

Rhetoric Newsletter



Summer 2016

Contents

- 2 Brigance Forum Lecture
- News by the Numbers
- 142nd Baldwin Oratorical Contest
- 3 WDPD Update
- 4 Moot Court
- 5 Lambda Pi Eta
- 6 Rhetoric & English Faculty Author
New Public Speaking Book
- 7 Undergraduate Research
- Joseph O'Rourke Award
- Nicholas Harrison Essay Award
- 8 Faculty Updates
- Professor J. Abbott
- Professor J. Drury
- Professor S. Drury
- Professor T. McDorman
- 12 Top 10 Moments at Wabash by
Professor J. Kuperavage
- 13 Alumni Updates
- Majors
- Minors
- 19 Day of Giving
- Alumni Request



Members of the 2016 rhetoric senior class at our annual spring dinner.

Back row, left to right: **Mason Zurek, Ross Sponsler, Charles Ridgway, Justin Green, Michael Putko, Nelson Novack, Jake Thompson, Addison Hummel**; Front row, left to right: **Clayton Highum, Willie Strong, Daniel Purvlicis, Craig Brainard, Justin Woods, Seth Gunderman**

Message from the Chair

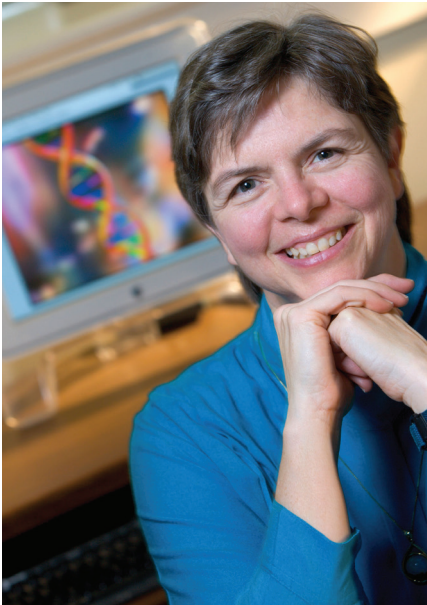
The Rhetoric Department had an exciting year. It began in the summer with two big changes. First, we welcomed **Jessica Kuperavage**, a Visiting Assistant Professor, for the year who taught public speaking as well as some elective courses. Second, we renovated the second floor of the Fine Arts Center to creatively repurpose a closet and part of the classroom for a fourth office space. Thanks to **Dave Morgan** and Campus Services for their great work!

The department continues to provide excellent curricular opportunities for Wabash students. We offered numerous high-demand classes during the academic year, including elective courses on the topics of civic journalism, American religious rhetoric, the rhetoric of commemoration, the rhetoric of health and medicine, deliberation, persuasion, and audio rhetoric. We also seamlessly integrated into RHE 101 (Public Speaking) the new textbook, *Public Speaking and Democratic Participation*, authored by department members **Jennifer Abbott, Todd McDorman**, and two others.

Annual events such as the Moot Court competition, the Brigance Forum Lecture, and the Baldwin Oratorical Contest drew widespread interest from students, faculty, and staff across the college. Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD), directed by **Sara Drury**, expanded its work in the community and beyond while Parliamentary Union shifted to an entirely student-run organization. You can read more about our events and programming throughout the newsletter.

Overall we were quite active this past year and we are excited about what the future holds for the Rhetoric Department!

Jeff P. M. Drury, Rhetoric Department Chair



Brigance Forum Lecture

In March 2016, **Dr. Celeste Condit**, Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Georgia in Communication Studies, delivered the annual Brigance Forum Lecture. Her evening talk, entitled “How Human Anger Routines Shaped 9/11,” was a fascinating discussion of anger as a motivational mode of pathos. Condit traced how anger creates meaning for diverse groups, focusing on the period leading up to and immediately after September 11, 2001. The Brigance Forum Lecture is available online at [2016 Brigance Forum Lecture](#). In addition to giving the Brigance Forum Lecture, Dr. Condit also gave a lunchtime talk on

vernacular rhetoric and science, and met with rising senior rhetoric majors to talk about research in rhetorical studies.

Hear about Dr. Condit’s interesting connections to Wabash College, and about her exciting research on rhetoric and health in the *Wabash on my Mind* podcast:

[Wabash on my Mind, Dr. Condit](#)

News by the Numbers

14

Number of rhetoric majors who graduated from Wabash in 2016

18

Number of projected rhetoric majors to graduate from Wabash in 2017

17.4

Average RHE class size during the 2015-2016 year (313 students across 18 courses)

19

Scholarly conference presentations and publications by Wabash College Rhetoric faculty during the 2015-2016 school year.

\$2,251.77

Amount donated through the “Rhetoric” affinity challenge on the 2016 Day of Giving. Thanks to all alumni and friends who contributed!

142nd Baldwin Oratorical Contest

This year marked the 142nd Baldwin Oratorical Contest, occurring on April 12, 2016. As we’ve done the past few years, students addressed the theme of “Practicing Civic Engagement” by identifying a community problem and offering a solution with a call to action for the audience. The final round included a diverse range of topics: the challenges of food waste by **Paul Snyder ’16**, the dangers of antibiotics by **Graham Redweik ’16**, the trauma of PTSD by **Jacob Stone ’17**, and the winning oration about the environmental impact of plastic waste by **Brandon Arbuckle ’19**. If you’re keeping track,

this marks the second year in a row that contest judges have awarded a freshman the top prize. This year’s judges were alumnus **Adam Collins ’02**, community activist **Helen Hudson**, and Wabash Dean for Professional Development **Alan Hill**. All four advocates did a great job and the top three were recognized at Awards Chapel, as seen in the photograph.

Watch the 142nd Baldwin Contest here:

[142nd Baldwin Contest](#)



Bottom: 142nd Baldwin Oratorical Contest Winners, **Graham Redweik**, **Paul Snyder**, **Brandon Arbuckle**, **Prof. Jeff Drury**



WDPD Democracy Fellows on CounterPoint with Dr. Garrard McClendon

Pictured here: Anthony Douglas '17, Sara Drury, Jack Kellerman '18, Michael Lumpkin '18, and host Garrard McClendon '88

WDPD Update

The Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse initiative had a very exciting second year on campus. Assistant Professor of Rhetoric **Sara Drury** continued her role as Director of WDPD. This year, the initiative increased the number of student Democracy Fellows from 8 students in 2014-2015 to 13 students in 2015-2016. All students share training and studies in rhetoric and deliberation as part of their background and qualifications for the program, but come from a variety of disciplinary majors across the college including Rhetoric, Political Science, Financial Economics, Spanish, Psychology, and Biology. In addition to the capstone Democracy Fellows program, 14 more students took RHE290 Deliberation during the spring 2016 semester, learning the theories and practices of democratic deliberation for a variety of settings and creating deliberation projects on- and off-campus.

