayless; sister-in-law, Catherine Bayless; nieces, Barbara Quinlan, Linda DiPiazza, and Mary Jane Williams; two nephews; and many grandnieces and grandnephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Benjamin Bayless, and a cousin.

Harvey A. Share '49

Harvey Aaron Share, 95, of Rockford, IL, died April 23, 2023.

Born in Gary, IN, the son of William and Rose (Ratner) Share, he married Natalie Patlove in 1952, in Philadelphia. Share moved to Rockford in 1952, where he resided for 71 years. He retired from the Rockford Public Schools after 35 years of teaching and later taught at Keith Country Day School for 15 years.

He was a member of Temple Beth-El, where he served as president; Congregation Ohave Shalom; and the Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

Survivors include his son, Paul; daughters, Judy and Miriam; and five grandchildren. He was

predeceased by his parents, wife, and one grandson.

Frederick "Fred" E. Brown '51

Frederick "Fred" Eugene Brown, 98, of Green Bay, WI, died Sept. 19, 2024. He was born to Lyman and Florence (Bryant) Brown in Swayzee, IN.

Brown was a graduate of Swayzee High School in 1943. After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He trained at Great Lakes and was stationed in Solomons Island, MD. When he was discharged, he enrolled at and later graduated from Wabash College.

He married Betty Hughes in 1953 at the Central Methodist Church in Richmond, IN. The couple moved to Green Bay, WI, in 1962, where he was employed as a sales representative with various businesses connected with the paper industry.

Brown is survived by his three daughters, Claire Spear, Sarah Parish, and Becky Glaeser; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, Brown was preceded in death by his loving wife, Betty, and brother, Richard Brown.

Willis Ellis '51

Willis Hill "Bill" Ellis, 96, died Aug. 20, 2024 at Morningstar of Albuquerque, NM. He was born in Detroit, MI, to Seth and Mildred Ellis.

Ellis grew up mostly in Anderson, IN. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy upon turning 18 in 1945 and saw the last days of WWII as a Navy hospital corpsman. He attended Wabash College. He then studied at Harvard and Indiana University, obtaining his law degree from IU. He began his career as a law professor in Colorado at University of Denver, moving to Albuquerque in 1965 to finish his career at University of New Mexico.

He was married to Gwyn (Fair) Ellis for more than 47 years. He was a devoted and loving husband, and the couple enjoyed many adventures together, including traveling to Africa, Antarctica, Scotland, Wales, the British Isles, Europe, Galapagos Islands, Alaska, and more. They entertained and enjoyed their home-away-from-home, Lake Dillon, CO.

Ellis will be missed by his wife, Gwyn; son, Rick; two

granddaughters; and stepson, Kevin Saylor. He became a great-grandfather in July and enjoyed pictures and stories about Bowen Biddison. Ellis is survived by his younger brother, Dick. His sister, Maggie, preceded him in death.

Fred W. Darter '52

Fred W. Darter, 91, of Fishers, IN, died May 8, 2022. He was born in Muncie, IN, to the late Perry Albert and Jean Darter.

Darter was a 1948 graduate of Muncie Central High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Wabash College and proudly served his country in the U.S. Coast Guard. He married Sally L. Moore in 1953.

Darter was employed at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. for 40 years in various management positions in several states, retiring in 1994. After retiring, he enjoyed spending time with his loving wife, children, and grandchildren; volunteering at the Indianapolis 500 events; and spending winter months in Florida. He was a member of St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church, the Muncie Sertoma Club, Optimist Club, and the Knights of Columbus.

Darter is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Sally L. Darter; children, Suzanne M. Shaffer, Michael J. Darter, Nancy J. Hormann, and Alice L. O'Connor; sister, JoAnn J. James; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his infant son, Edward Darter; and sister, Sara Wilhelm.

Laurence A. Gray '52

Dr. Laurence A. Gray of Fort Wayne, IN, died Jan. 8, 2022, at Park Place Assisted Living Facility. He was born in Wabash, IN, where he grew up and graduated from high school. He was an only child and his parents, Laurence J. Gray and Burnace (DeArmond) Gray, preceded him in death.

Gray graduated from Wabash High School and first attended Wabash College and then earned two degrees from Indiana University, including his doctor of dental surgery degree with honors. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and served as chapter president at Wabash College.

In 1953 he married Alice "Sally" (Van Osdol) from Peru, IN, and they were married for 68 years. He practiced dentistry for 40 years,

first in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Saratoga, then in Marion, IN, and finally in Fort Wayne, IN, for more than 30 years. He had two children, Kathleen Rhinehart and James Gray, and was blessed with six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

David Allen Saunders '53

David (Dave) Allen Saunders, 93, of Perrysburg, OH, died April 16, 2024, after a brief illness. Saunders was born in Toledo, OH, to Lois (Long) and well-known serial comic strip writer and cartoonist Allen Saunders.

Saunders attended Libbey High School, where he met his wife, Charlotte Gaynor. They were married on Aug. 23, 1952, at historic First Presbyterian Church of Maumee, OH, and were lifelong members. Saunders was active as an elder, was responsible for the interior design of the current sanctuary, and aided in the preservation and renovation of both of the pipe organs.

He attended Wabash College and, after graduation, was called to service late in the Korean War. Upon his return, he and his wife moved to Chicago, where he attended the Chicago Art Institute and also taught interior architectural watercolor rendering. While there, he landed a position with Toledo-area interior designer Clare Hoffman, and moved back to the area, first living in Maumee, then in Perrysburg.

After 10 years with Hoffman's firm, Saunders left to establish his first studio, showroom, and upholstery shop in Maumee. Later, after moving to Perrysburg, he owned showrooms, offices, and an upholstery shop. His clientele spread across the country, and he often traveled to provide consultations and supervise installations on location. Although he eventually moved to a much more modest location in Perrysburg, and finally to a small home office, he never stopped working in the field, reserving his time and efforts for his oldest and most valued clients.

Saunders and his wife both enjoyed an active sporting and social life, playing tennis, golf, and paddle (platform) tennis, and had memberships at Belmont, Carranor Hunt and Polo, and Toledo Country clubs. They also were part of a social group

In Memory

that regularly gathered to play duplicate bridge.

They traveled frequently, touring Portugal, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Austria, Spain, and Greece. They also regularly spent time each winter in Sarasota and Siesta Key, FL. They were both lovers of all kinds of music and theater, including operas, musicals, and stage plays. They attended productions for many seasons in Stratford, Canada, and later attended Ohio Light Opera productions in Wooster, OH.

Saunders was preceded in death by Charlotte. He is survived by his children, Cynthia "Cindy" Kurtz, Scott, and David; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He also is survived by his two sisters, Penny Carson and Lois Ann Morgan. He was predeceased by his brother, John.

Raymond Moon '53

Raymond Royse Moon, 92, of Indianapolis, died on August 10, 2022. He was born in Crawfordsville, IN, to Ella (Kostanzer) and H. Royse Moon. After graduating from high school, Moon attended Wabash College.

Moon was a proud member of Sigma Chi fraternity and an Army veteran of the Korean War. He enjoyed a lifetime career in banking, working 30 years for Indiana National Bank. He also enjoyed cycling with his son and was a member of Central Indiana Bicycling Association. In 1999, Moon and his son participated in RAGBRAI, a 530-mile bike ride through Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Martha Ann Roscher; son, Stephen Moon; and wife, Elizabeth Moon. He is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Umphress; daughter-in-law, Hemanita Moon; and one grandson.

William D. Glascock '54

William D. Glascock, 96, of Indianapolis, died Aug. 4, 2024. He was born in Waveland, IN, to the late Jacob Synder and Rosemary (Bayless) Glascock.

Glascock was a 1945 graduate of Waveland High School and was a 1954 graduate of Wabash College. After high school, he proudly served in the U.S. Navy. While serving in the Navy, he played a key role in the intelligence area during World War II and the Korean War. He was stationed in Adak, AK, and Yokosuka, Japan.

On Aug. 12, 1950, Glascock married Pauline Search. Glascock went to work at Jefferson Life Insurance for many years. In his free time, he officiated swimming events and served on multiple business boards and as a deacon of his church. He also enjoyed watching sports, especially basketball.

Glascock is survived by his wife of 73 years, Pauline Glascock; sons, William Dean Glascock, Barry G. Glascock, and Todd H. Glascock; daughter, Dawn Whitworth Stephen; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Frank J. Mascari '54

Frank J. Mascari, 92, of Indianapolis died Aug. 9, 2024, in Fishers, IN. He was born in Indianapolis. He led a remarkable life filled with love, adventures, and accomplishments that touched the hearts of many.

Having served in the U.S. Army, Mascari was not only a dedicated serviceman but also a hardworking individual. He worked at Indiana Gear Works as an inventory control specialist, leaving a mark on the company with his diligence and commitment.

Mascari's passion for education and sports shone brightly during his youth. He attended Manual High School, where he excelled as an all-star running back and was admired as the class president. Later, he pursued his education at Wabash College, where he continued to exhibit his athletic prowess on the football field.

In 1953, Mascari took the hand of the love of his life, Rose M. Jarosinski, in marriage. Together, they shared a beautiful journey and were blessed to celebrate 67 years of marriage. She was not only his partner but his confidante, bringing joy and warmth to his life until her passing.

Mascari was a man of many interests and hobbies. He found solace and joy in fishing escapades in Wisconsin and Tennessee, enjoying the serene beauty of nature. His love for playing poker, cheering for the Indianapolis Colts, and hosting lively family gatherings highlighted his sociable and welcoming nature.

A man cherished by his family, Mascari leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter. He is survived by his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Paula, Fred, Kate, John, Georgia, and Betsy; a multitude of 76 nieces and nephews; and several great-nieces and -nephews. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Salvatore, Josephine, Gus, Thomas, Mike, John, Tony, Joseph, Paul, and Leo.

John P. Overshiner '54

John P. Overshiner, 90, of Port Charlotte, FL; Boulder Junction, WI; and Bloomington, IL, died May 21, 2023. Overshiner was born in Champaign, IL, to the late A.R. and Ann Overshiner.

He met Shirley McVicar at the University of Illinois. They were later married, and made Bloomington their home. In 1979, they moved to Boulder Junction, a place where they loved to vacation for many years. Finally, in the early 1990s, they moved to Florida to enjoy a much warmer climate.

Overshiner's passions in life included fishing, cooking on the Weber grill, and listening to country music. In his later years, he was blessed to have met Henry Berry, who became a loyal friend until the end.

He was preceded in death by his lovely wife, Shirley; oldest daughter, Elizabeth Overshiner; and dear sister, Ann Deutsche. He is survived by his three children, Preston Overshiner, David Overshiner, and Roxanne Bowers; and grandchildren.

Mitsuya Goto '55

Mitsuya Goto, 95, was born in Japan.

As a high school student whose home had been bombed in World War II, he was determined to come to America for his education—he learned English by listening to the American Armed Forces Radio.

Goto was a standout student at Wabash, majoring in speech and serving in the Speakers Bureau. He was a writer and cartoonist for The Bachelor and gave one of the commencement addresses for the Class of 1955. During his life at Wabash, he attended First Christian Church and became a Disciples of Christ Christian under the guidance of Rev. Paul Million.



After attending Princeton University, Goto spent much of his career in the Japanese automobile industry with Nissan Motor Company in Tokyo, building bridges with other countries and paving the way for increased globalization. He helped Nissan build its first factory in the U.S. in Smyrna, TN, and was proud of his enormous Rolodex of business cards from politicians and business leaders.

He spent the latter part of his career as a consultant in all sorts of international affairs. He received an honorary doctorate from Wabash, and in 2003, Princeton honored him with an Award for Service to the University.

His personal life included his wife of 62 years, Hiroko Kasuga Goto; and children, Mariko and Yukiko.

John D. Pavlakovic

John D. Pavlakovic, 90, of Hobart and Portage, IN, died Feb. 26, 2024.

Pavlakovic was a lifelong resident of the region and a proud Hobart Brickie through and through. He was a U.S. Army veteran who went on to serve as an Indiana State Police officer from 1962 to 1985, and after retirement from the force, he worked for the Internal Revenue Department for the State of Indiana from 1985 to 2002.

When Pavlakovic wasn't serving his community, he could be found in the community attending his beloved Brickie football games, telling stories and assigning nicknames, and maintaining and caring for his lawn and home. He was also a faithful member of Nativity of Our Savior.

Pavlakovic was preceded in death by his parents, Nicholas and Magdaline; siblings, Albena, Violet, Edward, Benjamin, and twin sister, Dorothy; and dear wife, Patricia.

He is survived by his loving children, Jo Ann Froman, Steve Parker, Marie Choucalas, Dean Parker, and Viki Pavlakovic; 13 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; four-legged friend and protector, Bella; and numerous extended family and friends.

Thomas Y. Kometani '56

Thomas Kometani died on July 5, 2024, at his home in Snohomish, WA, surrounded by family. Wabash was a very important part of his life.

Albert Alexander Pavlikowski '56

Albert Alexander Pavlikowski, 89, died April 9, 2024, at the Villas in Green Valley, AZ. He was born in Tower Hill II, PA, son of Casmire and Anna Pavlikowski.

Pavlikowski graduated from Redstone Township High School, PA, in 1952, where he excelled in football. He graduated from Wabash College in 1956, where he lettered all four years in football. Following college, Pavlikowski served his country in the U.S. Army for two years at Fort Carson, CO.

Pavlikowski met Mary Jane Woodford, the love of his life, in the spring of 1956. They were married in 1958 in Milwaukee, WI, and moved back to Colorado to finish his service in the Army. Upon his completion of service, they moved to accept a position with Combustion Engineering in Indiana.

Several years later, Pavlikowski accepted a job with Marathon Electric, manufacturing fractional horsepower electric motors, and made a subsequent move to Earlville, IN. He accepted a promotion to run Marathon's International Division, Mar-Mex, in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, and moved the family to Rio Rico, AZ, in 1974. Upon moving to Arizona, Pavlikowski was involved with the Maquila Association, a council of American businesses that had opened operations from the United States in conjunction with the local Mexican government. He was also president for several terms of the Maquila Association, promoting a cooperative environment between the Mexican government, its labor force, and the interests of the American companies. He retired from Mar-Mex.

After retirement, Pavlikowski received an offer from SL Waber (electronics), Cherry Hill, NJ, to run one of their international divisions in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. He continued as vice president with SL Waber for several more years until he finally decided upon re-retiring.

During his time in Earlville, Pavlikowski was active with the Earlville Lions Club and served a term as president of the local chapter. He was also involved with his children's athletics through the years. He enjoyed family reunions, whether in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Virginia, or Arizona.

Pavlikowski loved to fish. Yearly trips with the family to northern Wisconsin would find him with a pole in the water trolling for pike, shore casting for bass, or parked over crappie beds. Deep-sea fishing was also part of his adventures, as he fished the waters off western central Mexico, Hawaii, and Florida. He also fished the shores of many stream banks and lakes while on vacation. He enjoyed fishing with his younger brother, Gene, in the rivers and lakes of Pennsylvania. Lake Powell, in Arizona and Utah, was also a favorite spot for houseboating, family time, and "wetting a line."

