



DAKOTA BAKER '22 / PHOTO

Campus is as quiet as it has ever been thanks to recent moves to suspend face-to-face classes and close campus.

Wabash Makes Unprecedented Move to Cancel Face-to-Face Classes During COVID-19 Outbreak

JAKE VERMEULEN '21 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Wabash is knee-deep in an unprecedented situation. Never before has the college shifted away from face-to-face classes like it has in recent days as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak which has paralyzed the world over the last few weeks. At press time, more than 65,000 people in the United States have been infected by COVID-19, while more than 900 people have died as a result of the illness.

The suspension of in-person classes was originally intended to only be a temporary measure. On March 13, President Hess announced in a statement that face-to-face classes would be suspended temporarily through at least March 27. The hope was that the situation would improve to the point where students would be able to return to campus, however that

proved to be wishful thinking. Prior to that announcement, the College had already announced restrictions on who could come to campus, and moved to cancel events that would bring large numbers of people to campus.

Only days later, on March 17, Hess announced that the College would suspend face-to-face classes for the remainder of the spring semester. They encouraged all students who could leave campus to do so, while saying that they were committed to helping students who needed to stay on campus. In the statement, Hess said, “For students for which Wabash is the very best place to be at this time, we will support you to the fullest extent possible.”

Hess also signaled that Commencement would likely be postponed from its original date of May 17. He said, “A committee

comprising seniors, Professor Jim Cherry (the faculty marshal), and key administrators is looking into how we might hold Commencement, if possible in mid-May, but more likely at a time later in the summer.” A later announcement from President Hess indicated that the committee would make recommendations by April 1.

In the days since, the College has taken further steps to limit contact between individuals, including moving students into dorms which are more conducive to social distancing. Following the Governor’s Stay-at-Home Order, which took effect at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 24, the college closed all College buildings not used for providing essential services to students still on campus. This included closing the Allen Center and Knowling Fieldhouse until further notice.

The College has also started putting

plans in place for online events over the rest of the semester. This includes Chapel Talks beginning on April 2 and Awards Chapel on April 23. They have put together a Virtual Events Task Force to help put together opportunities for events to bring together the Wabash Community.

The College has also decided to push back the start of all programs which involve participants residing on campus until June 15, including student internships.

These steps represent an unprecedented disruption in life at Wabash College. Most students have now left campus for the semester, and most seniors have left campus for the last time until Commencement. Students and staff are busy adjusting plans to finish out the semester and, sometimes, their Wabash careers in a different way than they planned.

COVID-19 Shutdowns Leave International Students Stuck in Limbo

ALEXANDRU ROTARU '22 | ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR • With the United States having the third largest number of COVID-19 cases, and states going into shutdown, many of Wabash’s students decided to head for home. After all, the Interstate system enables everyone to travel between any two points in the continental United States in less than two days.

However, there is no way to drive across any of the two oceans

surrounding the US, and with international travel bans sending countries across the world into shutdown, many Wabash international students struggle to get home. Some, myself included, are still stranded on campus, as there are no flights to their respective home countries, or said flights get cancelled sometimes within hours of departure. “[Travel bans vary] from one country to the next [...] plus, if there’s a travel

restriction one day, it can change the very next day,” Amy Weir, Director of International Programs, said. In some cases, the travel ban involves having no flights into the country, as it is happening in the European Union.

“[Travel restrictions] made it difficult for some students to go home because they can’t travel through certain countries,” Weir said. “For instance, Bangladesh has closed itself to flights from other countries. A lot of times, these countries have airports where there are a lot of transfers, like Doha in Qatar.” Another airport affected is Paris Charles De Gaulle in France, the only one to have direct flights to and from Indianapolis outside North America.


While driving to cities like Indianapolis, Chicago, Fort Wayne, and Evansville may cost less than \$100, international travel generally costs within the \$1000-\$2000 range, and can take anywhere between 12 hours and 3 days, particularly because of layovers. Also, “one of the things that Americans take for granted is that we have a passport that allows us to transit through one country to get to another,” Weir said. “Americans often don’t have to apply for a visa. However, if international students need to just travel through another country, they have to apply for a visa. That adds an extra layer of difficulty. And, of course, since this is probably unplanned travel for them, they didn’t plan for the cost.”