Combined, the Democracy Fellows and RHE290 students researched, designed, and facilitated **22 projects/events this year**, an increase from last year's 14 events. Of the **22 projects and events**, 14 were on-campus and 8 were experiential learning opportunities off-campus with community partners. More than half the student body at Wabash participated in an on-campus dialogue or deliberation event, and more than 250 citizens attended community events. Wabash students worked with nine non-profit organizations, government offices, and other higher education campuses.

Each WDPD event is designed to meet specific goals and requirements, to **research a public issue or concern from community and expert perspectives, name and frame a public problem, identify approaches to addressing that problem, and then take community members through a robust, organized discussion of what actions to prioritize and take.** Students in the program learn research skills, develop project management

abilities, work as a team, enhance their communication skills, and consider the rights and responsibilities of free speech in a democratic society as they design public discourse events.

Locally in Crawfordsville, WDPD worked with local agencies to run facilitations on improving childcare, a strategic planning for the Montgomery County Health Department, and a community input forum for the design of the Crawfordsville Pike Street Pocket Park, one of the first projects emerging from Crawfordsville's Stellar Communities designation.

The Democracy Fellows also became involved in projects outside of the local area. In April 2016, WDPD students worked with the Office of the Indiana Attorney General on a civic health deliberation. Additionally, the University of Delaware invited WDPD to travel to its campus and facilitate a dialogue on race and inclusivity; six Democracy Fellows joined Sara Drury to run this program and also plan and execute two workshops on creating productive conversations.

WDPD students were featured on Lakeshore Public Media's *CounterPoint* television show, hosted by Wabash alumnus and WDPD Advisory Committee member Garrard McClendon (Watch the episode of CounterPoint [here](#).)

You can find out more about WDPD by visiting [Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse](#), and checking out recent updates on our blog at [WDPD Blog](#). You can also follow WDPD on Twitter [@wabashdpd](#) and on instagram [@wabashdpd](#).

Moot Court



Each October, Professor **Todd McDorman** coordinates the Wabash College Moot Court competition. Wabash College Moot Court is a partnership between the Rhetoric Department and the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men. In this competition, students compete in teams of two, arguing a mock appellate case.

The 2015 moot court problem, drawn from *Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged v. Burwell* (also known as *Zubik v. Burwell*; [Supreme Court of the United States Petitioners](#)), considered the competing claims of religious organizations and the government over the legality of requirements found in the Affordable Care Act related to insurance coverage for contraceptives. More specifically, under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, religious organizations challenged a requirement that they either offer their employees health insurance

covering certain contraceptive services or submit a form or notification declaring their religious opposition to that coverage. While the case proved puzzling enough to the Supreme Court that in May 2016 they unanimously remanded it for further consideration (see: [The Supreme Court's Wishful Thinking About Compromise](#)), Wabash students took on the challenges of the case.

The 22nd competition featured 25 students in the preliminary rounds while **Adam Alexander '16**, **Derek Andre '16**, **Matthew Binder '16**, and **Benjamin Wade '17** competed in the final round. Ben Wade took home the Top Advocate award. The Moot Court event also involves alumni and faculty with 15 alumni and 6 faculty serving as judges during the competition.

View the final round here: [Moot Court Final Round](#) and read more about the competition on the College's website:

[Moot Court Article](#)



2015 Moot Court Finalists and Final Round Judging panel. Left to right: **Derek Andre**, **Adam Alexander**, Professor of Theater **Dwight Watson**, Magistrate Judge **Tim Baker** (United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana), Bartholomew Circuit Judge **Stephen R. Heimann '77**, Indiana Solicitor General **Thomas M. Fisher '91**, **Matthew Binder**, and **Benjamin Wade**



Current and newly inducted LPH members at the celebration lunch, March 2016.

Pictured here (left to right):

Kyle Stucker '17, Wesley Virt '17, Derek Andre '16, Mason Zurek '16, Adam Burtner '17, Alex Wimber '17, and Greg Sklar '17

Lambda Pi Eta: Undergraduate Communication Honor Society

By Adam Burtner, '17

This spring, the Alpha Gamma Nu chapter of Lambda Pi Eta (LPH) initiated 6 new members: **Cole A. Crouch**, **Gregory Sklar**, **Kyle M. Stucker**, **Alexander T. Wimber**, **Wesley Rader Virt**, and myself. We joined current senior members **Derek Andre**, **Craig Brainard**, **Daniel Purvlicis**, and **Mason Zurek** for the induction ceremony and a celebratory lunch with the Rhetoric faculty.

Our incoming group of Alpha Gamma Nu members are committed to invigorating the chapter and progressing LPH into an elite honor society of Wabash. As President of LPH, I am excited for the opportunities and prospects for the upcoming semester. Looking forward, I feel that it is vital that we make ourselves known and promote our work across campus. Further, I believe pairing ourselves with other groups on campus for events would bode well for our growth and development.

I also think we must showcase our members as representatives of the major to both underclassmen as well as prospective students considering Wabash and its academic opportunities. Lastly, as President, I hope to progress our chapter towards a better defined mission, enhancement of engagement from members, and a schedule of society-wide meetings.

On behalf of the undergraduate membership of the Alpha Gamma Nu, we thank all the alumni for supporting the Rhetoric Department and we look forward to a great 2016-17 school year!

Rhetoric and English Faculty Author New Public Speaking Book

On October 2, 2015, Oxford University Press released a public speaking book authored by several current, and one former, Wabash faculty members. *Public Speaking and Democratic Participation: Speech, Deliberation, and Analysis in the Civic Realm* was written by **Jennifer Abbott**, **Todd McDorman**, **David Timmerman** (now at Monmouth College), and **Jill Lamberton** (English Department).