Another passion Pavlikowski had was the landscaping, modification, and transformation of his home in Rio Rico, AZ. Countless hours over the years working with sand, gravel, rock, block, cement, and plant life turned the property into a low-maintenance spectacle for the eyes. His rose garden was another passion, and he maintained bouquets throughout the summer months that always brought smiles of delight from his wife.

Pavlikowski was significantly involved with the growing of the church in Rio Rico through organization and funding. Initially, Mass was celebrated in a building adjacent to the horse stables; it has now fulfilled their vision from many years ago. Pavlikowski and his wife became Knight and Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher, a merit awarded by the pope for personal service to the church. They continued to support the order for several years, until retiring from active duty.

Pavlikowski and his wife loved to travel. His favorite destination was Hawaii. Additional destinations included Acapulco, Alaska, Aruba, Jerusalem, Northern California, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Pavlikowski was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Mary Jane; siblings, Katherine Savini, Joseph Pavlikowski, and William Pavlikowski; daughter-in-law, Mary Arlene Pavlikowski; and grandson, Christopher Pavlikowski. He is survived by his siblings, Gene Pavlikowski and Victoria Rocheck; children, Mark Allan Pavlikowski, Bruce Gram Pavlikowski, Mary Sue Biddle, and Michael Scott Pavlikowski; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

John O. Bostwick '57

John O. Bostwick Sr., 88, a retired business owner, died Jan. 30, 2023, at his home in Cockeysville, MD. Born in Chardon, OH, he was the son of Harold King "Bags" Bostwick and Florence (Rice) Bostwick.

Bostwick received his secondary education at University School in Shaker Heights, OH, and participated in track and field in the upper school, including the high hurdles. He attended Wabash College and graduated from Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, in 1958 with a B.A. in political science.

Following graduation, Bostwick went to work as a salesman for Master Builders Inc. in Cleveland, a supplier of cement additives to the construction industry. In 1960, the company transferred him to Philadelphia. While there, he met the former Hrachik "Ricki" Ghazikhanian, who was born and raised in Isfahan, Iran, and emigrated to England and then to the U.S. in 1957, and worked as head maternity nurse at Rancocas Valley Hospital in New Jersey. They were married in 1962 in Philadelphia.

Bostwick's employer, Master Builders Inc., transferred the family to Harrisburg, PA, where they lived with their daughter, Carolyn, and where their sons, John Jr. and Thomas, were born. In 1967, they again made a company move briefly to Richmond, VA, and then to Baltimore, MD, settling in Lutherville. In 1969, they built their home in Hickory Meadow in Cockeysville, where they had lived since.

While supporting a young family, Bostwick moved in 1973 from Master Builders to Fox Industries Inc. in Baltimore, a manufacturer of construction products including epoxy, urethanes, acrylic, and other types of coatings and adhesives. In 1978, he moved to Supreme Services Inc. in Arbutus, MD, a company involved in janitorial cleaning services. In 1980, with a strong desire to run his own business, Bostwick purchased the ServiceMaster of Baltimore franchise. Over the next 15 years, Bostwick and his wife built a successful janitorial and commercial/residential cleaning company, and steered



the company into the fledgling disaster restoration business.

With children John Jr. and Carolyn running the day-to-day operations and significantly expanding the business since the mid-1990s, Bostwick and his wife retired fully in 2000. They turned the business over to John and Carolyn, who, now with granddaughter, Kathryn, successfully operate the business that was founded and nurtured by their parents.

Bostwick always loved music—especially jazz—including Dixieland and swing, and enjoyed attending concerts and shows. He was also a boater, owning several sailboats over 30 years and spending summers with his wife and family on Middle River and the Chesapeake Bay. He and his wife traveled frequently throughout the country and the world in their later years, and also resided part time in Ft. Myers, FL. He particularly enjoyed a Great Lakes cruise with his daughter, Carolyn, in August 2022. He was an avid reader of fiction and nonfiction, particularly factual books about World War II. He was also a fan of the Orioles, Ravens, and Maryland Terrapins, and enjoyed watching their games on television.

He was the beloved husband of 56 years to the late Hrachik "Ricki" Bostwick, who passed away in 2019; loving father of Carolyn L. Bostwick, John O. Bostwick Jr., and Thomas H. Bostwick; dear brother of the late Bette Campbell; cherished grandfather of five; and great-grandfather of two.

In Memory

William H. Flanigan '57

William H. Flanigan, 92, died March 19, 2024.

Born and raised in Crawfordsville, IN, Flanigan served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1954 at the Army Language School in Monterey, CA, and in Linz, Austria. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wabash College and received an M.A. and a Ph.D. in political science from Yale University.

In 1961, Flanigan accepted a teaching position in the department of political science at the University of Minnesota, where he taught for the next 45 years, rising through the ranks and retiring as professor emeritus in 2005. He served his department in various stints as director of graduate studies and placement director, and the wider university as chair of the Assembly Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics, perhaps his favorite assignment.

An engaged and collaborative scholar, he coauthored, with his wife, Nancy Zingale, a text on elections and voting, which went through 12 editions before being passed on to younger authors, along with other books and articles. Active in the wider academic community, he was a founding member of the Social Science History Association, serving later as its president; an active member of the Midwest and American Political Science Associations; and the University of Minnesota's longtime official representative to the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research.

Flanigan was preceded in death by his parents; brother, David; and infant granddaughter Paige. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Julia, Daniel, and Stephen; and two granddaughters. Flanigan will be remembered as a smart and funny guy, an engaging teacher, a generous colleague, a perfect husband, a great dad, and an adored and adoring grandpa.

Donald Norman Jones '57

Donald Jones, 88, of Huntley, IL, died with his children by his side on Nov. 2, 2023. He was born in Herrin, IL, to Virgil and Mary Jones. Moving often, the Jones family settled in northwest Indiana when he was in high school.

Following one year at Wabash College, Jones joined the U.S.

Army in 1954 and was stationed in Germany during the Korean War. After his service to his country for three years, he graduated from Indiana University and became a certified public accountant, working for a major firm in Chicago.

Having moved to Hoffman Estates, Jones and his first wife, Rita, raised two children, Patricia and David. In retirement, Jones and his second wife, Carolyn, retreated to the seclusion of central Minnesota. Illinois soon lured them back, and they settled in Aurora. In 2015, they moved to Del Webb's Sun City in Huntley, IL, where both were active in neighborhood and community affairs.

Jones was an artist who worked in various media: a photographer, a calligrapher, a craftsman, a woodworker, a poet, a luthier, a black powder-era reenactor, an oenophile, a collector of stamps and coins, a humorist (as all fathers naturally are), and a lover of nature. He was also a neighbor who had strong relationships with those who lived near him.

Jones is survived by his children, Patricia Jones Sarrels and David Jones; Carolyn's children, Tracy Pratt, Pam Boehm, and Marc Moeller; eight grandchildren; and his first wife, Rita. He was preceded in death by his father, Virgil; mother, Mary; sisters, Kathy and Betty; and beloved wife, Carolyn.

Daniel J. Combs '58

Dr. Daniel J. Combs, 87, died May 24, 2024.

Born in Indianapolis to Wayne and Louise Combs, he spent most of his life in Vincennes, IN. He attended Clark Elementary, Clark Junior, and Lincoln High School, where he formed enduring friendships, particularly with his 1954 classmates, whom he cherished dearly. He displayed his diverse talents during his high school years, participating in the Lincoln Playhouse and serving as the sports editor for the Lincoln Log Yearbook.

After graduating in 1954, Combs pursued higher education at Wabash College and Indiana University, where he earned his medical degree in 1961. He then completed his internship, residency, and fellowship in Indianapolis before returning to Vincennes to establish his medical practice in 1965.

During the Vietnam War, Combs served his country as a captain in the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Polk, LA, from 1966 to 1968. Upon his return to Vincennes in January 1968, he continued his medical practice until his retirement in 2019, leaving an indelible mark on the community as a respected internist.

Beyond his professional achievements, Combs was deeply committed to the betterment of Vincennes. He coached basketball and football for youth sports through the Vincennes YMCA and dedicated 20 years as the team doctor for Lincoln's athletes. An avid history enthusiast, Combs shared his knowledge of southwestern Indiana's rich history, often leading educational excursions to historical sites. A devout St. Louis Cardinals fan, he enjoyed spending summer days watching baseball games with family and friends.

Combs was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Kay, with whom he shared 40 years of marriage; daughter-in-law, Jennifer Combs; grandson, Stephen Mitchell Combs; and step-grandson, Blake Hanger. He is survived by his sister, JoNell Phillippee; children, Randy Combs, Elizabeth Lee, and Steve Combs; stepchildren, Barbara Carman, Keith Lindsey, and Mary Letson; a niece and nephew; nine grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three step-great-grandchildren; and friend, Bonnie Chapman.

Thomas Gill '58

Thomas I. Gill died Sept. 3, 2024, in Overland Park, KS, after a short illness. He was born to Louise and Dr. Henry Gill in Indianapolis. He graduated from Shortridge High School in 1954, Wabash College in 1958, and Harvard Law School in 1961.

He practiced law in Kansas City for 45 years—35 with Smith Gill Fisher & Butts and predecessor firms, and 10 as general counsel for Andrews McMeel Universal. He served on various corporate and charitable boards of directors during his years of active practice.

Gill was a man of many interests and hobbies. When he became interested in something, he jumped in feet first to learn everything he could: from sailing and sailboats, to sports cars (i.e., Porsches), to music

and guitar/banjo playing, to cooking, to model building, to video game playing ... he stayed interested and interesting. He was a triathlete, especially enjoying competing as his age group grew smaller, because, as he remarked, that increased his chances for medaling.

Gill was a voracious reader and for many years checked out 10 books from the library each week and read them all. He always subscribed to many newspapers and magazines. He embraced technology: He was one of the first to buy the Apple computer; always had the latest technology, performing the updates himself; and texted his family and friends avidly until his death. When he recently moved into assisted living, the IT technician commented he had never installed an Xbox for a resident (not to mention noticing the 80-plus games waiting).

He was very proud of his Midwestern roots and fiercely loved his family and friends. He was a very present and devoted father, relishing all the traditional family activities: sledding, raking leaves, Easter egg dyeing, playing H-O-R-S-E on the backyard basketball hoop, taking annual family vacations across the U.S., and attending Royals games.

Once he was an empty nester, Gill loved staying abreast of everyone's pursuits. He supported his children's and grandchildren's pursuits ardently, researching and sending relevant articles. He commemorated everyone's birthdays and anniversaries. He was a passionate Royals and Chiefs fan, sending pictures of himself decked out in their sportswear on game days and sporting a couch protector with their respective logos during their seasons.

His parents and sister, Judy Rutherford, predeceased him. He is survived by his children, Sarah Rogers and John Gill; four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. He also leaves behind his brother-in-law, Robert; nieces; and grandnieces and grandnephews.

Community Building

OUR LAST TWO PRESIDENTS have become fond of saying, “The Frank Hugh Sparks Center has been fully depreciated for quite some time.”

Soon, in its place, we will erect a new community center to usher in Wabash's third century and a new era of integration between the College and our Montgomery County neighbors. The anticipation on campus and in town has been building—pun very much intended—as we raise funds and finalize the approvals necessary to proceed with construction.

The process of decommissioning Sparks Center was completed in early November, marked by the closures of Wally's Pub and the Scarlet Inn, the relocation of the bookstore to the Allen Center, and the transition of dining services to an impressive temporary facility, nicknamed “Grub Hollow,” just west of Kendall House.

As we anticipate our modern new building as a living room for our campus, I can't help but look back and feel wistful about the role that Sparks has played in the Wabash community since its opening in 1954, particularly during my own years as a student at Wabash in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

For those of us who studied at Wabash during that era, the basement of Sparks Center was the home of the Little Giant Room, where concerts were held by musical acts such as Carrie Newcomer and TwoPenny Hangover. In the long, narrow room, still shaped like the bowling alley it had once been, performers drew us out of our fraternities and residence halls to enjoy time, music, and Typical Wabash Refreshment together. In that same room, every Tuesday morning, faculty, staff, and students met for Coffee and Doughnuts, a social hour fully funded by the Student Senate (and fully contributing to the 25 pounds I gained during my freshman year).

The basement of Sparks also housed the Scarlet Inn, where Max Services '58, wrestling coach and athletics director, held court every afternoon with a group of professors



Campus center in mid-1970s.

who seemed not to mind the distinctive, pervasive fragrance of Eau de Sparks Sous-Sol. Official forensic analysis was never conducted, but the aroma seemed to contain notes of wood paneling, bookbinding glue, deep fryer oil, adhesive bandages, and lingering tobacco smoke.

On the ground floor, the Great Hall served as the dining room for independent students, and also as the venue for an occasional semiformal dance. Fobes Lounge, in the southeast corner, was a mysterious space apparently reserved for important meetings of the Board of Trustees and dinners with a variety of special guests. In a way that enhanced its allure, this room seemed to be off-limits to students. I don't recall ever setting foot in it until after its complete reconfiguration as Wally's Pub.

It was up on the second floor, in a room completely devoid of anything resembling décor, that the Wabash Student Senate crammed 30 or so elected and appointed representatives around a long rectangular conference table to deliberate each week on matters of governance and student life. In that same room, the Inter-Fraternity Council met for similar purposes. The Mortarboard Society held its organizing meetings there, circa 1989–90, and “It Seems to Me That ...”—a substitute for the Chapel Talks of yesteryear and today—offered the chance to meet in this room every week and engage in thought-provoking commentary.

The common theme among all three floors of Sparks, and across all the activities that occurred there, was the forging of



What are your memories of Sparks Center? How did it help build the Wabash community when you were a student or a guest on campus? Were you lucky enough to spend any time in Fobes Lounge? Send us an email at alumni@wabash.edu or a message on Instagram [@nationalassociationofwabashmen](https://www.instagram.com/nationalassociationofwabashmen).

community. Even though we each had our respective fraternities, residence halls, clubs, sports, professors, and classmates, we used Sparks to build our community. Sparks was integral to forging the bonds that tied us to one another, to this campus, and to the College's enduring mission.

Reflecting on Sparks reminds me, as we embark on this new chapter in Wabash's history, that community is a process, not a place; an action, not a concept; and a set of bonds we build, not merely a place we find. And as a process and an action, community requires a continuous effort with a tireless, ever-renewing commitment to it. When we build our new community center, we will be renewing the ongoing effort to build the Wabash College community. The building, literally and metaphorically, will be up to us.

Ron Dostal '92

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



For more information visit
www.wabash.edu/communitycenter

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From the NAWM

Community of People

WABASH ISN'T A PLACE. Wabash is people. People who build community.

The National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM) helps solidify that sense of community. The NAWM Board of Directors' role is to represent the alumni body and act as ambassadors for Wabash by helping in any way we can.

Chief among our responsibilities is recognizing excellence in the community by bestowing awards to alumni, faculty, and staff, including awards of merit, honorary degrees, and inductions into the Athletics Hall of Fame. We also select alumni candidates for election to the Board of Trustees. Perhaps less visible is the work we do to bring the Wabash community together through alumni outings, networking events, and interactions with the student body, professors, and staff.