For students who managed to get home safely, another issue that arises is waking up for class. International students live in different time zones, and that can work to their advantage or disadvantage. Students in Europe, Africa, and the Near East are 5-8 hours ahead of Crawfordsville, which means that classes going from 8 a.m.


to 4 p.m. actually occur any time between 1 p.m. and midnight, which are reasonable hours. However, for students in the Far East, the story is completely different, as many experience a 9-12 hour difference from Crawfordsville, meaning they have to study during the night. Also, for Europe, Daylight Savings Time begins on the last Sunday of March - as opposed to the first, in the United States -, which, this year, is March 29. This only adds to the complexity of making it to class on time, and concentrating on the material.

Before leaving, all students are required to clear their dorms of any personal belongings. For domestic students, it is as easy as stuffing their car, sometimes making multiple trips. However, international students have to fly home, which means they can only travel with a certain amount of luggage. “So, [international students] have to pack everything into boxes. They are going to have space to store them at the International Center,” Weir said. However, they have to pick up their stuff within the first full week of classes, in order to keep everything that they have.

Also, unlike other campuses, Wabash decided to remain open for the few that cannot go home for various reasons. As of right now, there are around 60 students left, almost all residing in Wolcott and Morris Halls, and all receiving 19 meals per week from the Sparks Center. There is food, there is a good WiFi connection in order to communicate with others, and there are people in the dorms to interact with, albeit from a safe distance. In short, while the COVID-19 crisis is still going on in the world, Wabash is still providing what they can for all their international students.



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Athletes Forced to Leave Empty-Handed After Nationals are Canceled

LOGAN SMITH '23 | STAFF WRITER • March is usually a time of fun and excitement for athletes, as they compete in nationals for which they have worked toward all year. However, for the athletes who made nationals this year it was a time of confusion and disappointment. Both wrestling and swimming athletes had already made their journeys to nationals and were waiting the start, when all NCAA events were cancelled for the rest of the academic semester. Not only did these players and coaches not get to compete in nationals, but many athletes saw their last chance competing at the collegiate level ripped away from them.

Head Swimming and Diving Coach William Bernhardt talked about nationals and his feelings around it and how it felt to receive the news that the tournament was cancelled. "It was like a punch to the gut. Our two men had worked and battled all season long (and their whole careers) to get to the NCAA meet. Having to tell them that it was cancelled was one of the hardest phone calls that I have ever had to make as a coach." Despite the terrible feeling of nationals being taken away, Coach remained positive about the outcome of the season. "Nothing will ever be able to take away the season that Hunter [Jones '20] and Jan [Dziadek '21] had, as well as the season our team had. It was a great accomplishment because only 16 people in each event from the entire country get selected. It was a huge honor to receive the invite. For Hunter it was especially gratifying since he had his appendix out mid-season and there was a lot of uncertainty about the remainder of the season and how he would be able to bounce back." Coach Bernhardt's pride with the season is understandable as both Hunter Jones and Jan Dziadek are the first Wabash swimmers to qualify for nationals since 2018. Despite all the success the team had, it was

still hard to grasp how the season ended. "Last week was very tough for me and the men. I know for myself, each day that went by, I couldn't help but think about what we would have been doing that day in Greensboro or what events we were supposed to be swimming. As the week went on it got easier and I came to terms with it a little more. It's a weird feeling when your season just ends via an email from the NCAA. You are supposed to have one last swim, one last go at it. For closure we ran a time trial for the guys to get a few last swims in and see what they could do. We ended up breaking 4 pool records and hopefully provided them a little bit of closure. At least they will have their names on the record board a few more times!" Coach certainly did the best he could to give his guys the ending to a season that they deserved, and he showed that is all we can do with the situation at hand, we can just give it our best shot.