The book continues the tradition of rhetoric and speech long advocated by **W. Norwood Brigrance** and offers a contemporary perspective on issues related to citizenship and civic engagement, or what the authors refer to broadly as democratic participation. The book combines traditional attention to the fundamentals of speech with the incorporation of deliberation and public dialogue and an introduction to rhetorical criticism as a skill essential for informed and engaged citizens.

Book reviewer **Scott Weiss** from *St. Francis College* stated, "I am very intrigued and impressed by the approach that the authors take in this text and find most appealing their breadth of knowledge, substantive information and arguments, and the holistic way that they organically weave together public speaking, rhetorical discipline, and civic responsibility."

An intensive multi-year project, the book has its roots in work supported by the College, including two Brigrance Colloquys that helped inspire and inform the project (a [2005 Colloquy on Rhetoric and Democracy](#) and a [2009 Colloquy on Public Speaking as a Liberal Art](#)) and a set of research leaves supported by the College via the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts. Those efforts led to a revised public speaking course at Wabash and this textbook shapes and reflects the philosophy of the course.

To learn more about the book, visit the [publisher's website](#) or the [Amazon listing](#).



Jennifer Abbott, Jill Lamberton, and Todd McDorman celebrate their new public speaking book at a reception sponsored by the English and Rhetoric Departments.

Undergraduate Research

This spring, Professors **Jeff and Sara Drury** took four students to present their rhetoric research at the Central States Communication Association (CSCA) in Grand Rapids, Michigan. **Adam Burtner '17** presented his paper written for Dr. **Jennifer Abbott's** RHE350 course, entitled "The Rhetorical Self-Defense of Clarence Thomas in his Supreme Court Nomination Hearing." **Kyle Stucker '17** presented "Prudence as Expertise in Deliberations on Energy Policy," a paper co-authored with Professor Sara Drury during his summer 2015 undergraduate research internship. Finally, **Connor Rice '17** and **Jack Kellerman '18** presented their paper co-authored with Professor Sara Drury, "Promoting Issue Learning and Technical Argumentation in Public Deliberation."

Stucker reflected on his experiences this year and last at the CSCA conference as continuing to show possibilities for the intersection between rhetoric and his intended career in medicine: "There were several presentations in a panel on health communication that ranged from the nurse-patient relationship to communicating with patients on narcotics. This is the second year in a row where I have been able to see my major of rhetoric intersect with medicine, and that is a fantastic opportunity because this academic intersection does not happen too frequently. Overall, this experience was exceptionally appreciated and I give my deepest gratitude to the Undergraduate Research Committee for granting me this opportunity."

In June, Wabash students Kellerman and **Isaac Empson '17** traveled with Professor Sara Drury to present research on experiential learning and deliberation at the Council on Undergraduate Research Biennial Conference at the University of South Florida. As Drury put it in the presentation, "What better way to talk about the positive benefits and outcomes of undergraduate research than have undergraduates present that research?"

Kellerman found his two conference experiences this year to be quite valuable for learning more about the field of rhetoric. He explained, "I have had the privilege to attend two academic conferences as an undergraduate researcher, and I hope to attend at least one more in the foreseeable future. Presenting my research paper with Connor Rice on the CSCA Argumentation & Forensics Division top panel alongside professionals who hold PhDs or Master degrees was an experience that connected me with individuals who do what I did during the summer as a career. My experiences in undergraduate research have enabled me to see myself collaborating with and learning from scholars of rhetoric. It has boosted my confidence to be able to present complex rhetorical theories to individuals who may not know the technical language of what I researched, as well as to professionals who know a great deal more than me about the field. That confidence can only come through experiences like the academic conferences." Kellerman is currently considering pursuing a graduate degree in either rhetoric or law.

Hear Connor Rice and Jack Kellerman talk about their experience doing undergraduate student research in the *Wabash on my Mind* podcast: [Celebration of Student Research](#)



Jack Kellerman and Isaac Empson before their presentation at the CUR conference

Joseph O'Rourke Award

Daniel Purvlicis '16 won the 2016 O'Rourke Prize. As a gift to the department in honor of longtime Speech professor Joseph O'Rourke, the prize recognizes the best senior project in the department. Daniel's essay, entitled "The Rhetoric of Sorority Recruitment: An Analysis of Audience Construction and Feminist Ideals," analyzed a viral online recruitment video of the Alpha Phi sorority at the University of Alabama. He used complex rhetorical theories to argue that the video "both supports and restricts feminine ideals of equality and empowerment." His analysis shows how messages that on the surface are positive and well-intentioned can actually have a more sinister side to them.



Daniel Purvlicis and Joseph O'Rourke

Nicholas Harrison Essay Award

For the seventh year in a row, a rhetoric senior was the recipient of the Harrison Essay Award, an all-college award for essays in American studies. **Mason Zurek '16** won one of the 2016 awards for his senior project, entitled "Empowering Black Lives Matter Through the American Dream." This essay analyzed President Obama's March 2015 speech in Selma, Alabama for how he balanced "being the highest authority of law and order in America while sympathizing with Black Lives Matter's goal of racial equality." Mason argued that Obama did so through offering a more progressive vision of the American Dream tied to past civil rights successes.

Faculty Updates



For **Professor Jennifer Abbott**, this past year has been full of reflection and rebuilding. She took a one-year break from being department chair (thanks to **Jeff Drury** for stepping in) and had a reduced teaching load in the fall and a sabbatical in the spring. The extra time allowed her to focus more attention on her research, which she found rejuvenating. She worked with co-authors to complete a new public speaking book and instructor's manual, released in October 2015. She also pursued a fairly new line of research on public journalism, which is news reporting that empowers citizens to identify, engage, and improve important public issues. In partnership with the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, Prof. Abbott conducted a thorough literature review on the research about public journalism and compared and contrasted that literature with scholarship on two more recently developed types of reporting that involve citizens: participatory journalism and citizen journalism. She also analyzed the public journalism practices of two Indiana newspapers, the *Lafayette Journal & Courier* and *Muncie Star Press*. As part of her journalism research, Prof. Abbott travelled to Dayton, Ohio for two research exchanges with journalism educators through the Kettering Foundation and to Baltimore for a conference and writing retreat with friends from graduate school.

Prof. Abbott also enjoyed building or rebuilding classes this past year. In the fall of 2015, she taught a new half-course on public journalism. She learned as much from her students as they learned from her! She also taught Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Criticism (RHE 350) again, but altered the class to include a full research paper and a related civic engagement project in which students considered how their research might inform an act of public democratic participation of their choosing.