When you meet a fellow Wabash alum, there's an immediate connection, bonded by common experience steeped in our rich history and traditions. It's a kinship that is generational, born out of our mutual respect for having accomplished something great and difficult, each in our own time. It is something that only those who experience Wabash can ever truly understand.

The incredible generosity of our alumni donors allows Wabash to continue to provide an unparalleled quality education and affords our students the opportunity to pursue their interests and passions.

We understand there is something special about Wabash that is worth preserving for future generations of students. That's why such an astonishingly high percentage of our alumni give back.

I get asked all the time by alumni, "How can I help Wabash?" My answer is always the same: help us increase alumni engagement by re-connecting with the College. Then, call someone from Wabash whom you haven't spoken to in a long time just to say, "Hi." Invite a friend to join you back on campus. Take an old teammate to a sporting event. Get a fraternity brother to go to Big Bash with you. It takes all of us to sustain and grow the Wabash community.

You may become a great mentor to one of our students, you could offer meaningful career or life advice to someone in need of guidance, or you might wind up hiring a talented Wabash senior looking for his first postgraduate employment opportunity. Never underestimate the power of what you might mean to someone at Wabash.

Be a connector. Help us make this already-strong Wabash community even more mighty through your spirit, through your enthusiasm, and through your leadership.

I look forward to seeing you on campus soon!

Jim Hawkworth '95
President | NAWM



The 2024-25 National Association of Wabash Men Board of Directors on campus for Homecoming in September 2024.

In Memory

Jerry Adams Harpst '58

Jerry Adams Harpst, 86, died Jan. 2, 2023. He was born in Glasgow, KY.



Harpst was the eldest of two sons of Harold Elroy Harpst and Lena Brown (Adams) Harpst. His father worked in the oil fields in southern Illinois, southern Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. The family lived in several locations for his father's work, and his mother taught elementary school in the towns where they lived. Growing up, Harpst often accompanied his father to the oil fields, and he enjoyed telling stories about that experience. He developed a love of the outdoors early, and he and his brother would hunt quail and squirrels in the fields and forests near their homes.

In high school in Princeton, IN, Harpst played the trumpet in the marching band, through which he ultimately met Bethalee June Brandenberger, a majorette for Central High School's marching band in Evansville, IN. They eventually became engaged, married in 1961, and would remain together until her death in 2008.

After high school, Harpst attended Wabash College and graduated in 1958. He then attended Yale University and obtained his M.S. in 1960 and his Ph.D. in physical chemistry in 1962. He loved his experiences in college and graduate school and was dedicated to academic research for the remainder of his life.

In 1961, Harpst went on to postdoctorate work at the University of California, San Diego and subsequently moved to Cleveland, OH, as an assistant professor at Case Western Reserve University. He became an associate professor in 1971, and then associate professor emeritus in 1999. From 1971 to 1972, the whole family lived in England, where Harpst was a visiting professor at the National Institute for Medical Research near London. Later in his career, he was also a visiting professor from 1980 to 1981 at Oregon State University.

Harpst and his wife have two daughters, Lisa Lynelle Harpst and Tamara Lee Labhart. The entire family went on many trips in a series of VW microbus campers, traveling the country in the summers, visiting national parks, backpacking, and spending time

with relatives. He was always happiest in the outdoors. Harpst loved fishing, especially fly-fishing with friends and relatives, and was a member of the Trout Club. He also was persuaded to take up turkey hunting, which he greatly enjoyed.

He also enjoyed cultural activities: plays, orchestra and chamber music concerts, and church functions. He attended the Cleveland Men's Club and Trout Club, and enjoyed lectures through the university and the Museum of Natural History.

Harpst was preceded in death by both parents; his wife, Bethalee; brother, Harold Elroy Harpst; and nephew, Mark Harold Harpst. He is survived by his daughters, granddaughter, nephew, three nieces, and many great-nieces and -nephews.

Tom D. Martin '59

Dr. Tom D. Martin, 87, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and esteemed physician, died Feb. 23, 2024. He was born to Charles Dean Martin and Virginia (Ruddick) Martin.

Martin dedicated more than 60 years of his life to serving as a physician, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of countless patients. He also proudly served in the Army National Guard and was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

In his free time, Martin enjoyed playing tennis and golf, cooking delicious meals, tending to his garden, and following March Madness and holiday tournament games. In his younger years, he had a passion for playing the trumpet. His greatest joy came from spending time with his family, who meant the world to him.

He married Nina Aut in 1959, and she died in 2022 after 62 years of marriage. He married Betty Taylor in 2022. She survives him.

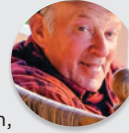
Martin is survived by his devoted wife, Betty Taylor-Martin; two daughters, Christy Pierce and Beth Stevenson; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; several nephews; and life-long friend, Tom Warner. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Dean and Virginia Martin; wife, Nina Martin; daughter, Lisa Martin; son, Tommy Martin; and sister, Ann Aut.

Gary Lee Aagesen '59

Gary Lee Aagesen, 88, of Anaheim, CA, died Jan. 8, 2024.

William Pelham Anderle '59

William Pelham Anderle died April 8, 2024. Born in Berwin, IL, Anderle lived a life full of adventures.



After graduating from Wabash College and serving in the U.S. Army Reserves, Anderle had a varied career path. He created oil and gas pipeline instruments, restored fine porcelain and crystal, worked for the city of Las Vegas, and operated 2Ten Galeria on the Plaza.

Anderle's second marriage, to Linda Joslin Hill, took the couple first to Granbury, TX, then to Las Vegas, NM, and finally to Clovis, NM.

Anderle is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Traci Blumberg, Rob Anderle, Allyson Brady, and Jayson Hill; brother, Steve Anderle; brother-in-law, Daniel; brother-in-law, Hobie Hammond; five grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; cousins; nieces; nephews; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his father, William Edward Anderle; mother, Evelyn Alice Box Anderle; sister, Susan Hammond; and brother, Richard Anderle.

James Emerson Bingham Jr. '59

James Emerson Bingham Jr., 86, died March 23, 2024, following a long period of illness. He was born in Indianapolis to James Emerson Bingham Sr. of Indiana and Meredith Evelyn Bingham of California.

Bingham graduated in 1956 from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis. He later attended Wabash College and graduated from Indiana University, where he studied English and history. In 1970, he and his family moved to Madera, where he became a raisin farmer.

Throughout his life, Bingham embraced and preached the value of life balance and was deeply dedicated to his family. He often stepped away from the demands of his work to spend time with his children. He eagerly shared his love for reading, motorcycle riding, and the Roman Catholic Church, to which he converted in the 1990s. Family members and friends say they remember him for his kindness, keen intelligence

and wisdom, gentle spirit, warmth, humor, hope, and perseverance.

Bingham is survived by his daughters, Evelyn Sabina Wagner and Sarah Marie Warner; son, James Emerson Bingham III; and five grandchildren.

William H. Dyer '59

William H. Dyer, 86, of Londonderry, NH, died May 19, 2023, in the High Point Hospice, Haverhill, MA. He was born in Hammond, IN, a son of the late John and Mary (Gostlin) Dyer. He was a purchasing manager for AT&T.

He was an avid gardener and loved reading. He was a member of the Londonderry Rotary Club and volunteered as a fundraiser for www.shelterboxusa.org.

Dyer is survived by his beloved wife, Denise (Degnan) Dyer; two sons, Scott Dyer and Mark Dyer; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Dorwin Nelson '59

Dorwin Ralph Nelson, 87, of Stevensville, MI, died June 18, 2024. He was born to Ralph and Eva (Stauffer) Nelson in South Bend, IN.

Nelson graduated from Riley High School in 1955. He continued his education at Wabash College, and then earned his master's degree from Indiana University. Professionally, Nelson dedicated many years to education. He taught at Central High School in the '60s and '70s, where he taught English and was the golf coach, winning the city championship in 1967. He was also the sponsor of the student booster club at Central.

Nelson also taught at Brown Middle School in South Bend, IN, before going to LaSalle High School as their librarian. Nelson also supported education outside of his professional duties, housing several University of Notre Dame students over the years.

Following retirement, Nelson moved to Stevensville, where he worked in the family business of Nelson Floral Company in Eau Claire, and then Nelson Specialties Company in Saint Joseph, MI. He was a member at St. Joseph Catholic Church and initiated a local book club in the community. He volunteered at Krasl Art Center and at the Maud Preston Palenske Library.

In Memory

Known for his generosity and kind nature, Nelson cherished socializing with others. For many years, he owned a cottage on Donnell Lake in Vandalia, where he frequently hosted summer gatherings. Affectionately known as “Uncle Dorwin,” he deeply loved his family and played an active role in the lives of his nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and -nephews. Offering wise advice and sharing “Dode-isms,” he profoundly impacted them in a positive way.

Nelson is survived by his brother, Keith Nelson; niece, Lisa Eyerly; two nephews; six great-nieces and -nephews; and two great-great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Eva Nelson.

Carl Radebaugh '59

Carl Radebaugh, 86, died Jan. 24, 2024. He was born in Eureka, IL.

Radebaugh earned a B.A. from Wabash College, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He also earned an M.A. from Illinois State University.

Radebaugh married Sandra Kay Bernhardt in 1959 in Benson, IL. They lived in El Paso, IL, where he taught seventh and eighth grade until they moved to Harvard, IL, in 1965. He was the guidance counselor at Harvard Junior High from 1965 to 1967. He worked from 1967 to 1993 for the Special Education District of McHenry County in Woodstock, IL.

Radebaugh was active in Jaycees, Lion's Club, and Enterprise Club, and served on the board of directors of Harvard Savings Bank. He also served two terms on the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church council. He most enjoyed spending time with family and friends (especially on his porch), golfing, traveling, telling jokes, and buying cars (not necessarily in that order).

Radebaugh is survived by his wife, Sandra; children, Penny Kraft and Carla Young; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Virginia Bailey and Ann Grampp; brother, Jack Radebaugh; brother-in-law, Marvin Bernhardt; sister-in-law, Judy Bernhardt; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Virgil and Dorothy Radebaugh; stepmother, Dorothy Radebaugh; daughter

Kendra Kay Radebaugh; and grandson Matthew Carl Greenlee.

Bernard Hammer '60

Bernard “Barney” Hammer died peacefully on Oct. 15, 2023. He was born in 1938 in Danville, IL.

Hammer spent some formative years in Danville before his family moved to Florida. He attended Wabash College and graduated from the University of Florida. In 1963, Hammer married Jean McFarland. Together they had two boys, Mark and Elliott.

Hammer worked first in concrete sales before moving on to the stockbroking business with Paine Webber, Morgan Stanley, and other firms. His business took the family from Topeka, KS, to Tulsa, OK, and other cities, before they finally ended up in Beaumont, TX, where they remained.

Throughout his life, Hammer followed stocks and sought tips that would help his clients benefit financially. Until his final days, he checked the market and watched CNBC for stock news.

Hammer's greatest passions outside of the market were golf and bridge. He was an avid golfer, taking after his father, who played a lot, and his brother, who was a professional golfer. He enjoyed watching the PGA Tour on television. He and his wife (who died in 2020) played bridge at the Beaumont Bridge Studio.

Hammer is survived by his son, Mark Hammer, and his wife, Christiane Michaelis; son, Elliott Hammer and his wife, Elizabeth Yost Hammer; four grandchildren; and brother, Laurie Hammer.

Ralph Carlson '61

Dr. Ralph D. Carlson of Tucson, AZ, died April 8, 2022, surrounded by family. He was born in 1938, and died on the same day 84 years later. Carlson grew up in Evergreen Park, IL, went to Morgan Park High School, and was a proud Wabash College and University of Chicago alum.

Carlson was proud to have served as a veteran dental surgeon in the U.S. Public Health Service branch of Veterans Affairs. Following his service, he built a family dentistry practice in Winfield, IL, and raised his family with the late Karen (Beedy) Carlson. After their marriage ended, Carlson was reunited with his high school sweetheart, Beverly. It was then that he was given three more children to love—Kimberly, Susan, and Don.

Soon after marrying, Carlson retired and the family moved to Arizona. During retirement, he spent his days in the Arizona sunshine surrounded by the beautiful mountains, creating his wonderful masterpieces out of wood and enjoying family and his puppies.

Family and friends will forever remember his booming laugh, great smile, and colorful sense of humor. He was a kind, gentle soul who touched hearts with a sweet smile, a wink, or the words, “Just remember I love you!”

He was the beloved husband of the late Beverly; cherished son of the late Torsten and Esther; dear brother to the late Richard and Ruth; and loving father of the late Scott, Michael, Kristen, and Jeff. He was also the favorite uncle, grandfather, and great-grandfather to many.

Robert R. Panzer III '61

Robert R. Panzer III died surrounded by his wife and family on Oct. 6, 2024. He was a devoted and dedicated husband, father, uncle, and grandfather. He loved to tell a good joke; spend time with his family, including his 17 grandchildren; and engage in backgammon, banter, and intellectual discourse.

Panzer was raised in Hanover, IN, and graduated from Wabash College, where he played football and majored in speech. He met his wife, Bethann Kirkpatrick, at a school dance in 1960.

After college, he continued his journey in the Marines, which he had begun his senior year at Wabash. He served in Vietnam and continued to proudly serve as an active member of the Marine Corps Reserves until he retired as a major.

After becoming paralyzed at the age of 50, Panzer became an avid wheelchair athlete, competing in tennis, skiing, and road racing with the support of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association. One of his proudest accomplishments was completing the Marine Corps Marathon in 1995 in his racing chair.

Panzer was an advocate for people with disabilities. He was passionate about his work with DAWN Center for Independent Living, a nonprofit serving people with disabilities in the New Jersey counties of Morris, Sussex, and Warren. For many years, he enjoyed entertaining people with both heartfelt and humorous speeches at Toastmasters events. He lived life to the fullest, unapologetically, and with no excuses. His fierce love for his family and his loyal friendship were his most beloved traits.

Panzer is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth Ann (Kirkpatrick); children, Annemarie Buffalino, Thomas, Juliana, Kathryn, Alexandra, Meaghan, and Rebecca; 17 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert R. Panzer Jr. and Ruth Brownlee Panzer; and sister, Maryellen Mallonee.

David R. Gillespie '62

David Randall Gillespie, 83, of Bonita, CA, died Feb. 6, 2024. He was born in Indianapolis.