Darden Schurg '20 is a senior wrestler who was supposed to wrestle in the national tournament in Iowa, but the tournament was cancelled before he got the chance to compete. Schurg, who was the champion in his weight class last year, talked about his feelings after receiving the news that the tournament was cancelled. "I think I was so stunned that it didn't really click for a couple hours. I listened to some sad songs and shed a tear or two. It really was a passing moment of sadness, but I still feel a little unsatisfied every once in a while. It's tough ending your season without getting to 'prove yourself', but I still find some remorse in remembering those that I've sacrificed with the last couple months." Schurg also talked about how he has moved on from the sudden ending to his season, and how the situation has affected him. "I'm currently student teaching and I was excited to finish that

out in the classroom but it's becoming an adventure learning how to adapt as a teacher online. I would say I've made peace with how my season has ended and it helps having such a great circle of family, friends and coaches to support us above and beyond wrestling." Schurg also had a final message for his teammates as he was trying to stay on the bright side of things in light of the situation. "Sticking around for a fifth year at Wabash was difficult for many reasons but you guys made it worth it. I love you all and I hope to see you at my wedding in June (COVID-19 aside). If not, you are all invited to the e-wedding."

Wabash Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney '05 also commented on the situation, saying, "When the NCAA made its announcement on Thursday afternoon, we had wrestlers in Iowa and track athletes in North Carolina already on site at their NCAA championships. We also had two swimmers preparing on campus for national championships the following week. Walking away from a chance to compete for a national championship is incredibly difficult. Our guys earned the right to be there, and I salute them for the way they carried themselves and represented Wabash all season."

The athletes and coaches who were prepared to compete in nationals were certainly shocked and disappointed when hearing that the tournament was cancelled, but they were quite ready to make the best of it and do what they can to move on. Showing strength and understanding in this time of uncertainty is something we must all do in order to get through these hard times, and the players and coaches of Wabash understand that. We are all strong and we all have the courage to get through this. 'Wabash Always Fights' is our school mantra, and we're here to show why.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Darden Schurg '20 was looking to defend his National Championship from a year ago at the national tournament.



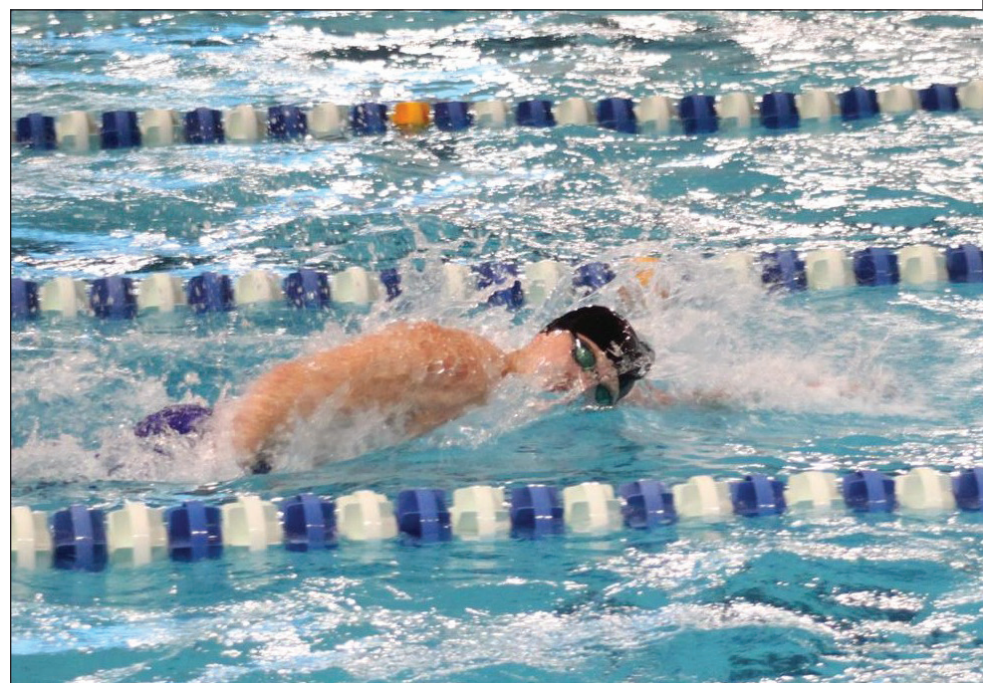
COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Kyle Hatch '21 entered Nationals undefeated on the season and ranked first in the nation.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

RaShawn Jones '20 posted the 6th fastest 60 meter hurdles time of any competitor in Division III this year and was set to compete at Nationals.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash Swimming and Diving also had several athletes ready to compete before Nationals were called off.