Prof. Abbott's more recent RHE 350 graduates might appreciate that she got very excited during a recent visit to the Indianapolis Museum of Art to discover *Chair One* as part of the museum's postmodern furniture exhibit—the very chair she has asked students to rhetorically analyze during the last week of class. She remains fascinated by the chair and the debates it inevitably raises in class!



Chair One on display at the Indianapolis Museum of Art

Prof. Abbott also took time to play this past year. In addition to reading and meditating, she learned to sew, knit, and pluck the ukelele (albeit poorly). She attended the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and a Globetrotters game (still so fun!), and visited with her family during a trip to California in December and her parents' visit to Indiana in June.

She, her husband, and daughter are staying close to home this summer, venturing to Chicago occasionally to catch a baseball game and try out the new Hoosier State railroad service. They love eating a fully serviced meal in the dining car on the way to and from Chicago! They also recently attended Zoe's recital where she performed hip hop and tumbling routines, and they celebrated her newly acquired ability to do a backbend.

This next year Prof. Abbott will become very busy again. She will return as department chair, Fine Arts Center building manager, and freshman advisor and tutorial instructor. Talk about going from 0 to 60 in a matter of seconds! If you see her, just remind her to breathe . . . !



Jennifer and her daughter Zoe, dressed like twins, to Zoe's delight.

Faculty Updates



Professor Jeff Drury recently wrapped up his fourth year at Wabash. Having arrived to the College the same time as the class of 2016, seeing the students graduate this May was a rewarding experience.

Throughout the year, Professor Drury taught core courses in Public Speaking (RHE 101) and Reasoning and Advocacy (RHE 201) as well as a new course (Argumentation and Debate, RHE 140) that combined two half-credit classes in political and legal debate. He once again partnered the students in RHE 201 with the Alumni, Faculty, and Staff Symposium on the Liberal Arts. This year, the students pitched ideas for how to promote the Wally Hoops event. It has been a great opportunity for students to practice their skills in “the real world” while also networking with alumni. He also enjoyed the opportunity to teach Senior Seminar (RHE 497) for the first time, co-taught with **Todd McDorman**. Mentoring the seniors on their final projects was an enjoyable experience and helped him gain a new perspective on the trajectory of the rhetoric major.

Professor Drury continues to value his work with Wabash men in and out of the classroom. This year, he expanded this interaction by taking over the Marketing Immersion Program. This is a week-long program organized through the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship and is designed to introduce Wabash students to the world of marketing. This experience allowed Professor Drury to revisit his undergraduate training as a public relations and marketing practitioner and it seems to have been a valuable experience for the 12 student participants. Now he’s gotten his feet wet, he looks forward to tackling the program again next year.

Professor Drury was also hard at work on his research about political communication. In October, he published (with **Sara Drury**) a book chapter about Obama’s rhetoric on mental health in a volume called *Civic Education in the Twenty-First Century* and co-edited by Wabash alumnus **Michael Rogers ’95**. He also presented research at both the National Communication Association and the Central States Communication Association annual conventions. One presentation looked at how Mitt Romney used Bill Clinton as a phantom endorsement in his campaign ads in 2012 while the other analyzed how Ronald Reagan’s 1982 State of the Union address impacted the agency of Lenny Skutnik, an average citizen who was present at the event and recognized by Reagan near the end of the speech. Professor Drury has also pursued work with undergraduate research interns. Last summer, **Ross Sponsler ’16** helped him with a project about antiquated modes of public opinion expression that he hopes to turn into a published article. He is currently working with **Cole Crouch ’17** on a project about Robert F. Kennedy’s rhetoric following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.



Jeff at Landmark for Peace Memorial in Indianapolis.

Beyond his teaching and research, Professor Drury served as Department Chair during the 2015-2016 school year and continued his role as Parliamentarian at faculty meetings and a member of the Pre-Law Committee. These service opportunities have allowed him to dive head-first into the administrative realm of the college!

Through it all, Professor Drury has also found time to travel and relax. Most notably, he has taken up the often enjoyable and occasionally frustrating game of golf. He’s not very good yet but he knows from public speaking and debate class that practice makes perfect!

Faculty Updates



In her fifth year at Wabash College, **Professor Sara Drury** continues to enjoy opportunities to connect rhetoric and civic engagement inside and outside the classroom. This year, she taught RHE101 Public Speaking, RHE270 American Religious Rhetoric, RHE290 Deliberation, and RHE320 Classical Rhetoric, and also continued her role as Director of the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse initiative, supervising 13 students in that program. This past April, the Central States Communication Association awarded Professor Drury the “Outstanding New Teacher Award,” given to a faculty member in their first six years of teaching who show distinction in teaching.

In September, Professor Drury received the exciting news from the National Science Foundation that she, along with her co-Project Investigator Professor **Laura Wysocki** (Chemistry), had been awarded a National Science Foundation grant for “Encouraging Science Communication in the Wabash College Chemistry Department.” The \$208,954 grant provides support for two years of innovative curricular and co-curricular work connecting chemistry, public engagement of science, and rhetorical studies. As part of that grant, Professors Drury and Wysocki recently hosted six incoming Wabash students for “Speaking Science,” a program

that immerses incoming freshmen in a chemistry laboratory experience and considers the communication context for scientific research. This summer she also is engaging in research on effective science communication with undergraduate student research interns **Jack Kellerman '18** and **Luke Doughty '18**.

Professor Drury also continues to work with the Kettering Foundation on deliberation, and in May co-ran a workshop on difficult campus conversations. She enjoys visiting the Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio, and even more so now that Wabash and WDPD alumnus **Max Nguyen '15** works there as a research assistant.

This year has seen the publication of several articles and book chapters for Professor Drury on a variety of topics, including “Remembering and Re-Creating the Great Debates of 1960: Presidential Libraries as Sites for Political Argumentation” in *Communication Quarterly*, “Deliberation as Communication Instruction: A Study of Climate Change Deliberation in an Introductory Biology Course” in *The Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*, and “Incorporating Confucius and Ancient China into a Rhetorical Theory Course” in *Discourse: The Journal of the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota*. She also published a book chapter on President Barack Obama’s rhetoric on mental health and civic engagement with Professor **Jeff Drury**. In June, *Journal of Public Deliberation* published her first essay co-authored with undergraduate research interns **Derek Andre '16**, **Seton Goddard '15**, and **Jeremy Wentzel '14**.