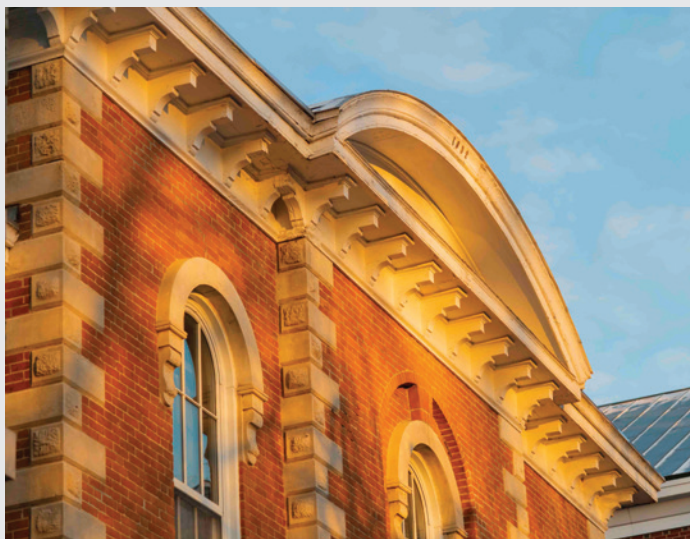


photo by Julia Moravec

In Memory

Brent K. Sutton '62

Brent K. Sutton, 84, died at home July 21, 2024, surrounded in love by his family. He was born in Indianapolis to the late Dr. William E. and Helen M. Sutton.

Sutton was educated at Broad Ripple High School (senior class president 1958) and Wabash College, where he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity. He attended Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, and Indiana University (M.B.A.) before receiving his personal financial planning certification when living in Denver.

Sutton served in the U.S. Army from 1963 to 1965 in Saigon, Vietnam, as a specialist in the 27th Data Processing Unit. After his military service, he worked as a professional stage manager at New York City's Lincoln Center. Throughout his life, he was engaged and passionate about the performing arts. He was a longtime member of the local players theatrical group.

Sutton authored two books on personal finance. He served on the boards of the Wabash Club of Indianapolis, Phoenix Theatre, Crown Hill Cemetery Historical Society, and Indy Saves.

Sutton was known for his genuine appreciation and curiosity of all people and their stories. He was the glue, great connector, and everyday cheerleader. His deepest commitment was to his family, including his wife of 57 years, Nancy Campbell Sutton, with whom he raised three cherished daughters, Wendy Horn, Cynthia Freiwald, and Stephanie Payne. He is also survived by his dear brother, Mark Sutton; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

William Dale Augspurger '64

William "Bill" Dale Augspurger, 81, died in Cincinnati on Jan. 15, 2024. He was born in Galesburg, IL, to Glen and Dorothy Augspurger, but spent the bulk of his childhood in Peoria, IL.

At Peoria High School, he played golf in the Illinois state tournament, and after graduating in 1960, he attended Wabash College. When he left Wabash in 1964, he had a B.A. and the nickname "Aug," which he carried with him the rest of his life. He followed Wabash with a master's degree in rhetoric from Indiana University.

In 1965, Augspurger married Phyllis Ann Brink, and they remained devoted to each other until Phyllis died in 2020. In their 20s, they lived in a series of Midwestern towns as Augspurger took on different roles with Corning Glass. They made lifelong friends in Wellsboro, PA, and Greenville, OH, before settling in Cincinnati in 1979, where he worked for a decade at Welco Industries in Blue Ash. In Cincinnati, they raised three children. At his mid-career, Augspurger branched out on his own and founded the personnel consulting firm Tetra, which he operated until his retirement in his 70s.

Augspurger was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He loved to have a Scotch with family, friends, and his dogs, most of whom were slobbery Saint Bernards. His love of kidding and his bushy mustache made him a favorite with his five grandchildren, even if they did not always know what to make of his gruff sense of humor. He made friends easily and held onto them for life. Until they could no longer easily travel, he and his wife regularly took trips to see friends from high school, college, and his Corning days. He loved to play golf his whole life; for his regular partners, he was frustratingly good with a wedge, despite having been born with a condition that gave him sight in only one eye.

Augspurger tended to develop particularly strong connections to the places and institutions with which he interacted. He was a lifelong supporter of Wabash, and a generous advocate for People Working Cooperatively (PWC), a Cincinnati nonprofit, which was initially one of his clients but grew to be much more than that. He and Phyllis began vacationing in Elk Rapids, MI, when their kids were still at home; they later bought a home and boat on Elk Lake. For the family, it is hard to think of them without seeing them sitting on their back porch overlooking the lake.

Augspurger was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis; and mother and father. He is survived by his three children, Jon, Mike, and Susan Wordeman; five grandchildren; and friends and members of Phyllis' family.

Douglas Darbro '64

Dr. Douglas A. Darbro, 81, died Sept. 17, 2024. He was a resident of Morgantown, IN. He was born in Indianapolis to the late Joseph "Paul" and Leona (Hall) Darbro. He was a graduate of Park Tudor High School in Indianapolis and earned his undergraduate degree from Wabash College.

Darbro proudly served his country with the U.S. Army Reserves before attending Indiana University School of Medicine. He earned his medical degree and practiced family medicine in Greenwood until his retirement. Darbro enjoyed spending time in nature and working with computers.

He will be missed by his wife of 59 years, Mary Jane (Eichenauer) Darbro, whom he married in 1965. He is also survived by his siblings, Donald Darbro and Diane Williams; and several nieces and nephews.

Phillip Holland Waller '64

Phillip Holland Waller, 82, of Hendersonville, NC, died Sept. 2, 2024, with his family at his side. He was born in Washington, IN, to Jerry and Elma (Vivian) Waller.

Waller met his wife, Charlynn, at Washington High School, and graduated from Wabash College. He then attended Bowdoin College for graduate school and stayed in Maine. He and his wife raised their children in Kents Hill, ME, where he made lasting friendships with both faculty and students. After 24 years, they moved to Hendersonville, NC, where he continued teaching students of all ages.

Waller was a member of Mills River United Methodist Church in Hendersonville. He enjoyed woodworking, NASCAR, reading, restoring Dodge power wagons, and using math as a tool to help students understand life. He spent his life pouring into students and made a lasting impact on every one of them. His greatest loves were his children, granddaughters, and great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents; wife, Charlynn; and brother James Waller. Those left to cherish his memory are his son, John Waller; daughter, Julie; two granddaughters; two great-grandchildren; brothers Dale Waller and Jack Waller; and many special friends and extended family members from Indiana,

North Carolina, and Maine. He also leaves behind his beloved therapy dog, Duchess, who seldom left his side.

James Phillip DeMaegt '65

On Dec. 25, 2021, James Phillip DeMaegt lost his battle against leukemia and died at his home in Inglewood, CA.

DeMaegt was born in South Bend, IN. He spent his early years in South Bend and graduated from Washington Clay High School in 1961. He attended Wabash College from 1961 to 1963 and then transferred to the University of California, Los Angeles, graduating with a B.A. He earned a law degree at the San Fernando Valley College of Law. He was a member of the California State Bar Association.

DeMaegt spent his adult life in California. He was a long-term resident of Inglewood. He practiced law and invested in and managed apartment buildings and commercial properties. He volunteered his time supporting many political causes to benefit and improve the lives of those less fortunate.

DeMaegt is survived by his wife, Tan ly Cao; brother, Theodore (Ted) DeMaegt; and sister, Sally Ann Dunlop.



photo by Julia Moravec

In Memory

Charles F. Gillespie Jr. '65

Charles F. "Chuck" Gillespie Jr., a lifelong Indianapolis resident, died April 7, 2024, after being in declining health for some time.

Gillespie was a graduate of North Central High School and Wabash College. His initial career was in retail book sales. After receiving a Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, he worked as a librarian for IUPUI, the law firm of Baker and Daniels, and Lilly Endowment Inc.

From an early age, Gillespie was an avid reader and collector of books. With his extensive knowledge of literature and his phenomenal memory for people, dates, and events, he was a great conversationalist with both friends and strangers. Besides being loyal to his many friends, he had great loyalty to the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago Bears, and Indiana University basketball. He was a big fan of the Indianapolis Indians and the March Madness college basketball tournament.

In addition to having a passion for sports, Gillespie was an enthusiast of music, primarily classical and jazz. He was also an ardent admirer of the local art and literary scenes. In retirement, he was an enthusiastic volunteer, most notably at the Indy Art Center and Indy Reads.

Gillespie was the son of Dr. Charles F. Gillespie and Kjarste Fais Gillespie, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his sister, Joann Gillespie Weisell; brothers, Douglas B. Gillespie and Dr. Alan R. Gillespie; and nieces and nephews.

Richard Glover '65

Beloved uncle, coach, teacher, Marine, and friend Richard Colburn Glover died peacefully at home on May 29, 2024. He was born in Richmond, VA.

Glover attended Woodberry Forest School and graduated in 1961. In his first year at WFS, he accumulated so many demerits that his faculty advisor and eventual lifelong mentor, John Stillwell, suggested that he try wrestling, which led to a lifelong passion for the sport. He also



played football and tennis.

After graduating from WFS, Glover went to Wabash College, where he lettered in football, wrestling, and tennis. After graduating from Wabash in 1965, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years, reaching the rank of captain. He served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, where he won the Distinguished Flying Cross for gallantry in aerial flight. He earned a master's in education from the University of Virginia.

Glover taught history and coached wrestling and football, first at Blue Ridge School and then at Woodberry Forest School, until he retired in June of 2005. His wrestling teams won 535 dual matches, 25 league championships, 13 state championships, and two National Prep Championships. His football teams were undefeated 11 out of the 35 years he coached. Woodberry Forest School awarded Glover the George O'Connor Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 2003 and the Distinguished Service Award in 2005, and named the fitness center after him in 2002. He received a commendation from the Virginia House of Delegates in 1999 and was elected to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame (Virginia Chapter) in 2003. He was elected to the Wabash College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992 and received the Alumni Award of Merit in 2002. He received the inaugural Dick Glover Lifetime Achievement Award from the Virginia Wrestling Association in 2015.

In 1996, Glover was diagnosed with Kennedy's disease, a progressive neuromuscular condition. Despite ever-increasing limitations to his mobility and strength, he carried on for a number of years with his teaching and coaching. By the end of the 2005 school year, however, his condition had advanced to a point where he needed to retire. Even with this disorder, he maintained his positive attitude and sense of humor. He never allowed his condition to get the better of him.

Appreciation is expressed to Marsha and Etta from Gentiva Hospice, Liz Albrecht, neighbors, and friends from WFS who were so attentive to his needs. Glover always treasured seeing his former

athletes, students, and colleagues from WFS.

Glover said, "You are not ennobled by victory in an athletic contest, nor are you denigrated by defeat. Rather, it is how you prepare, how you compete, and perhaps, most importantly, how you react to victory or defeat which is the true indication of your character."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene and Marie Glover; and sister, Anne Katherine Fisher, and her husband, Richard Fisher. He is survived by many loving nieces and nephews and their families.

Joseph August Murphy '66

Joseph "Joe" August Murphy, 79, of Orange, TX, died June 27, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Alton, IL, he was the son of Joseph Austin Murphy and Irma Honerkamp Murphy, who died when he was two years old. His father later married Ruby, who raised him.

Murphy attended Wabash College and graduated from the University of Illinois and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, NY, with an M.S. in chemistry. He was then employed as an analytical chemist at Dupont Chemical company for 35 years.

Murphy loved God, his church, and his family, and possessed the heart of a servant. He was a founding member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Francis Church, an usher, a treasurer, a faithful member and treasurer of the Knights of Columbus Council 13825, and a leader of Fortnight for Religious Freedom and the Rosary Group. He was a man whose life was marked by warmth and generosity. His welcoming nature and friendly demeanor endeared him to all who crossed his path. He was known for giving the most comforting hugs.

Murphy's kind spirit touched many lives. A servant at heart, he dedicated much of his time to helping others. His volunteer work at St. Francis Church and St. Mary's School showcased his commitment to serving his community. Whether lending a helping hand at church events or assisting with school repairs, his selflessness was truly admirable.

Murphy loved nature and being

outdoors, from biking, canoeing, and backpacking through rugged terrain to hiking challenging trails and conquering mountain peaks, including all 46 Adirondack Mountain high peaks in New York, the highest peak in all but three states, and Mount Kilimanjaro. He found solace and joy in the great outdoors. As a member of the Sierra Club, he shared his passion for environmental conservation with like-minded individuals.

Faith played a central role in Murphy's life, evident in his love for his church and dedication to teaching Bible study classes. His unwavering belief in God guided him through life's trials and triumphs, shaping him into the compassionate person he was. Family held a special place in Murphy's heart. He cherished moments spent with loved ones and took pride in nurturing these precious relationships.

A skilled carpenter, Murphy poured his creativity into crafting beautiful furniture for his home, demonstrating his skill and passion for woodworking. Not content with simply enriching his own life, he extended a helping hand to those in need by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. His efforts in constructing homes for the underprivileged stand as a testament to his commitment to making a difference in the world.

In quieter moments, Murphy found joy in collecting stamps, playing bridge and dominoes, and challenging himself with Sudoku puzzles. These simple pleasures reflected his sharp mind and love for engaging activities.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Ruby Murphy; father- and mother-in-law, Joseph and Helen Buran; and brother-in-law James Zimmer. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Marilyn Murphy; sons, Michael Murphy and Matt Murphy; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Joseph Buran and wife, Lolli; sisters-in-law, Helen Zimmer and Judith Horak; lifelong friends, Rita Cooke and Nina Schlueter; and numerous loving nieces, nephews, cousins, family members, and friends.

In Memory

Ron Sheese '67

Ron Sheese died Aug. 15, 2024. He was born in Fort Wayne, IN, to Marilyn and Orland Sheese. He grew up in Greensburg, IN, with his younger siblings, Carol Jane and Richard.

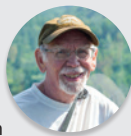
Sheese's early years were filled with visits to his grandparents' farm, scouting adventures in nature, and a wide range of school and community activities. His senior high school yearbook lists no fewer than 26 affiliations, including class vice president, booster club council, drum major, projectionists club, class play, and baseball.

Sheese received a B.A. in mathematics at Wabash College and went on to earn his M.A. in mathematical psychology (1970) and his Ph.D. in the psychology of learning (1973) at the University of Illinois. He moved to Canada in 1971 to take up the position of lecturer at York University in Toronto, where he worked for more than 50 years until his retirement in 2021.

For nearly two decades, Sheese lived on Four Winds Drive in a neighborhood he cherished and nurtured. He lovingly raised two children, Kate and Patrick, and their home was a second home to many children in the neighborhood. Sheese was active in the Four Winds Tenants' Association, where he dedicated much energy to protecting public space and infrastructure in the neighborhood. He considered his relationships and experiences in the highly diverse community to have influenced his approach to teaching, developing a pedagogy increasingly attuned to issues of class, race, immigration, feminism, and democracy, and committed to countering the elitism of the academy.

Sheese earned numerous titles and distinctions in many roles over the five decades that he taught and served at York University. He was a former associate dean of the faculty of arts, was chair of two thriving and diverse academic departments (psychology and writing), served as a director for the Centre for the Support of Teaching and the Writing Centre, and was the undergraduate program director of the Professional Writing Program.

In 2002, Sheese received the honorary title of university



professor, given to a very small group of faculty who have made extraordinary contributions in their years at York University. However, as colleagues have expressed in the days since he died, his legacy is not defined by his titles and distinctions. The friendships he made at York have fostered generations of staff, students, and faculty who have found ways to work together to support teaching, learning, and innovation at the university. Many of Sheese's colleagues and former students are still contributing to York or abroad, and the ideas that he embodied—collaboration, innovation, mutual respect, and bridge building—are a living legacy.