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The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas.

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Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 500 words.

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Spring Sports Deal with Cancellations and Lost Seasons

BLAKE LARGENT '22 | SPORTS EDITOR • The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic has caused a whirlwind within the realm of sports. In recent weeks, the NBA, MLB, and NHL have postponed games or events until further notice in response to the outbreak. The 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, most major soccer leagues, and the first major golf tournament of the year, The Masters, have been postponed as well. Most NCAA Division I events and championships have been canceled, including the beloved 'March Madness' NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament. A plethora of other sporting events and leagues have been postponed or canceled. And on Friday, March 13, the effects of coronavirus in sports were felt at Wabash, with the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) canceling the remainder of spring athletic competition.

Wabash Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney '05 gave a brief overview of how the decision developed: "The way everything unfolded for our student-athletes and teams was tough," Tanney said. "On [Wednesday, March 11], the NCAA announced only limited attendance for family members at its championships. Later that evening, NBA games were canceled following a confirmed coronavirus case from Rudy Gobert with the Utah Jazz. Then, everything snowballed on [Thursday, March 12] when remaining NCAA championships were canceled. On [Friday, March 13], NCAC presidents agreed to cancel the remainder of spring competitions and championships."

Among the sports affected at Wabash include baseball, golf, lacrosse, tennis, and track and field. Some winter sports were affected as well, with national events for the wrestling and the swimming and diving team being canceled. With canceling athletic activity for the remainder of spring competition ends the athletic careers of the seniors on each respective team. "I really empathize with our student-athletes, especially our seniors, but the last few weeks won't define their legacy at the College," Tanney said.

"They've contributed so much in and out of the classroom, and they're headed in a great direction. Still, it's been a tough pill to swallow."

The national pandemic has also severely limited face-to-face contact. Wabash is currently conducting online classes, along with a majority of colleges and universities across the country. On March 24, Indiana governor Eric Holcomb delivered a statewide address for a stay-at-home order, which is in effect until April 7. With many individuals in isolation and the pandemic worsening across the country, other aspects of spring sports, such as recruiting, rehab, and other face-to-face interactions, are also affected. "The pandemic remains a fluid situation, and our coaches and staff are helping support students to finish the spring semester on a positive note academically," Tanney said. "Recruiting is always a priority, and we're not alone in the various restrictions on campus visits and face-to-face interactions with prospective students. All of our coaches will continue to recruit as much as possible, given the circumstances. When the semester concludes, we'll turn more attention to Fall 2020. We fully expect our fall teams to report for preseason practices in August."

While the current situation is difficult, the staff, athletes, and other individuals involved with Wabash athletics are certainly living up to the 'Wabash Always Fights' mantra. Congratulations to the senior athletes who, despite now having shortened athletic careers, have achieved many accomplishments in their time at Wabash and have been consistent role models to the Wabash community. Thank you to Matt Tanney '05, as well as the coaches, staff, and personnel in Wabash's athletic department, for the planning, preparation, and guidance over the recent weeks, and for the future. The Wabash athletic community is one of the strongest in the country. Despite athletic events being events this semester, that community will remain strong during the course of this pandemic.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

Editor's Note: Over the last few weeks, a number of people have stepped up in big ways to help take care of the Wabash Community, and we've decided to replace our usual Hi-Five section with some shoutouts to them.

PROFESSORS GET SCHOOLED

Hi-Five to Educational Technologist Aaron Elam for working tirelessly to get professors up to speed on teaching classes online. We know that some professors would NEVER be able to do it on their own (we won't name names) and things have gone relatively smoothly, so you've clearly pulled off an incredible feat.

SAFE PASSAGES

Hi-Five to Travel Coordinator Allison Metcalf for getting everyone home safely from immersion trips and study abroad programs. Navigating a changing landscapes of cancelled flights and travel restrictions couldn't have been easy.