In her free time, Professor Drury celebrated being ahead of pop culture for one of the few times in her life, as she had the opportunity to see *Hamilton* last fall in New York City and became a shameless promoter of the musical. She has convinced more than a few Wabash men to listen to the soundtrack of our Founding Fathers rapping their way through history, and plans to see the show again when it comes to Chicago. She also enjoys golfing with her family and volunteering as a member of Junior League.



Six incoming Wabash students for Speaking Science with Prof. S. Drury and Prof. Laura Wysocki.



Sara and Max Nguyen '15 at the Kettering Foundation.

Faculty Updates



Professor Todd McDorman recently completed his 18th year at Wabash and second year as Senior Associate Dean of the College. Balancing half-time teaching (three courses per year) with administrative duties has sometimes been challenging, but has also provided new experiences and opportunities while allowing Professor McDorman to continue to work in the classroom with Wabash students.

As Senior Associate Dean, Dean McDorman has coordinated the hiring of more than 25 new academic staff and visiting faculty over the past two years, implemented review processes for academic staff and visiting faculty, and overseen multiple department and program reviews. He has also led the College's participation in the AAC&U's VALUE rubric project and has been a central planner for Wabash 101, a new summer program that saw almost two-thirds of the Class of 2020 visit campus in summer 2016. Dean McDorman was recently selected as one of 30 participants for the Council of Independent Colleges' 2016-17 Senior Leadership Academy ([Leadership Program Tabs McDorman](#)). As part of this program, over the next year he will participate in seminars in New Orleans and Washington, DC and complete a number of other program components.

In the classroom, Professor McDorman again taught the Rhetoric Senior Seminar, this year with Professor **Jeff Drury**, and also taught his Baseball and American Identity Freshman Tutorial for the second time. The tutorial again featured an immersion trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY, during which students undertook archival research on a baseball player from Indiana and studied a museum exhibit (You can read about the trip here: [Baseball & American Identity course blog](#)). The class's work was subsequently featured in an issue of the Hall of Fame's quarterly magazine, *Memories and Dreams*. And one student from that course, **Justin Woodard '19**, won the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) 2016 Jack Kavanagh Memorial Youth Baseball Research Award, college division, for his essay "The Original Babe and the Hall of Fame." The essay, about Indiana baseball player Babe Adams, was researched at the Hall of Fame on the immersion trip (see: [2016 Jack Kavanagh Memorial Youth Baseball Research Award winners announced](#)). In the spring, Professor McDorman taught a new seminar course, *Rhetorics of Commemoration: Memory, Museums, and Memorials*. The course brought to fruition the labors of a New Directions Initiative grant Professor McDorman previously received and extended some of his recent work studying memory and sports.



Professor McDorman with his freshman tutorial outside the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in October 2015.

Time for scholarship has been sparse, but—as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter — Professor McDorman contributed to the completion of a new public speaking textbook and instructor's manual that was published by Oxford University Press in October 2015. For the first time in seven years, Professor McDorman missed the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture; the absence was for a good reason as his oldest daughter, Dana, graduated from high school that same week. Professor McDorman has continued to make some, albeit slow, progress on his Pete Rose project and, as you might imagine, attended the Reds' Pete Rose weekend events (June 24-26, 2016), as both a fan and a scholar. His reflections on the event, "[#14Forever](#)," were published on the *Redleg Nation* blog.

The summer 2016 was a busy mix of work and fun. During Pete Rose weekend Professor McDorman attended all three Reds games, enjoyed the reunion of the Big Red Machine and the Great Eight lineup, and attended events with many Reds Hall of Famers. He also has made trips to Kings Island with both Lily (12) and Carter (6) and the family spent a week at Navarre Beach, Florida. That trip included a game featuring the Reds double-A affiliate, the Pensacola Blue Wahoos.



Professor McDorman and his son Carter in the Cincinnati Reds dugout in June 2016.



Top 10 Moments at Wabash

10. The time a Physics professor took his freshman class seriously when they said they wanted to perform an interpretive dance about the nuclear bomb. It was glorious.
9. Waiting out a tornado warning by eating chips and reading a book in my bathtub, because I didn't have a cellar and heard that was a safe place to wait for my trip to Oz.
8. The day we talked about "16 and Pregnant" as entertainment education and it was obvious the students also watched *16 & Pregnant* and *Teen Mom*.
7. Finding out from a student paper that the things women really want, in this order, are: shirtless men, bathrooms, horses.
6. Watching students run in the bed races. Pro tip: next year, consider what reducing air resistance would do for your team.
5. The Wabash-DePauw basketball game: literally the first basketball game I ever watched. It was great.
4. The smart, funny update the Theater Department gave to *The Misanthrope*.
3. Seeing the level of research preparation and empathy my 370 students brought to the doctor role in the doctor-patient communication exercise. I was so impressed.
2. I was also tremendously proud of the work the 220 students did on their persuasive campaigns for Athens Arts, the Carnegie Museum, and the Youth Service Bureau.
1. **Seeing our seniors graduate!**

Alumni Updates

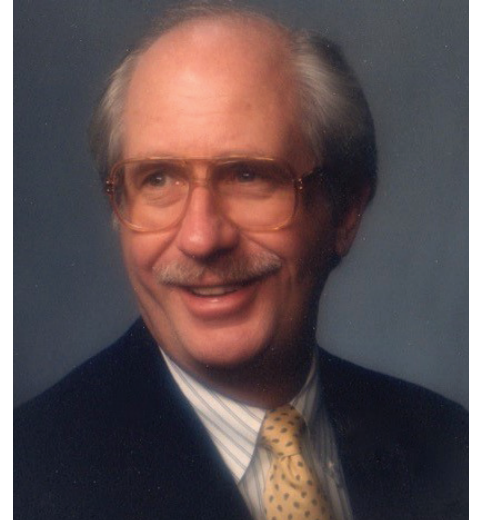


Being a ninety-eight year old Wabash graduate, Class of 1940, **Guy Kinman '40** sends you hearty greetings from Richmond, Virginia. He spent his Junior and Senior years at Wabash, having transferred from the University of Texas in Austin in 1938. At Wabash, he majored in the department then known as Speech-English. **Dr. Norwood Brigrance** was the department's able Chair. Guy's Wabash experience enhanced his self-esteem, developed his love affair with words (both spoken and written), honed his work ethic, taught him the value of friendships, and gave him a life-long goal of excellence. After Wabash he was for nineteen years an ordained Presbyterian minister, the last six and a half years as an Air Force chaplain during the Korean War. After demitting the ministry, he served almost twenty years as an employment counsellor at Snelling and Snelling Personnel in Richmond, Virginia. He was married between 1962 and 1972. His retirement years have been especially rewarding. He has been honored for his leadership towards resolving central Virginia's longtime disconnect between gay and straight people. He has also been honored as a Richmond senior whose life shows how a person's senior years can actually be a person's best years. Guy is grateful to Wabash for two very special years of his life.