In the summer of 2014, Sheese joked that he was updating his CV for the first time since 1971, as he applied to teach introductory psychology during the summer term in Shanghai at East China Normal University. He got the job and returned to teach the course several times, developing a strong interest in Chinese cultures and cultures of education. He continued to travel to China regularly to nurture the many important friendships he developed there. He read voraciously and developed a large personal library of Chinese literature and nonfiction, which will be donated to the Toronto Mandarin School, where he continued to study Mandarin until shortly before his death.

Sheese was an avid gardener, not only at home, where he took great delight in tending to an impressive assortment of plants and flowers, but also in other aspects of his life, as a father, a teacher, and a colleague. He had a terrific capacity to envision the not-yet, to nurture processes of becoming, and he was always, always attentive to the conditions of the soil.

He died of complications from undiagnosed lymphoma. He died without pain and with both of his children at his side. He is survived by his daughter, Kate Sheese; son, Patrick Sheese; sister, Carol Jane Koutz; brother, Richard Sheese; and one grandson.

John Daniel Cochran Jr. '68

John Daniel Cochran Jr. of Indianapolis died May 14, 2024. Son of John and Doris Cochran, he was born in Washington, D.C. He was a graduate of Park School in

Indianapolis, Wabash College, and University of Louisville School of Law. He practiced law for 40 years and retired in 2010.

Cochran was an enthusiastic amateur photographer, tennis and paddleball player, and cyclist, as well as an avid reader. As a child, he enjoyed his summers in Texas and climbing the foothills of the Rockies. Throughout his adult life, he spent his summers in Michigan, enjoying water sports and tennis.

Cochran married Elizabeth Skinner Cochran in 1968. He was a loving father to Elizabeth Cochran Bzezinski and John Daniel Cochran III, and a devoted grandfather to his four grandchildren. Cochran had three siblings, Thomas Ray Cochran (deceased), David Lee Cochran, and Celinda Louise Cochran.

Steve Johnson '68

Steve Johnson, 77, died April 8, 2024, in Big Sky, MT. Johnson grew up in Hammond, IN. He attended Wabash College, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta and majored in chemistry.

Johnson and his family moved to Big Sky in 2001, where he became deeply involved in local service and conservation projects.

He loved fishing and hiking. He was committed to conserving parks, trails, and waterways. He fell in love with Big Sky for its skiing, hiking, and fly-fishing and the sense of freedom they provide. He could not stand the idea that those beloved pastimes may not be as pristine or accessible in the future.

Johnson held various public service roles, most recently as board treasurer for Big Sky Resort Area District. He served on the board of the Big Sky Community Organization, as well as the local fire and parks and trails districts. He volunteered as a firefighter, as a ski patroller, and with search and rescue. He would teach veterans to tie flies for the Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation.

For the better part of his 77 years, he stayed involved and engaged, but by the end of 2023, extensive health complications finally forced him to the sideline. In his final months, when Johnson disappeared from volunteer boardrooms and left his rivers and trails for the next generation, those who visited his bed said he was private and independent. As ever, he asked for no attention.

Johnson is survived by his four children, Gwen, Tim, Pete, and Chris. He joins his beloved wife, Jeanne, who died in 2022, as a fixture in Big Sky's fond memory.

Harry Lee Staley '68

Dr. Harry Lee Staley, 78, of Holland, MI, died unexpectedly May 9, 2024, while hiking in Domme, France, a place he and his wife, Lisa, loved, where they had recently purchased their dream home.

Staley was born in Columbia City, IN, to Harry and Velma (Hively) Staley. With an early talent and love for basketball, Staley played for Wabash College in 1964. His time at Wabash was a cherished part of his life. After graduating in 1968, he attended Indiana University School of Medicine, graduating in 1972.

Staley completed his internship and internal medicine residency at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA, and his rheumatology fellowship in Worcester, MA. He began his practice in rheumatology at Caylor Nickel Clinic, Bluffton, IN, and continued his 44-year medical career at Carle Clinic in Urbana, IL, and Rheumatology Associates in Indianapolis. He retired from Holland Hospital in Holland, MI, in 2021, after being instrumental in building their first rheumatology practice.

Staley's dedication to the field of medicine and healing touched the lives of so many. Throughout his career, his passion for medicine was reflected through his ongoing care and commitment to his patients, along with his dedication to mentoring physicians in their medical residency.

Staley was a loving husband, proud father, grandfather, brother, and loyal friend. He will always be remembered for his unconditional love, gentle spirit, thoughtfulness, and incredible vibrance for life. He represented the true definition of a gentleman and scholar.

Staley is survived by his wife of 41 years, Lisa (Dann) Staley; daughters, Erica Parker and Jennifer Straw; grandson, Landen Parker; sister Ruth Ann Woodham; sister-in-law, Kellie Dann; and sons-in-law, Tony Straw and Brian Parker. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Velma (Hively) Staley, and sister, Janice Busz.



In Memory

Alan Winslow '68

Alan Winslow, 78, of Seymour, IN, died Oct. 14, 2024, at home. He was born in Louisville, KY, to the late Carol and Emily (Gardner) Winslow.

Winslow graduated from Salem High School in 1964 and attended Wabash College before enlisting in the U.S. Navy as a corpsman. He earned his bachelor's degree and Master of Social Work at the University of Maryland after being honorably discharged from the Navy. He married Camila (Ruiz) Winslow in 1974, in Bethesda, MD.

Winslow was a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Seymour and Agape Men's Prayer Group in Salem. He regularly volunteered at Autumn Trace and Covered Bridge nursing homes for hospice and elder care. His hobbies included reading, writing for the Seymour Tribune, running, walking, working in the yard, and traveling with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Camila Winslow; daughter, Camila Cristina Seely; son, Matthew Alan Winslow; brothers, Caroll D. and Vance Winslow; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Lonnie Winslow.

Sidney Randolph Hutsen '69

Sidney Randolph "Randy" Hutsen, 78, died with his wife by his side at AngelsGrace Hospice in Oconomowoc, WI, on June 12, 2024. Hutsen was born in Indianapolis, the son of Sidney and Martha Louise (Hill) Hutsen.

Hutsen spent his early years in Columbus, IN, and excelled as a star athlete in baseball, football, and basketball at Columbus High School. Throughout his life, he achieved numerous milestones that defined his character and spirit. From starting a basketball officiating school to earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts, Hutsen was known for his commitment to excellence and service. He furthered his education at Wabash College, graduating with a B.A. with a major in psychology and a minor in English, showcasing his passion for learning and growth.

Hutsen's passion for empowering small businesses was unparalleled, evident in his 25 years of service with the National Federation of Independent Business, which showcased his commitment to advocating for

small businesses, a cause he held close to his heart.

He dedicated many years to coaching baseball at Lake Country Lutheran High School in Hartland, WI, instilling values of teamwork and perseverance in the young athletes he mentored. Outside of his professional endeavors, he found joy in coaching, birding, gardening, and cheering on his favorite sports teams, including the Indianapolis Colts, Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers, Indiana Pacers, and Big Ten teams of Indiana University and Purdue University.

Hutsen is survived by his loving wife, Carolyn; two sons, Courtney and Brandon; one grandson; siblings, Suzanne Gaye, Jane Plank, and Kathy Baumgart; nieces and nephews; and special cousin, Anita Johnson. He is also survived by many other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Karen Remmele.

Everett Ray Knight '69

Dr. Ray Knight died Sept. 2, 2024.

Variously known as "Everett Ray Knight," "E. Ray," "Old Dad," and "Dr. Ray," he was a great man (though he would never claim the title himself). He was a good man, a spiritual man, a strong man, a no-BS man, a humorous man, and an insatiably curious man, "blessed or cursed with obsessive hobbies:" restoring a 1951 Sauter Porsche roadster; restoring a 200-year-old house; making Windsor chairs, Federal furniture, guitars, etc.; and enjoying musicians Leonard Cohen, Angelina Jordan, Little Jimmy Scott, Sixto Rodriguez, Thomas Dorsey, etc. He was a man you wanted to emulate.

After a rough start—before the age of five, his father died and his mother was permanently institutionalized—he harnessed his God-given talents and created a full, blessed, and productive life. After brief stays with family members and fosters as an "orphan kid," he and his sister were raised by his mother's older sister, Marie Smith, and her husband, Septimus Delamar Leach, in Indianapolis. At 16, he walked out of "Aunt Marie and Uncle SD's" home and started out on his own.

From valedictorian at George Washington High School, he went on to Wabash College

with a full scholarship, gaining a cherished lifelong friendship with his chemistry professor, Dr. John Zimmerman (Dr. Z). Johns Hopkins Medical School followed, again with a full ride—including taking a year off to "find himself." His Johns Hopkins experience brought him to Baltimore, MD, where he met Yvonne Berger. After four years of courtship, they married in 1977.

From 1975 to 1979, Knight completed his internship and chief residency at Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, IL. He missed out on a Hopkins Residency, where he was told, "We don't train practitioners, we train professors." He had already decided that he wanted to return to Indiana to be a practitioner.

Knight started his solo practice in July 1979, serving southern Indiana and metro Louisville. He was on the clinical faculty at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, started a community-based full-time residency program, and received many clinical teaching awards. He recruited three of his residents into his practice, Spring Hill Internal Medicine. He loved what he did as primarily a diagnostician with a no-nonsense reputation. With partner Dr. Art Boerner, he built a brick-and-mortar office complex (Spring Hill Commons) and served a number of hospital and regional medical leadership roles.

The family would like to thank all who gave their support as Knight dealt with his Parkinson's experience and the brain tumors that finally claimed his life, especially TKO Parkinson's Rock Steady Boxing, Hosparus Health Southern Indiana, and Till the End Services. A special thanks to Ramada Green and Mary Ann Lee. In his final days, Knight's message was to "make sure everyone knows how much I thank them." To help further science-related education and research, Knight donated his body to the Willed Body Program at the University of Louisville.

His family was his greatest pride and love: his cherished wife of 47 years, Yvonne Berger Knight; son, Steven Roy Knight, MD, and his wife, Brittney Ann Cooke; son, Roger Harris Knight and his wife, Samantha Leigh Hart Stone; and four grandchildren. Also surviving are his beloved sisters, Margaret

Ann Knight Ehringer, Maria Ehringer, and Michelle Martin; faithful brother, Ronald David Knight; and Crystal. Knight will also be missed by his children's exceptional in-laws, Kelly Cooke and Pat and Becky Stone.

Edward William Steck '69

Edward William Steck, 76, of Exeter, CA, died May 11, 2023, in Visalia, CA. He was born in Chicago, IL, to Jeanette and Albert Steck.



After graduating from college, Steck enlisted in the U.S. Army and served two tours in Vietnam. He continued his career in the Army after a brief break in service and proudly retired from active duty in 1994.

Steck lived a life of service and charity. From his time in Texas to New Mexico and finally California, he had a reputation for generosity and kindness. As a licensed nurse, he was a vital caregiver to his nephew, Steven, for 11 years.

In Visalia, Steck found purpose and family within the congregation at Christ Lutheran Church. He sang in the choir, rang bells for the bell choir, participated in the reconciliation group, and supported Clip Arts, an after-school program. His passion for music and theater was marked by his continued participation with Theater Arts Alliance, Visalia Community Chorus, and support for the Sequoia Symphony.

Steck worked diligently alongside others to support people experiencing homelessness and the LGBTQ+ community, making sure that all, no matter their background, felt welcomed. He was active and interested in politics, having served on the city council in Williamsburg, NM, and as a local representative for the Tulare County Democratic Central Committee. His passions and causes were many and it would be impossible to list them all.

Steck was preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, Heidi Steck; sister, Persis; and brother, Albert. He is survived by his niece, Kristine Williford; two grandnephews; a grandniece; a great-grandnephew; three nephews, John, William, and James; and niece, Susan.

A Greater Wabash

I WAS SITTING WITH COLLEAGUES

surrounded by students enjoying lunch in the Great Hall of the Frank Hugh Sparks Center on chicken tender Wednesday on Nov. 6. There was something different about this day. It would be the last meal I would have in a space I called home during my four years at the College. As I left that day, I looked at the table and was taken back to my student days, remembering the many meals and conversations I'd had at Sparks. I returned the next day to find an empty Great Hall. Standing in the middle of a vast room, looking up at those giant chandeliers, I thought about the 70 years of Wabash history it witnessed.

The first dining facility on campus, outside of the temporary facilities utilized during World War I, came in the 1920s with the creation of the Scarlet Inn by two enterprising students needing funds to pay their tuition. The Scarlet Inn evolved to include a coffee shop, a co-op, and eventually a dining hall. It changed locations across campus, from its start in Forest Hall to Peck Hall, South Hall, and its most recent stop in the basement of Sparks.



New dormitories and a new campus center were included in the master plan of 1932, the College's centennial. Unfortunately, those plans would not come to fruition because of the start of the Great Depression and the passing of President Louis B. Hopkins. In 1941, Frank Hugh Sparks became the president of Wabash College. He brought a new philosophy and conviction for a "greater Wabash," but it would have to wait until the conclusion of World War II.

Discussions regarding the design and construction of new facilities at Wabash began in earnest in the mid-1940s. Architect and artist Eric Gugler was hired to bring his vision of a college campus to Wabash. Then-Dean Byron Trippet [W1930] was involved in the early plan stages, serving as the faculty advisory building committee chairman. In "Wabash on My Mind," he mentioned that he liked Gugler's plans. "He had in mind the development of the plant into a closely knit, compact collection of buildings, easily accessible to each other by foot and surrounded by a wooded, grassy expanse of campus, reminiscent of 'nature's unbroken loveliness' in 1832." Sparks, the Board of Trustees, and Gugler were open to spending whatever they needed to make it a reality.

Concept drawings for the new campus center first appeared in *The Bachelor* on January 7, 1949. Sparks laid out his building plan and solicited suggestions from students regarding what they would like to see in the new campus center. Many students submitted letters



Left: an Eric Gugler concept drawing; **above:** Lee McCanliss at the groundbreaking of the campus center on February 21, 1953; construction of the campus center in May 1954.

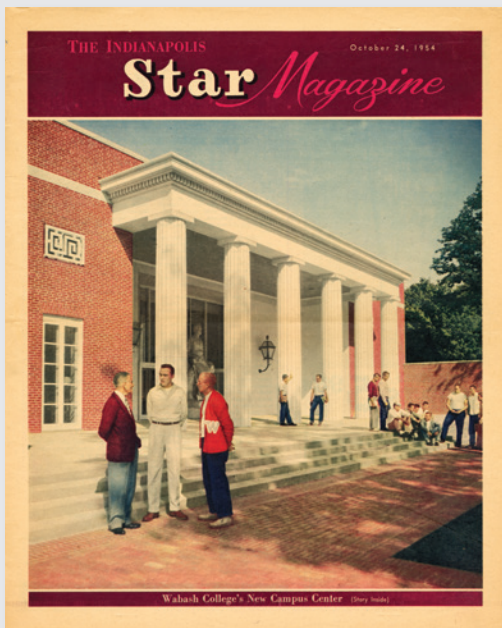
to *The Bachelor*. Joe Stevenson's [W1950] letter summed up the students' perspectives: "Let us consider what facilities the union building should contain. I'm enough of an advocate of Jeffersonian Democracy to believe that the proposed structure should be, above all else, a students' union building. A swimming pool should be on the must-list, even if this means making the supreme sacrifice of giving up the faculty dining room. The union building should contain a cafeteria, lounges, pool tables, bowling alleys, handball courts, and card rooms. Also, the building should be large enough to hold school dances and contain a small theater ... Wabash needs a social center, let's have one, let's make it a show place, and let's keep it a students' union."