MIKEK STAYS BACK

Hi-Five to Prof. Mikek for staying behind in Ireland with a couple of students who were showing flu-like symptoms and couldn't fly. No one had COVID-19 and everyone is now safely back in the country, but Prof. Mikek set a phenomenal example by stepping up and making sure everyone was safe.

SCHEDULE GOES VIRTUAL

Hi-Five to Violet Bengé and her crew who tore down the schedule and are starting to build it back up to provide a sense of normalcy to students and staff in this trying time.

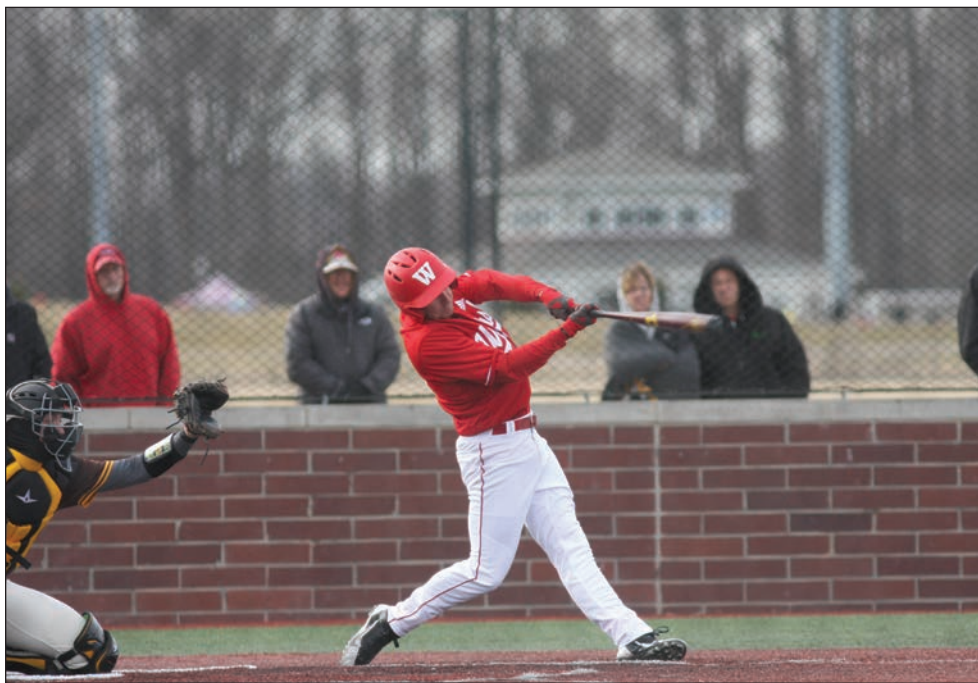
CAMPSERV KILLS ALL THE GERMS

Hi-Five to Campus Services for working diligently to clean the entire (filthy) campus, and for helping students who had to stay on campus move quickly into new living units to combat COVID-19.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Lacrosse has had its season cancelled due to COVID-19. The team was coming off a 5-12 season a year ago, and got off to a 1-2 start before the season came to an abrupt halt.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash Baseball was off to a 6-2 start, including a win over 8th ranked Heidelberg University in the season opener.

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As On-Campus Events are Canceled, College Looks for Ways to Keep Students Engaged Beyond Classes

AUSTIN HOOD '21 | NEWS EDITOR • As the COVID-19 outbreak wreaks havoc in all corners of the globe, prompting vast changes in nearly all facets of life, Wabash College has taken action unprecedented in the institution's 188-year history. Alongside the suspension of in-person classes for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester, a move nearly inconceivable to most of the Wabash community just a few short weeks ago, the College has taken steps to virtually shut down the entire campus until further notice.

In compliance with Center for Disease Control and State of Indiana directives to restrict gatherings of more than ten people until the disease passes, the Wabash Community has acted to cancel, postpone, or virtualize practically all of the extracurricular activities that typically dot the calendar this time of year. Among the cancelled events are the remainder of all Spring sports seasons, as mandated by the NCAA. This means that lacrosse matches, track meets, and baseball games, time-honored traditions of the spring semester, will not be held for the first time in recent memory.