Mitsuya Goto, '55 is the President and Founder of M. Goto & Company. Goto received his postgraduate degree from Princeton University in 1956. He had a great career with Nissan and then became a consultant to numerous U.S. CEO's. Goto is Chair of the Board for Habitat for Humanity in Japan. He was appointed to the Wabash Board of Trustees in 1986 as the first "foreigner" to be so named in the history of Wabash. During Goto's undergrad at Wabash he was a cartoonist for *The Bachelor* based on the happenings of the previous week. He was also a member of the Wabash College Speaker's Bureau, Vice President of his Senior class, member of Kappa Sigma, Pi Delta Epsilon, Tau Kappa Alpha and a Commencement Speaker. In less than four years he set a record of giving more than 200 speeches across the Midwest. Goto received an Honorary degree Doctor of Law from Wabash College in 1983 and was given the Alumni Award of Merit in 1995. Fame and honors have come his way since Wabash such as being on the front cover of *The Japan Times* along with being interviewed by NBC's *Today Show* with Jane Pauley. He attended Obama's 2012 Inauguration and hosted Governor Pence in Japan. He became an Emeritus Trustee in 2012. He was married to Hiroko Kasuga Goto, April 14, 1962 and has two children. He currently resides in Yokohama, Japan with his family and enjoys woodworking, architecture, automobiles and aircraft.

Majors



J. David Nall '55 rose rapidly through a series of managements positions, with the Aetna Insurance Co. ultimately heading the company's life insurance sales offices in Oak Brook and Chicago, IL and San Jose and Oakland, CA. During this 24-year tour, he developed numerous sales representatives to Million Dollar Round Table status. In addition, eight managerial candidates appointed by him became heads of their own operations in the industry. In '81 he was appointed Asst. VP of Producer Development and Marketing Training in the Home Office and was in charge of the creation, implementation and national monitoring of the highly successful PRIME Agent Development Program. In '89 he joined Aetna International, Inc. As Vice President, Marketing, he was responsible for supporting the company's international operations in fourteen nations in Europe, Asia and South America with distribution issues related primarily to the training and development of the sales forces, as well as general marketing and sales activities. After 36 years with the company he retired in '94 however in '95 he became actively involved in independent consulting activities around the world. An active lecturer, David has spoken before many organizations throughout the US and internationally — both in and out of the insurance industry — in the field of sales, sales management and recruiting professional sales personnel.

Alumni Updates



For **Bob Panzer '61**, his Senior Chapel speech and three and a half years on the Wabash Speaker's Bureau were undoubtedly highlights of his time in C'ville. Professor **Brigance** 'suggested' he adapt a Freshman classroom speech for presentation to a wide range of audiences. "How We Got Indiana from the Indians" was presented some 30 times to audiences ranging from a Cub Scout Pack through many Kiwanis and Rotary luncheons, county historical society meetings and school assemblies. For the past eight years, he has been active in a Toastmasters Club in Sparta, NJ, where 25 friends gather twice-monthly working together to improve our communication skills -- speaking, evaluating and mentoring. A favorite project of his involved analyzing, interpreting and reading portions of "Eisenhower's Farewell Address." The assignment fell under the category of dramatic reading. (Interested? Here's the You Tube link: [Bob Panzer: Advanced Speech](#))

Thank you, W. Norwood Brigance & **Victor M. Powell**, mentors & friends.

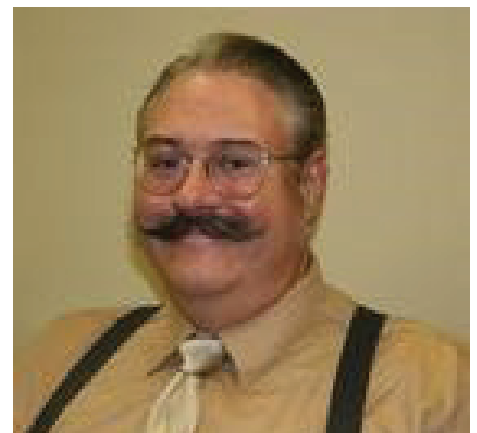


Bill Berry '66 used to be Dr. Bill Berry with a Ph.D. in Speech/Language Pathology from Purdue in 1971. For over 30 years, he served on the faculties of the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences, retiring to be ordained into the Ministry by his church in 2003. So, professionally, he's now called "Rev" Bill Berry; and he serves as an Elder in his church where they affectionately refer to him as "Elder Berry" and where he co-leads a ministry, along with his wife, Elly, whom he married his senior year at Wabash. Their ministry is to help men walk free from the ravages of sexual addiction and to help marriages find healing from this cultural plague which is breaking up marriages, families, and has become a social cancer in the modern church/culture. One can find out more about Battle Plan Ministries by going to www.battleplanministries.org.

J. Andrew Richey '71 is a retired investment strategist and portfolio manager and inactive CFA. His 4+ decades of generally successful activity in his chosen profession were firmly based on his early good fortune in convincing most of his initial clients at his first employer not to terminate that firm. That happened as he assumed client responsibilities from others who had followed the firm's policies and guidelines and had placed client assets in stocks which got devastated by the 1973-74 stock market decline (more than 50% in one year). He still mentors, offers free observations to those who lack resources to pay fees and he must still generate and execute investment

Majors

strategies for himself. Yes, the "gig economy" has also brought along with it the "gig retirement," so he still has to go into the perilous markets to earn his daily bread and his grandchildren-spoiling funds. (It also pays the bulk of the college expenses for the youngest of his four children, who STARTS at San Jose State in August!) Like any true professional, his journey has included an unending, consistent and focused effort to maintain and grow his investment knowledge base and he still employs those **O'Roukian** "persuasion tricks" any time the need arises. Essential audience analysis should begin and advance substantially before ANY presentation construction should takes place. Always adhere to that thought. Without that Iron Rule and a soon to be five-decade post-Wabash lifelong desire and need to work on maintaining and building that "The Base," no extemporaneous acts of persuasion could have or would have carried the favorable outcome. One of the Scottish Highland clans has as its motto: "Think well; speak well; do well." As he has attempted to embrace the spirit of that motto, since stumbling across it years ago, maybe you too should consider adopting its simple wisdom.