After the students' thoughts were heard and the plans were revised, ground was broken on the new campus center on February 21, 1953. As construction of the campus center progressed, the new building made an immediate impact on the College landscape.

bill for future ref

CHARLOTTE F. KRUSE	
1545 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET [Interior Designer] INDIANAPOLIS 2, INDIANA	
PLANS 1954	
WABASH COLLEGE - UNION BUILDING	
Total on Contracts	\$61,965.69
Deductions for:	
Cont. #16 - Draperies for Lecture Room	491.84
Cont. #14 - 2 Tables - not furn.	222.84
Cont. #15 - 1 Lamp Table -	130.60
Cont. #13 - Padding - Ladies' Lounge	82.22
Cont. #19 - 2 Blue Vases-ret'd	90.00
Cont. #18 - Credit allowed on Snack Bar Tables(est)	115.20
Total	1,112.10
Balance	\$60,853.59
Allowance given for: Lighting Fixture (Sanborn Electric)	
6,000.00	
Allowance given on Snack Bar Tables (Wilson Cont)	437.10
	6,437.10
	\$54,366.49
Additional Items - not on Contract:	
Charge for Seals - Snack Bar Chairs	79.60
Snack Bar Seats	269.42
Refinishing 2 Tables	84.00
Drapery Installation	324.00
Paper Towels and Toilet Tissue	40.32
Carpet and Padding - Ladies Lounge	245.38
Carpet Installation	294.31
Scrap Baskets - 1 Des.	15.12
Mirror - Private Dining Room #4314	132.90
1 Table - Powder Room	53.00
1 Card Table	89.40
Additional Painting	\$55,934.45 sub. total
Piano	1,188.00
	96.00
	1,480.00
TOTAL	\$56,705.45
Add: Freight to date	\$56,705.45
	1,179.08
	\$57,884.53
MEMBER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF DECORATORS	

Charlotte Kruse bill for furnishings from 1954.



The beams in the ceiling were provided by Trustee Parrish Fuller—specially hand-selected cypress beams from Texas and Louisiana. Abigail Mann Sparks chose decorator Charlotte Kruse and her firm to furnish the interior spaces. A budget of \$75,000 was allocated for the project, going toward large oriental rugs, hand-embroidered English draperies, Japanese silk wallpaper, a baby grand piano, and other furnishings.

When the campus center opened on October 30, 1954, it was the jewel and statement piece Sparks wanted to define as his new greater Wabash. In addition to the luxurious Great Hall, the new center had a billiards and game room, a bowling alley, and the new staple on campus, a permanent location for the Scarlet Inn.

The campus center would change throughout the years to meet the needs of the campus it was serving. The bowling alley was replaced with the Little Giant Room, providing the stage students had requested from the beginning. The billiards room was replaced with the bookstore, allowing students the opportunity to purchase their books and Wabash gear on campus. The plush furnishings of the Great Hall slowly moved away to allow for more seating, and jukeboxes and arcade games were brought in at the students' request.

One of the most significant changes to the campus center occurred on April 24,



Left: images from the campus center dedication program on October 30, 1954; **below:** Scarlet Inn in the mid-1960s.

1976, when it was formally dedicated to the man who fought for his vision and brought it into being, former President Sparks. That day, former First Lady Sparks was in attendance to celebrate her husband's life. Still, more importantly, it provided Wabash an opportunity to thank one of its former first ladies for her impact on shaping Wabash College. A portrait and the rose garden just outside the president's dining room were dedicated in her honor.

Though the building may no longer be a physical presence on our campus, its influence on our history has been immense and will continue to impact the lives of all who come to the new community center.

Nolan Eller '11

Archivist | archives@wabash.edu

[@wallysattic](#)



Scan the code to visit the Archives website.

In Memory

Peter Hatton '70

Peter Lee Hatton, 76, of Munster, IN, died May 20, 2024. He was born in Attica, IN, to Charles and June (Hullihan) Hatton.

Hatton was a proud graduate of Wabash College and 1973 graduate of Indiana University School of Law. He began his legal career as a federal regulatory attorney in Washington, D.C., with the Federal Power Commission. An eventual return to practice in Indiana led to Hatton becoming a highly respected utility regulatory attorney and partner with Eichhorn, Eichhorn, and Link in Hammond, IN; Schiff, Hardin, Waite in Chicago; and finally Baker and Daniels in Indianapolis.

An avid golfer, Hatton could be found playing countless rounds on the courses of Woodmar Country Club, Idlewild Country Club, and Innsbrook Country Club. He particularly enjoyed the 19th hole with his many golfing buddies. A sports enthusiast, he liked watching and discussing the Chicago White Sox and Chicago Bears. He loved to read, particularly history, politics, thrillers, suspense, and his stack of Sunday newspapers.

Hatton was preceded in death by his parents. His memory will forever be held in the hearts of his surviving family: his wife of 52 years, Mary (Leahy); children, Kristan Reed and Peter Hatton; two granddaughters; brother, John Hatton; brother-in-law, Michael Leahy; and niece and nephews.

Jim Rogers '72

Jim Rogers, 74, died at his home in Columbia, MO, Sept. 11, 2024.

Rogers was born into an Air Force family and moved often throughout his childhood. He frequently spoke of his time in Japan, where he attended first grade in a World War II-era Quonset hut. Later he moved to Colorado Springs, CO, and Omaha, NE, before graduating from high school in San Antonio.

After Rogers graduated from Wabash College, he moved to Columbia to study art history and archaeology at the University of Missouri. There he met and married Kitty, and the two lived happily for many years. The couple celebrated their 50th anniversary this past summer with a wonderful trip to Canada.

Rogers had many interesting hobbies, but his passion was collecting local art. He had many

friends in the central Missouri art scene and even served on the board of directors of Central Methodist College's Ashby Hodge Gallery of American Art in Fayette.

Many of Rogers' summers were spent in Door County, WI, where he was known for his love of the local art scene, as well as his dedication to the removal of invasive species. The Ridges Sanctuary in Bailey's Harbor once presented him with their volunteer of the year award for his efforts.

From his mother, Jean, he inherited a love of birds. The black-necked crane was his favorite and he spent several winters conducting surveys of them in southwest China for the International Crane Foundation, an organization based out of Baraboo, WI.

Rogers and his wife took many wonderful road trips across the U.S. and Canada. They also traveled extensively in Europe and Central and South America.

Rogers was a beloved husband to Kitty, father to Brian, and grandfather to James and Leo.

Floyd Fetter '74

Floyd Ernest Fetter, 73, died April 30, 2024, at the Bishop McCarthy Center in Vineland, NJ.

Fetter was born in Atlantic City, NJ, to the late Floyd W. and Pearl V. Fetter. He grew up in Pleasantville, NJ, graduated in 1969 from Pleasantville High School, and then graduated from Wabash with a B.A. in history. While in college, he participated in the Philadelphia-Urban Sequester with the Great Lakes College Association and the Wooster College Greece program for a semester. He was also a member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity.

For eight years, Fetter worked for Caesars Casino in Atlantic City as a casino worker, and he was a caregiver to his parents for many years.

Fetter was an active member with the Parish of All Saints in Millville and enjoyed being involved with church organizations. He was also proud and extremely grateful to be affiliated with the Knights of Columbus, where he was a fourth-degree knight. He absolutely loved the color corps.

Fetter will be sadly missed by his sister, Marilyn Leigh; nephews and niece; special friends, Peggy Merkel, Patricia Simpkins Powell, Rev. David Jones, Jim Gardner,

Joe Liss, Lisa Davidson, Ben DeMario, Marion, and Joan; and many other friends and relatives. He was predeceased by his loving cat, Credit.

Barry Coddens '75

Barry A. Coddens, 72, a resident of Pleasant Prairie, WI, and formerly of Grayslake, IL, died Aug. 7, 2024, in Libertyville, IL. He was born in Lafayette, IN, to Avery L. and Mary Z. Coddens and raised in Earl Park and Fowler, IN.

Coddens attended Benton Central High School, and he received a B.A. in chemistry from Wabash College, an M.S. in inorganic chemistry from Xavier University, and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Wayne State University. He taught at North Central College and for many years at Northwestern University, retiring there as professor emeritus. He dedicated his life to education in chemistry and the environment. He was an avid fisherman and ensured that his family and others learned the art of fishing, fly-fishing, and fly tying.

Coddens is survived by his wife of 44 years, Myra E. Coddens; children, David O. Coddens, Lydia M. Coddens, and Ellen M. Coddens; and a niece and nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Carol A. Pinda.

John D. Thompson '77

John David Thompson, 69, of Perrysville, IN, died Oct. 10, 2024. He was born in Indianapolis to Leland and Mildred (Keys) Thompson.

Thompson graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1973. He went on to attend Wabash College, where he received his bachelor's degree in psychology. He retired from RR Donnelley in 2016. As a disciple for Christ, he led by example, giving his all to all. He enjoyed visiting the ocean and mountains, as well as hiking. His greatest joy was spending time with his grandchildren.

Thompson will be deeply missed by his two sons, Dustin Thompson and Tyler Thompson; three grandchildren; siblings, Chris Thompson, Becky Ford, Dale Thompson, and Tina Bellendir; former wife and friend, Mickie Beck; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

August F. Bamonti III '78

August F. "Gus" Bamonti III, 68, died Aug. 27, 2024.

Bamonti was a lifelong Steger, Crete, and Chicago Heights, IL, resident. He graduated from Marian Catholic High School in the Class of 1974. He graduated from Wabash College in 1978 with a B.A. in psychology.

Bamonti worked as a chef at Savoia's and The Cottage in Homewood, IL. He retired as a lieutenant of the Chicago Heights Fire Department after 18 years of service. He taught emergency medical services and traveled the world teaching PHTLS.

Bamonti was married for 32 years to Ruth (Gee) Bamonti. He was the father of Michelle Kurtz, Dan Pohrte, Bree Midkiff, and Morgan Bamonti; grandfather of 12; son of the late Madelyn "Mel" (Nudi) and August "Augie" Bamonti Jr.; brother of David Bamonti and Michael Bamonti; brother-in-law of Steve Gee and Rob Gee; uncle of many nieces and nephews; and friend to many.

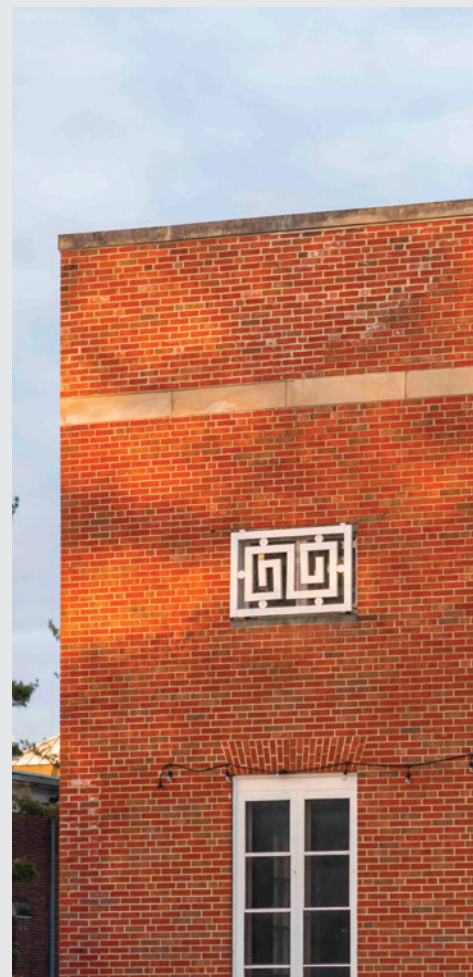


photo by Julia Moravec

In Memory

Keith Schaefer '78

Keith Henry Schaefer, 68, of Bruceville, IN, died May 23, 2024. Schaefer, known as "Keithy,"

"Schaeffie," "Fajer," and "G-Dad," was born to Marcellus and Marie (Fleck) Schaefer of Haubstadt, IN.

Schaefer grew up in a large Catholic family and attended Magister Noster Latin School and Evansville Day School. He graduated from Wabash College in 1978 as a proud member of Delta Tau Delta. Schaefer also attended Heidelberg College in Germany and traveled extensively throughout Europe.

Schaefer began his career as a tire man with Southern Indiana Tire in Princeton, later managing the store in Vincennes, which became Best-One Tire. He made many lifelong friendships as a member of the Best-One family and was well-loved and respected for his vast knowledge of commercial and agricultural tires. A kind man with a quick sense of humor, he focused on customer relationships and community involvement, winning many sales awards and providing training to others within the industry.

An active outdoorsman, Schaefer enjoyed yard work, fishing trips, races, and tractor pulls. He loved traveling with his wife, Salli, visiting many destinations worldwide. An avid reader and a master grillster, he cherished spending time with his family and attending his grandsons' activities.

Schaefer was a devoted servant of the Lord and a longtime member of St. Phillip Neri Church in Bicknell, IN. He was also a member of the Bicknell Elks, Vincennes Knights of Columbus, and the Delta Alumni at Wabash College.

Schaefer is survived by his wife of 43 years, Marcella "Salli"; daughters, Heather and Megan; son-in-law, Chris Spillmann; two grandsons; brother, Ed Schaefer; sister Elaine Happe; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles. He was preceded in death by his son, Derek Keith Schaefer; his parents; and siblings Mike, Diann, and Mark.

Bert Lekarczyk '79

Bert Anthony Lekarczyk, 63, died peacefully after a courageous battle with multiple sclerosis (MS) on March 26, 2021. Born in South Bend, IN, he was the son of the late Bert Casmier and Muriel Joy (Rehlander) Lekarczyk.

Lekarczyk was diagnosed with MS in his 30s, but decided to make the best of it and not let it negatively affect his life. He was positive, active, opinionated, and fun, and loved his family more than anything. He made many friends along the way.

He graduated from Washington High School and received a bachelor's degree from Wabash College, where he also played football. He was an avid Chicago Bears fan and a fanatic for fantasy football. He won the league several years in a row. He will be greatly missed by many and his determination will never be forgotten.

Left to cherish his memory are three children, Brad Lekarczyk, Nicole Lekarczyk, and Matt Lekarczyk; four siblings, Linda Wilson, Debbie Lekarczyk, Lori Galyean, and Greg Lekarczyk; and four grandchildren, who were the apple of his eye.

John Barry '80

John J. Barry, age 66, died unexpectedly Aug. 30, 2024, at his home in Naperville, IL. He was born in Chicago, IL. He grew up in Oak Lawn, IL, and attended St. Catherine of Alexandria Elementary School.

Barry was a 1976 graduate of St. Rita of Cascia High School in Chicago, where he excelled as a running back on the football team. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from Wabash College and was a member of the football team that played Widener in the 1977 Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl.

Barry was employed as a broker for many years at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) and the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT). He enjoyed vacationing with family and friends, football, skiing, golfing, gardening, and everything about Naperville. Most of all, he adored his boys and lived life to the fullest.

Barry was the beloved husband of Karen E. Barry (Morjal), whom he married in 1990. He was the father of Ryan Patrick Barry, Matthew Peter Barry, and Tanner; son of the late John "Jack" (Judy) Barry and the late Anita (Klatt) Barry; dear brother of Jay Barry, Jeff Barry, Joe Barry, Jim Barry, and Jeanne Rodenkirch; son-in-law of the late Gus and June Morjal; brother-in-law of Tammy Barry, Peter and Barbara Morjal, and Patty and Bob Pagni; and nephew, cousin, uncle, great-uncle, and adored friend to many.

Joseph P. Light '80

Joseph Preston Light, 66, of Forest, IN, died unexpectedly Sept. 15, 2024, at his home. He was born in West Liberty, KY, to Ramon O. Light and Annette Gay (Lacy) Light. He married Pamela (McCarter) Light in 1984, and she survives.

Light was a 1976 graduate of Frankfort High School. He then attended Wabash College, where he played one season of college football for the Little Giants before a knee injury ended his football career. After school, he worked for his parents delivering produce at Potato Supply for 10 years. Then he worked at Federal Mogul for 15 years before health problems forced him to go on disability and eventually retire early.

Light made the decision to give his life to Jesus in 1997 and was baptized at Michigantown Christian Church.

Nothing made him prouder than watching his children play sports. He never missed a game. Later in life he loved getting down on the floor and playing with his grandkids, but he usually needed help getting back up. He enjoyed collecting guns and pocketknives, and watching just about any sport, but especially the Cincinnati Reds and Ohio State Buckeyes.

More often than not, Light could be found wearing his well-loved bib overalls, favorite team shirt, and Wabash College hat.

In addition to his wife of 40 years, Light is survived by his sons, Zachary, Nicholas, and Jacob; daughter, Jessica Light; five grandchildren; mother-in-law, Deloris McCarter; sisters, Mona Combs, Rhonda Light, April Wilson, and Rhea Harris; brother, John Light; brothers-in-law James McCarter Jr. and Fred McCarter;

sisters-in-law, Nancy Olson and Susan McCarter; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law, James McCarter Sr.; brothers-in-law Daniel Combs and Joe Olson; two nephews; and several aunts and uncles.

Gregory Newton '82

Gregory Wayne "Fig" Newton, 64, of Edinburgh, IN, died Aug. 21, 2024. Born in Lafayette, IN, to Curtis Eugene and Marilyn Short Newton, he was a man of vibrant personality and devout faith.

Newton graduated from Jefferson High School in 1978, where he placed second in the state in wrestling his senior year. He also helped lead his football team to the North Central Championship his senior year. He attended Wabash College, where he briefly played football until he suffered a knee injury.

Newton's career was marked by dedicated service in various roles, including assistant manager at Payless Supermarkets and Gillman's Home Center, and later in the sales department at Bobcat in Columbus, IN.

Known for his infectious laughter and love for telling jokes, Newton was deeply committed to his Christian faith. He found joy in coaching football and other sports, fishing, and cherished moments spent with his grandchildren. His life was a testament to the values of family and community.

Newton is survived by his sons, Deke, Curtis, and Quinten; four grandchildren; brother, Stephen Newton; and sisters, Deborah Strader and Teresa DeWees. He was preceded in death by his parents.

In Memory

Daryl Deck '84

Daryl E. Deck, 60, of Phoenix, AZ, died Feb. 25, 2022, at his residence. Born in Indianapolis, he was the son of Roger Deck and Juanita Irvin.

Deck graduated from Columbus East High School in 1980. He completed his bachelor's degree at Wabash College and Indiana University. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Arizona Summit Law School in Phoenix. He worked for the Superior Court of Arizona as a licensed process server and freelanced as a legal consultant.

Deck is survived by his father, Roger L. Deck; brother, Jeff; a nephew; a niece; and several great-nieces and great-nephews. Also surviving are his aunts and uncles, Allen Deck, Jack and Susie Irvin, and Bob and Sherry Longfellow. He was preceded in death by his mother, Juanita Irvin; and grandparents, Basil and Beatrice Deck and Leon and Grace Irvin.



Gregory J. Zorich '85

Gregory J. Zorich, 61, of Whiting, IN, died Aug. 3, 2024, at his residence. Zorich, better known to all as "Z," was born to Gregory and Mary "Mae" (Slacanin) Zorich, and was a lifelong resident of Whiting.

He was a 1981 graduate of Whiting High School and earned his B.A. in economics from Wabash College. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, the National Association of Wabash Men, the Croatian Fraternal Union, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, and the Knights of Columbus Pope John XXIII Council 1696.

A sports enthusiast, Zorich played basketball, baseball, and football growing up, which led to a four-year career playing linebacker and defensive back for the Wabash College football team. He often used football as an analogy for life and had strong convictions for the values and lessons he learned playing and coaching on the gridiron. Locally, he coached Little League, junior high basketball, and high school football.



Professionally, Zorich was the director of NW Health's Porter Hospital Wound Care Clinic in Valparaiso, IN, for 14 years. He enjoyed riding his classic Schwinn bike around town, working on home improvement projects, and taking care of and spending time with his family and friends. A devoted husband and father, he will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Zorich was husband to his beloved wife of 30 years, Aline (Saliga); loving father of Adam, Nathan, Lea, and Luke; cherished brother of Geraldine "Jerry" Toth, Kathy Sandrick, Marie Baron, and the late Georgene Zorich; dearest son-in-law of Margaret Saliga; dear brother-in-law of David Saliga, Monique Jakubielski, Fr. Chris Saliga OP, and Peter (Jean) Saliga; proud uncle to many nieces and nephews; and favorite companion of the family, dog, Cocoa.

John Eric "Jeb" Ball '88

John Eric "Jeb" Ball, 59, of Duxbury, MA, died July 19, 2024, surrounded by his loving and devoted family. Ball was born in Tokyo, Japan, and grew up in Westport, CT. He graduated from Staples High School in 1983 and received his B.A. from Wabash College.

He lived with a heart full of curiosity, and his spirit embraced every moment. Throughout his career, Ball held several executive leadership roles in the printing industry before moving into the HVAC industry, in which he served as the vice president of sales and marketing at Fieldpiece Instruments.

Ball cherished every moment spent with family, friends, and colleagues, whether on the beach, boat, ski slope, or golf course. His natural inquisitiveness made him an engaging conversationalist. Living large was how he did everything, never hesitating to speak his mind, sing loudly, or laugh heartily. He truly brought joy and authenticity to every moment.

While always an active and healthy man, Ball was suddenly diagnosed with a serious infection that required hospitalization for heart valve surgery. Despite fighting extremely hard for his life for three weeks in intensive care, he died due to complications from endocarditis.

In the days and weeks before his hospitalization, Ball played golf with his sons, went horseback riding in Utah, traveled to Australia for business, and celebrated his 32nd wedding anniversary in Maine with Ginger, the love of his life. Words cannot describe how much he was loved, what he meant to his family, and how deeply he will be missed by everyone who knew him.

All will remember him for his sense of humor, sharp style, quick-tempered wit, passion for the art of conversation and debate, and sly dancing. It is the wish of his family for everyone to spread his big personality in all that they do.

Ball's family was the heart and soul of his life. He is survived by his high school sweetheart, Ginger (Grace) Ball. He was the proud and loving father of Jack, Bridget, and Colin. He also leaves behind his mother, Stephanie Ball; brother, Scott Ball; and sister, Jacqueline Vitaro. He is also survived by his loving sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and many nieces and nephews, whom he loved dearly. Ball is now reunited in heaven with his father, the late Robert D. Ball.



Paul Barrett Christian '88

Paul Barrett Christian died in Flagstaff, AZ, on May 6, 2022. He was born to Linda Walker Christian and John Spotswood Christian Jr.

Christian attended school in Indianapolis, Charlottesville, IN, and Oak Park, IL, until he was in seventh grade and moved to Rushville, IN, to live with his father. He attended Culver Military Academy while he was a junior in high school and graduated from Rushville High School in 1984. He graduated from Wabash College. He owned and ran a church photography business until he decided to go to law school. He graduated from California-Western Law School in 1997 and practiced law in Payson, Cottonwood, and Flagstaff, AZ. He later was a practicing judge in Page, Flagstaff, and Camp Verde, AZ, until about 2017.

Christian is survived by his mother, Linda; sister, Carol; and niece.

Timothy Alan Spears '94

Timothy Alan Spears, 51, of Indianapolis, unexpectedly died Aug. 16, 2024. He was born in Indianapolis to Ralph Spears Jr. and Donna Spears.

Spears graduated from Warren Central High School in 1990. He received his B.A. in chemistry from Wabash College. While at Wabash, he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and Wabash Rugby Club.

Spears was employed at the Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency for 24 years. He was the forensic scientist supervisor for the firearms section. He was a certified assessor with the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors and a member of the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners. Since 2015, he had held an adjunct faculty position teaching firearm examination courses in IUPUI's School of Science Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program.

Spears enjoyed traveling, especially to national parks; photography; making chocolates; and attending Colts games.

Spears is survived by his partner, Jennifer Griggs; mother, Donna Spears; father, Ralph Spears Jr.; brothers, Steve Spears and Scott Spears; sister, Amy Spears; two nephews; and a niece.

Douglas Michael Kriech '07

Douglas Michael Kriech, 39, of Indianapolis died Aug. 10, 2024. He was born to Anthony and Andrea Kriech.

Kriech earned his B.A. from Wabash College. He then earned his Ph.D. in chemistry in 2014 from the University of Utah. He worked in research at Heritage Research Group until his death.

He had a deep love for chemistry and national parks. He spent much of his free time climbing and hiking. He had a wide variety of interests, including woodworking, rock and mountain climbing, and competitive target shooting. He lived a full but brief life, living each day as a gift to be appreciated and cherished.

Kriech is survived by his parents; siblings, **Matthew Kriech '00** and Jessica Kriech-Higdon; and three nephews and one niece.

In Memory

Nicholas Abbott Cohen '11

Nicholas Cohen of Indianapolis died unexpectedly Nov. 26, 2022. He was born on Hilton Head Island, SC, to Michael and Laura Abbott Cohen.

He graduated from high school in Brownsburg in 2006 and was a 2011 graduate of Wabash College. He attended Eagle Church in Whitestown, where he continued to pursue his relationship with God.

Cohen owned and operated Traders Point Lawn Management, and had newly started two additional businesses, Traders Point Outdoors and Blend Design & Project Management. Most recently he returned to CC Holdings as a manager. He was a member of the Golf Club of Indiana in the men's golf league and served as vice president of the Woods at Traders Point Homeowners Association.

Cohen had his first-born, Elijah Michael Cohen, in 2012 with Hannah Zebrasky Walts. He went on to meet the love of his life and wife, Adria LeDoux Cohen, in 2015. They were married near her hometown of Canton, MI, in 2018. They were blessed with their miracle baby, Asher, in 2020, whose name means "happy and blessed" in Hebrew. They chose this name both for the surprise blessing that Asher was and to honor Cohen's Jewish heritage.

Cohen had the kindest heart and impacted many people during his life. He was an honest, creative, generous, intelligent, loving, and ambitious man who made everyone laugh and smile constantly with his quick-witted humor. He was the most loving husband and father whose boys absolutely adore him, and he protected and cared deeply for his family.

Cohen is survived by his wife, Adria Cohen; children, Elijah Michael Cohen and Asher LeDoux Cohen; mother, Laura Cohen; father-in-law, Alexander LeDoux; brother, Ryan Cohen; sister, Lauren Sears; grandfather, Bill Abbott; five uncles; one aunt; four nieces and nephews; honorary brother, Chandler Hendren and family; and many cousins and friends.

Cohen was preceded in death by his father, Michael Cohen; paternal grandparents, Leo and Eldora Cohen; maternal grandparents, John and Janice May; aunt, Lisa Cohen Weaver; and mother-in-law, Denise LeDoux.

Raylon Stewart '20

Raylon David Stewart, 25, known by his loved ones as "Ray," died June 27, 2024. He was born in Indianapolis, where he spent his entire life.

Stewart was a hardworking individual who found joy in his career as a car salesman. He excelled in his profession and was highly regarded by his colleagues and customers alike. His determination and passion for his work were evident in the way he connected with people, making every interaction memorable.

Outside of work, Stewart cherished spending time with his family and friends. He had a special bond with his parents, Sonja and Dennis Stewart, who survive him. He also leaves behind his nine siblings: Dominique Wilson, Tiesha Bailey, Totiana Wilson, Ryan Harris, Ryna Stewart, Ryland Stewart, Reann Stewart, Ryann Harris, and Reyniah Harris. His presence and love will be deeply missed by his family, who will forever hold him in their hearts.

Stewart's vibrant personality, warm smile, and caring nature touched the lives of all who knew him. He will be remembered for his kindness, his dedication, and the joy he brought to those around him.

Peggy Jean Colson

Peggy Jean Colson, 86, of Zionsville, IN, died April 30, 2024. She was born in Pekin, IL, the second daughter of Eugene Leigh and Violet Gray (Creighton) Cottingham.

She was baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in December of 1947, and in 1958, she was united in holy matrimony to Gordon Charles Colson; both took place at First Baptist Church in Pekin. Their marriage was blessed with two sons.

Colson's husband, **Gordon '58**, was the Wabash alumni director in the '80s and '90s, and Peggy was very active around campus. She warmly engaged people at Wabash gatherings, served on a committee that helped beautify campus, and drew and painted lovely scenes of Wabash that appeared on note cards. She will be greatly missed by the Wabash Community.

As we bid farewell to this luminous soul, let her loved ones carry forward the torch of her memory, illuminating the path ahead with the warmth of her love and the brilliance of her spirit. Though she may journey beyond the horizon of our sight, her essence remains woven into the very fabric of our being—a guiding light in the darkness, a beacon of hope in the night.

She was loved and cherished by many people, including her parents, Eugene Leigh and Violet Gray Cottingham (Creighton); and sons, Creighton Leigh and **Christopher Jon '88**.

Barbara Marie (Haynes) Easterling

Barbara "Barb" Easterling died Sept. 20, 2024, with her family at her side.

She was the only child of Marie and Thomas Albert Haynes, and grew up near Detroit, where she married her high school sweetheart, Vernon. She and Vern and their four small children moved to Crawfordsville in 1962.

Vern was a physics professor at Wabash College, and Barb was an active member of the College community as well. She managed the College bookstore for a number of years and then took a position at the College library, where she was a bedrock presence for decades. She was a second mom to many students, who recognized in her a kind confidante with whom anything could be shared without fear of judgment or reproach.