John Maxstadt '80 was an academic librarian for 33 years, most recently (for 21 years) as Head of Public Services at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas. He achieved tenure in 2001 and just retired at the end of June. He was the library's representative on the TAMIU faculty senate (frequently

Alumni Updates

an elected officer) for most of his time there. He is active in community theater and an officer on the board of the Laredo Theater Guild International. He owes to his training in speech/rhetoric a clarity in thought and expression which has served him throughout his adult and professional life.



Richard Ice '83 is Provost for the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University. CSB (for women) and SJU (for men) are top-tier nationally recognized liberal arts colleges in the Catholic Benedictine tradition. The Provost is the chief academic officer and oversees 340 faculty members, 61 administrators and 58 staff, is responsible for the curriculum, and student academic success. Prior to serving as provost, Ice served one year as Vice Provost and for three years as Academic Dean. Dr. Ice served on the faculty as a member of the Communication Department since 1989, receiving tenure and ultimately promotion to the rank of professor. In 2005 he was named the Robert L. Spaeth Teacher of Distinction. He was instrumental in developing the communication major, which grew to become one of the largest in terms of student majors and enrollments. He served as department chair for four years prior to becoming academic dean. He is an active scholar, most recently coauthoring *Rhetoric in Civic Life* (2012; 2nd edition, 2016). He received his MA in rhetorical studies and PhD in communication studies from University of Iowa.



Gregory Hockemeyer '85 is a lawyer and managing partner of the firm Myers Hockemeyer & McNagny, LLP in Columbia City, Indiana. He serves as chairman of the Whitley County Community Corrections Advisory Board, a judicial referee, and counsel for local municipalities.



Since 1998, **Michael Cummings '86** has worked in a variety of positions at Procter & Gamble in Kansas City, KS – mostly in quality assurance, education and training, and project management. 10 years prior he worked for two different universities: as professor of speech and director of debate at Ottawa University in Ottawa, KS, and instructor of speech communication at Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, MO. He earned an MA in Communication in 1987 from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS, where he met his beautiful wife Theresa

Majors

- mental health program administrator for Jackson County, MO. After 27 years of marriage and two adult children – Michael and Nicolette – they enjoy their grandchildren, vacations on their motorcycle, fitness, and volunteering. Michael's bachelor thesis at Wabash was "Semiotic Theory and Narration: Application to Fritz Lang's Metropolis and Pink Floyd's The Wall." His master thesis was "Human Information Processing: Cognitive and Affective Recall in Radio Advertisements." You can often find Michael in his boat on the river catching giant catfish.



Jo Throckmorton '87 owns and runs Jo Throckmorton Filmworks/Blue Ace Media based in Bloomington, Indiana. In September 2015, he was hired to direct a short film based on the experiences of the infantryman in the battle of the Meuse-Argonne in France during World War I. He has just recently been hired to direct a film about the student experience for the University of Illinois Alumni Association, which will be shown in a newly refurbished Alumni Center. He continues to work as an Assistant Director in the Director's Guild of America and teach one night a week at Indiana

Alumni Updates



Joshua Patty '99 continues to serve as Senior Minister of Eastgate Christian Church in Independence, MO. Patty is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as he also leads the Disciples Ministers Association of the Greater Kansas City area and serves on multiple commissions that nurture candidates for ordination, adjudicates ethical issues among ministers, and works with summer church camps.



Nathan Dinger '05 is currently employed as a Vice President of Commercial Banking for Signature Bank in Chicago, IL. He has been with this Bank for a little over 6 years. Outside of the day job, he teaches a Financial Literacy class to various Chicago Public Schools and enjoys golfing and attending as many Cubs games as possible. Beginning this September, he is getting an Executive MBA from Purdue University.



Matt Dodaro '09 just finished his first year of graduate studies, pursuing his dual-masters (MBA and Master's in Marketing) at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. He resides in Chicago, IL with his wife and currently serves as an HRM Software Consultant for CareerBuilder's Staffing & Recruiting Group. Additionally, Matt has been the acting president of the Wabash Sales Alliance since early 2015, leading a group of Wabash Alums to coach, guide, and inform soon-to-be Wabash graduates on a career in sales

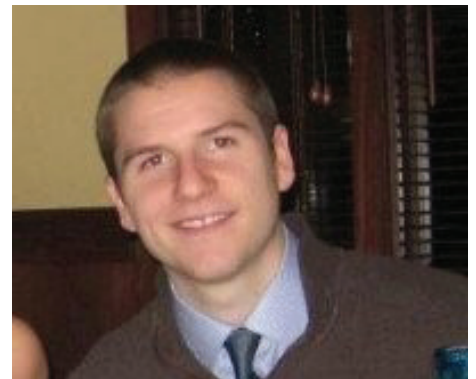


Kyle Grand '11 just completed his first season working for the Indiana Pacers. Grand served as a content creator for Pacers.com and will return in September in the same role. In June, he got involved with Copa America, the international soccer tournament which was held in the U.S. Grand was embedded with Haiti's team and traveled with it, generating content for use on Copa America's social media platforms.

Majors



Colten Craigin '13 was promoted to territory manager for Stryker endoscopy and he moved to Baltimore, Maryland. He became the youngest sales territory manager in the company at 24. Since then, he turned 25, sold the house he renovated in Michigan, got engaged to Allison Hess (Butler University), and spent many hours on an airplane. He's still attending a ridiculous amount of weddings and still getting up to the lake as much as possible!



Matt Page '13 became Owner/President of a franchise called Senior Helpers in April 2016 and has moved to Terre Haute, Indiana. He owns the rights to operate this franchise in 59 zip codes in west central Indiana and chose this part of the state because it includes Crawfordsville, which allows him to come back to campus a decent amount! He is very excited for the future. Owning his own business is exciting and nerve wrecking, but he wakes up every day more energized and eager to make things happen!