She was passionate about community service. As a longtime member of the League of Women Voters, she worked tirelessly to promote engagement in civic life. St. John's Episcopal Church was her spiritual home, where she was a stalwart member of the congregation and spent countless hours in leadership positions.

Her curiosity knew no bounds. She was a voracious reader, a lover of classical music, and a devoted gardener. She and her husband were inveterate travelers and they passed on their enthusiasm for exploring the world to their children and grandchildren. Summers in the 1970s found the whole family packed into the station wagon for six-week camping trips to state and national parks throughout the American West. She and Vern traveled far and wide, but they found perhaps their greatest tranquility in two decades of summers spent at Crystal Lake in northern Michigan with their daughter, Susan; her husband, Brian; and two grandchildren.

Most of all, Easterling was a loving and beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and cherished friend to many. Her husband, Vern, died in 2019. She is survived by her children: Doug and his wife, Lucinda; Mark and his wife, Marilyn; Ken and his husband, Diego; Susan and her husband, Brian; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Danny William Phillips

Danny William Phillips, 83, of Crawfordsville, IN, died Sept. 7, 2024. He was born in Crawfordsville to the late Virgil and Catherine (Manion) Phillips.

Phillips attended Crawfordsville High School and through the years worked at PR Mallory's, was the superintendent at Cloverdale Development, and retired from the maintenance department at Wabash College. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing, hunting, and shooting, and was the treasurer for many years of the Crawfordsville Gun Club.

He is survived by his daughter, Vicky Brown; four grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; two brothers, Roger Phillips and Dennis Phillips; sister, Carolyn Grayson; sister-in-law, Donna Phillips; and several nieces and nephews.



photo by Kim Johnson

Introducing ...

by Kim Johnson

JILL LAMBERTON MOVED to Crawfordsville in 2006, where her new husband, Professor of Classics Jeremy Hartnett '96, was teaching at his alma mater. The West Coast native never dreamed they would stay in small-town Indiana beyond two years.

"When I moved here, I was a long way from home," Lamberton says. "It was a bit of a culture shock. I just couldn't imagine myself being here for long. We stayed for the people and for the meaning in the work."

Lamberton has served in various roles, including professor in rhetoric and English, associate dean of the College, and now special assistant to the president for diversity, equity, and inclusion. She says her current role is "simply" helping others find community at Wabash.

"Community means having your people. It's the 'Cheers' thing—you want to go where everybody knows your name," Lamberton says with a laugh. "It's a series of groups where I feel like I can go. People are glad I'm there. I can hold them up, and they can hold me up. I'm just keeping my eye out for who's not finding that at Wabash and why. Then, thinking about what are the things we can do to change—not just as individuals but institutionally as well."

She says her work is to facilitate introductions of people to each other in ways that help them find the connections in their stories.

"We need to believe we have things in common and then interact enough to find those shared goals or values," she says. "We don't sit down and say, 'Tell me what your beliefs are, and I'll tell you what mine are. Then we'll see if we want to talk to each other again.'"

"Instead, it's doing something together like reading a text, putting on a meal for members of the community, or building a Habitat for Humanity House," she says. "In the process of doing something else that is the primary focus, you can let your guard down enough to find connection."

"When trust and openness happen, I like how much we can learn from one another."

Lamberton doesn't limit her work to making connections only among students on campus. After 15 years, she is still surprised when local residents comment they haven't been on campus or don't know they are allowed to take advantage of activities at Wabash.

"My kids went to in-home day care. I saw the caregiver every day for five years, and one of the last times I was there she said, 'Oh, I'd like to see the campus sometime. I've never been there,'" Lamberton says, recalling her conversation. "Similarly, Professor of Art Annie Strader talked to a middle school art teacher about our artist-in-residence program and bringing students to visit our Eric Dean Gallery. The teacher said, 'I've taught in Crawfordsville schools for 16 years. No one ever told me I could do this.'"

"If that's going on, we're doing something wrong," she continues. "I'm really proud that we have free entrances to our art galleries, concerts, lectures, and most athletic events. But people don't know that unless they're connected to the College already. So, what success looks like for me is that the community knows where to find things and participates in our events."

In a few short years she has been in her current position, she is seeing the fruits of what she imagined could happen.

"I get excited when I see community groups on campus that I didn't see here three years ago. For example, La Alianza has been saying they want to be open to the Latino community. At the Día de Los Muertos and Posada events in the fall, there were several tables of community members spanning at least three generations. Last year, there was only one table."

Most importantly, regardless of the situation, Lamberton tries to approach all situations with sincerity and encourages others to do the same.

"I've never been much of a fan of arrogance," she says. "When people, like my husband and me, have Ph.D.s after their names or other advanced degrees, it can be easy to lead with our expertise rather than our common humanity. And so that's also a sense of building community—how do I enter this conversation not by assuming I know more, but by assuming there's an interesting human being across from me that's worth getting to know?"

"When trust and openness happen, I like how much we can learn from one another." ■

Home Again

by Richard Paige

SITTING IN HIS OFFICE on the first floor of Center Hall, Julio Enríquez-Ornelas '08 breaks into a smile while thinking of the tasks ahead and the familiarity of what he's trying to build.

"This is really happening," he says. "I've been imagining what the day is going to be like, what the programming will look like, and thinking of how others are getting excited."

As the College's new director of Latino partnerships, he serves as an advisor to La Alianza, the Wabash student organization dedicated to celebrating Latin American culture. He will also direct activities at the new Latino Community Center; and works to form meaningful partnerships with Latino community members in Montgomery County.

Enríquez-Ornelas is familiar with the needs because he has a lot in common with the students he's leading and mentoring now. Twenty years ago, he arrived on campus from Salinas, California, as a first-generation college student.

Fighting homesickness, he wasn't thinking of building community when he got involved with Unidos Por Sangre, the campus precursor to La Alianza. He simply wanted a feeling of home, even though his home was 2,300 miles west. He joined the handful of guys who regularly came to the meetings and worked to create that feeling.



"How can I do that here at Wabash?" he asked back then.

It's a question he is asking today as well. Enríquez-Ornelas has come a long way since uttering that question long ago. He graduated as a double major in English and Spanish; earned his Ph.D. at the University of California, Riverside; and eventually became a tenured faculty member at Millikin University.

He returned to Wabash in 2023 as a visiting associate professor of Spanish before assuming his current appointment last year.

Enríquez-Ornelas knows that the recognition of La Alianza and the completion of the Latino Cultural Center in the fall of 2025 are incredibly meaningful.

"Latino students and allies have been advocating for this for a really long time," he says. "To finally have this recognition through action, to become integrated into the community in a real and institutionalized way, is very special."

His goal in growing the Latino Community Center and mentoring La Alianza members starts with support. Creating trust with students is the essential piece of a puzzle that includes the many needs of the community that surrounds campus.

"I want to be a point of contact, to help them brainstorm and share their dreams," he says. "I want to support them rather than trying to push them in a particular direction. Understanding the many needs of the community is something I'm wrapping my head around, and how we represent Wabash in a way that we are building and sustaining partnerships with the community, but also sustaining our commitment to our students."

photo by Kim Johnson

The effort can be seen in the early programming offerings, some ongoing like the English conversation tables in partnership with the Crawfordsville Adult Resource Academy (CARA), or the outreach of individual members with bilingual classes at local elementary schools. Others, like Los Pequeños Gigantes—the Wabash mariachi ensemble—aim to form a combined group from local high schools with plans to begin practices this spring.

Enríquez-Ornelas wants students to realize that they are building community. That the effort they are putting in, no matter the size, has a lasting impact. And they are doing it right now.

The work ties him to his home state of Michoacán in Mexico and to Salinas. He remembers neighbors, teachers, and friends providing subtle reminders that they were part of a community that cares. Enríquez-Ornelas is quick to point out that he benefited from that support and learned to understand the responsibility that comes with that support.

“It’s important to love your community,” he says. “It’s important to take care of your community and to accept that responsibility.”

He takes comfort from knowing that connection to community has always been a part of his life, and as he’s grown, it’s been a staple of his work as well.

“The notion of community is always helping, looking out for one another,” he says. “If the community succeeds, you succeed. In some ways, seeing the immigrant experience of Latinos here in Crawfordsville, it makes me think of my own experience when I was an immigrant.”

Enríquez-Ornelas feels good about the progress that’s been made. He quickly points to the work of the students and to colleagues on campus who have helped with new initiatives, such as the regular Tacos with Alumni gatherings, film screenings, and a

“My goals and purpose are aligned. I feel like I’m living the mission. Being back here, I’m living it in a meaningful way and doing it at the site where these guys are learning that for themselves.”

Día de los Muertos talent show on campus, as well as support of the Montgomery County Leadership Academy and Indiana Latino Institute college and career fairs in the greater community.

“From the start, it was, ‘Let’s get going with programming,’” he says. “I want to keep this energy and momentum going. Those who are consistently a part of the things we’re doing can see the baby steps and the growth. My hope is that the work we’re doing now will serve as the foundation to how we operate as a community center.”

Interactions with students have brought Enríquez-Ornelas to a full-circle moment, in which his experiences since graduating have prepared him to impact a new generation of Wabash students and the surrounding community.

“My goals and purpose are aligned,” he explains. “I feel like I’m living the mission. Being back here, I’m living it in a meaningful way and doing it at the site where these guys are learning to impact community themselves.” ■

*Save the date: Latino Community Center
Dedication on Friday, September 26, 2025.*

Community Responsibility by Kim Johnson



photo by Kim Johnson

WHAT STARTED
as a part of the
Restoring Hope

Restoring Trust grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Charting the Future initiative has grown thanks to an additional grant through the Endowment's College and Community Collaboration. The goal is to bring more cultural and artistic programming to Wabash and Montgomery County.

"We realized a lot of our students see Wabash as home, but not necessarily Crawfordsville or Montgomery County," says Community Partnerships Coordinator Leann Parrish, who is beginning her third year in the position. "There is definitely a divide on the other side too—community members not feeling like Wabash is part of their sense of home or community pride."

Parrish's job is to facilitate connections in both directions.

"Anytime campus and community come together I'm usually involved," says Parrish. "Sometimes it's community members reaching out saying, 'We have this project; do you have students who could help?' Sometimes it's a large-scale issue: 'Do you have a class interested in taking this on or helping us troubleshoot?'"

"On the campus side, a lot of our fraternities and student organizations have required volunteer hours. I can point them in the right direction to complete those hours. If faculty members want to do a community-engaged course, I can help find partners for them in the community."

Through her work, Parrish learned that many students, even upperclassmen, had not had experiences in the local community. Yet, once they take that step, it becomes easier.

“That’s when the ball really starts rolling,” she says. “Getting them to take that first step is hard and can be scary. But once they experience what it’s like out in the community and all the good things that Crawfordsville and Montgomery County have to offer, it becomes less intimidating, and they’re more excited to get out, get involved, and be members of the community.”

Academic courses are often an early entry point for students getting involved with community organizations.

“Crawfordsville Adult Resource Academy (CARA) hosted some English conversation classes on campus once a week, where their students were invited to campus to have conversation with some of our students,” Parrish says. “Last fall there was a political polling class. Associate Professor of English Crystal Benedicks’ grant writing class partnered with several organizations in the community, working with them on writing grants.

“This semester we have a class that’s doing a course modeled on the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program in partnership with the Putnamville Correctional Facility in Greencastle,” she continues.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program brings together incarcerated students and students from a higher education setting and centers around completing a college

course. The special topics course, taught by Associate Professor of Political Science Lorraine McCrary, meets in the correctional facility with incarcerated individuals. The students read political theory and discuss the relationship between freedom, virtue, and politics.

In addition, Parrish administers a collection of mini grants to assist campus-community partnerships.

“I came in thinking a very specific way about what community engagement might look like,” she says. “Then all these different project ideas have come up—I am amazed what ideas people share. The variety of opportunities and the level of impact we’ve managed to have is exciting to see.”

Examples of community collaboration with the local schools include partnering to bring students to campus to visit the art gallery, hosting mental health first aid training for the athletic department, and sending bilingual Wabash students to work with elementary students to help develop their English vocabulary.

Campus has hosted guest speakers open to the public, welcomed local foster children for Easter and Halloween parties, and assisted in the purchasing of equipment for student-run kickball and softball tournament fundraisers.

Grants have funded internships at the United Way, Grace and Mercy Food Pantry, and the Mayor’s Office to do translation work for city documents. The Montgomery County Free Clinic was able

to provide medical translation certifications for staff and three Wabash student interns.

In addition to grant assistance, Wabash students, faculty, and staff have been involved with the groundbreaking for the Montgomery County Early Learning Center, the Sugar Creek Players summer theater camp, Humans United for Equality, the Soul Stroll for Juneteenth by the Historical Society and Bethel AME Church, and the inaugural Crawfordsville Community Day of Service, as well as assisting with the labeling of trees at Lane Place and in the arboretum on campus.

“Wabash has been incredibly supportive of people having volunteer time,” Parrish says. “The administration approved two days of paid service leave time for staff. It shows, at an institutional level, the support for community engagement.”

For Parrish, community creates a sense of place.

“I love raising my kids in this community. There are so many opportunities for them to get involved,” she says. “Something that’s significant for me is when you find home for yourself, wherever that may be, doing what you can to improve that space is part of your responsibility as a member of the community. Seeing me go out and try to make our community better, I hope will become part of my daughters’ internal conversations. Maybe they will live in Crawfordsville forever, maybe they won’t. Wherever they end up, I want them to take that with them—have a sense of pride in their community and be involved and try to make it a better place.” ■

“The variety of opportunities and the level of impact we’ve managed to have is exciting to see.”



Students, faculty, and staff gathered to wrap gifts in support of the community Christmas party hosted by Benchmark Family Services.





photos by Maverix Media

Mike Braun '76 was sworn into office as Indiana's 52nd governor on Jan. 13, 2025, at the Hilbert Circle Theatre in Indianapolis. "I am committed to be a governor of not just words, but action, as we create a prosperous future for all Hoosiers," Braun said in his inaugural address. "It will take teamwork. It will take partnership. It will take collaboration. This is why we should all feel a spirit of optimism. Now it's time to get to work."

The inauguration ceremony was also a special occasion for Wabash's Glee Club, which performed the national anthem. "It was a very exciting opportunity," said Choral Director **Juan Hernandez**. "I am very proud of the performance our students gave and how they represented Wabash College at such an important event for Indiana."

Wabash.

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LAST GLANCE

"Students at Wabash come from very different backgrounds, and we arrive here uncertain about what it will be like to be away from our families and homes. We look for places that make us comfortable, where we fit in, and where we belong," **Ike O'Neill '27** said at the community center groundbreaking ceremony. "This new community center will provide a big, comfortable living room where all of us can be together with our friends and families. We are excited about the possibilities to hang out after class, play games, grab a burger at Wally's, host events, meet new people, and celebrate the accomplishments of our Wabash brothers."

Wabash President **Scott Feller** welcomes guests at the packed groundbreaking ceremony.

photo by Kim Johnson