Alumni Updates



Dan Pyle Millar '60 retired from teaching communication and public relations at Indiana State U. in 2001. That concluded 40 years of university teaching at Port Huron Junior College, Bowling Green State U., Central Michigan U., and ISU. However, teaching has continued at Butler U. (Public Relations), U. Indianapolis (Marketing), and IUPUI (Public Relations) as an adjunct professor. He co-owns with his wife Kay a public relations firm based in Indianapolis in which he focuses on crisis communication and management. He also completed his Master Gardener certification from Purdue U. Extension so now volunteers to garden at Future Farmer's Association headquarters, Marquette Manor (senior living facility), and Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site. He also enjoys his two teenage granddaughters!



Retired at the end of 2015, **Russ Duvall '62** is keeping busy engaging in Logistics Consulting, Public Speaking, and Writing - continuing a series of historical fiction novels based on his nine years' experience working in China. The series, entitled WEN TI BU DA, has the first three books in print with subtitles: To Make A Difference, Ducks In A Row, and Out Of The Gate. All are available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble, and he is currently working on Number 4. Also, he is concentrating on the launch of a new program whose objective is to increase Employee Engagement, thereby improving companies' productivity, profitability, and employee retention. Entitled "Eatin' The Elephant", it leads its participants to achieve the organization's goals in the same manner that one answers the question: "How do you eat an elephant?" That is, "One bite at a time". This effort has just begun. He hopes to see great progress in the next year.

Minors



Morris Finch '64 retired from active ministry in '06 after almost 20 years as the Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Michigan. He graduated from Christian Theological Seminary after completing his undergraduate degree at Wabash College. He served congregations in Wallace, Alamo, W. Lafayette and Greencastle, IN. While serving First Christian Church in Greencastle he was called to serve as an Associate Regional Minister of the CC (DC) in Indiana. He led workshops on a variety of subjects in Indiana and Michigan. He was awarded the Barton Stone Preaching Award from the Disciples of Christ Historical Society while serving in Michigan.

Alumni Updates

Lee Grogg '68 retired on April 1, 2016. Following Wabash, he earned his MSW from Indiana University in 1974, his Certificate in Healthcare Financial Management in 1983, and his MBA from Notre Dame in 1989. Between 1974 and 2000, he was CEO of Porter Starke Services, a community mental health center in Valparaiso, Indiana. Between 2001 and 2016, he was CEO of Ryther Child Center, a behavioral health care organization for seriously emotionally disturbed, abused and neglected children and adolescents in Seattle, Washington.

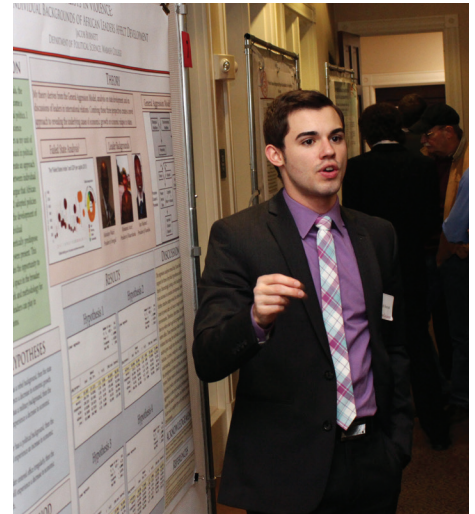


Steve Campbell '92 serves as Vice President of Communications of The Mind Trust, one of the nation's leading nonprofits working in public education innovation. Before joining The Mind Trust, he founded and ran his own firm, Campbell Strategies, specializing in communications and public relations strategies for government, non-profit and private sector clients. Steve previously served as Deputy Mayor of Indianapolis and as a media advisor to two Indiana governors and the state attorney general.



Jacob Ahler '13 spent his first two years after graduating from Wabash working in the licensing enforcement division of the Indiana Attorney General's Office while attending law school at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. Jacob graduated from law school in May of 2016 after being selected as the top oral advocate in the Staton Moot Court Competition and serving as an Associate Justice for the law school's moot court society. Jacob was also inducted into the Order of the Barristers, for being selected in the top 10% of moot court competitors at the law school. Jacob has accepted a position as an associate at the Law Office of Michael Riley P.C. in Rensselaer, Indiana and plans to sit for the 2016 July Bar Exam. Jacob is married to his wife Carolyn and they are expecting their first child.

Minors



Jacob Burnett '15 is attending the University of Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. He completed his first year at Oxford earning an M.Sc. in Criminology and Criminal Justice. He will be working as a Seasonal Associate at 270 Strategies in Chicago for the summer of 2016. He will be returning to Oxford this fall to pursue an M.Sc. in Global Governance and Diplomacy. At Oxford, he is the internship coordinator and project director for Oxford Pro Bono Publico, grants officer for the Rhodes Scholar Southern African Forum, and the welfare officer for his college, Corpus Christi. Outside of academia and work, Jacob has enjoyed gallivanting around Europe and a small part of the Middle East, exercising, and enjoying great conversations over pints at the pub.



William Norwood Brigrance
Professor of Speech
1922-1960

Celebrating Wabash College's Day of Giving, 4.27.16

We would like to thank the many of you who contributed to the college's last Day of Giving on 4.27. During that day, the college received more than 3,529 gifts and raised over \$550,000. Of the many Affinity Challenges offered that day (these are fundraising challenges issued by one or more people to a targeted group of people who all share an affinity), two were especially meaningful to us: the Rhetoric Affinity Challenge and the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse Affinity Challenge. Just over \$13,000 in gifts given on the Day of Giving were associated with these two Challenges. Here are the numbers:

	<u>Rhet/Brigrance</u>	<u>WDPD</u>
Number of gifts:	44	45
Amount raised:	\$2,251.77	\$10,850

Thank you for so generously supporting the college and our work.

ALUMNI: YOU'RE WANTED!

We will continue to include updates from our Rhetoric and Speech alumni in future Rhetoric Department newsletters.

It's a wonderful opportunity for our current students to see where a Rhetoric major and minor can take you!

Please send updates to millsm@wabash.edu, subject line "Rhetoric/Speech Alumni Update."

Rhetoric Department

Prof. Jennifer Abbott, Chair
Prof. Jeff Drury
Prof. Sara Drury
Prof. Todd McDorman

WABASH COLLEGE

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