The cancellation of many events coincides with the

shuttering of all campus buildings, which came as a response to Indiana governors Eric Holcomb's order to close all non-essential public spaces as a measure to curb the spread of the disease. As recently as March 25, the Allen Center, Lilly Library, and most academic buildings remained open on a limited basis to faculty and students. As of publication, everyone (with the exception of students who are unable to easily return home) are being asked by the administration to refrain from coming to campus for the time being.

Despite the numerous challenges at hand, the college is pushing forward to hold some staple events in order to connect the Wabash community over keyboards and webcams.

"A Virtual Events Task Force has been formed to ensure that our community still has ample opportunity to connect beyond the classroom environment, even while physically separated from campus and each other," said President Gregory Hess in an email addressed to Wabash Students, Faculty and Staff. "Members of our community have already begun this vital work, including the Student Senate's virtual trivia nights and online gaming platforms and

'Senior Day' programs for our athletics teams."

Student Senate Election Chairman Jeff Inman '21 has decided to continue the electoral process for Student Body President and Vice President. In an email addressed to all students, Inman noted that nominations will be open until March 27 and that a debate will take place via videochat on April 2. The College is pushing forward to hold Awards Chapel, a staple of the season, in a virtual setting on Thursday, April 23 at 7:00pm. More upcoming information about the event has been promised by President Hess.

At the time of publication, exact plans for the Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony have not been released by the College. Other higher education institutions, such as the University of Evansville, have tentatively postponed their ceremonies to homecoming weeks.

"A committee, led by Faculty Marshal and Professor Jim Cherry with input from staff and students Frank Russel and Clark Tinder, is studying options for Commencement, including its likely postponement," said President Hess. "They will make recommendations to me before April 1."

Students and Professors Adjust to Classes in New Format

RYAN SOWERS '23 | STAFF WRITER • With the novel Coronavirus comes novel challenges for Wabash students. Suspension of in-person classes having been extended for the remainder of the Spring semester, students must successfully navigate the new formats for their online classes put together by their likewise challenged professors. The strangeness of the situation is driven home as students pack their things and move off campus: concluding their times at Wabash much sooner than expected. For seniors especially, the consequences of this significant decision have forced students to cope with the reality of a situation far less than ideal.

Venerated senior Aaron Webb, who will be attending IU med school next Fall, outlines his hopeful outlook going forward, "I recognize that many of these difficult decisions are made in unprecedented circumstances, and I credit the administration for their handling of the situation. I look

forward to cheering on my fellow students from home during the virtual awards chapel and hope the evolving situation allows for a commencement where my family and the families of my classmates can celebrate the achievements of the class of 2020 on campus." Aaron mentions the annual awards chapel which has been officially moved online. As for commencement, seniors await a decision for a date that may already be prohibitive for some international students and whether the event will occur in-person at all, and thus whether many friendships and relationships with faculty will receive the closure they deserve.

Commenting on his first week of online classes Aaron said, "I haven't noticed a drastic decrease in the quality of the instruction, but I do find that the discussions lack a certain level of intimacy because of the online format. It seems more difficult to pick up on nonverbal cues and language when discussing course topics via

video conference, and I believe those forms of communication are important components of effective seminars." In fact, it was this concern for the many discussion-based classes so characteristic of Wabash that President Hess cited in an email letter through Jim Amidon in the college's initial response to other colleges shutting down across the state; two days later came the temporary suspension; four days after that came the semester-long suspension. It's to be expected that some students may face connectivity issues as they tune in for their live lectures and class discussions, although the situation seems to be improving from the first meetings last Monday.

At the opposite end of the student spectrum, fellow freshman and Glee Club member Noah Webster comments on his own experiences from last week, "The quality of classes has seemed to decrease, although not to the fault of professors at all. I've

taken online courses before at another school, and doing a class online is completely different from being on a college campus. Discussions are still happening, but not the best they could be due to technological limitations." Noah then goes on to describe his run-in with technological difficulties when his computer quit working all-together, "It took me a week and a half to finally get it replaced." Besides Noah's frustrations are the more common hassles of online learning that include poor audio, owing to bad mics or poor internet connection, as well as freezing video: another potential consequence of slow internet connection or the bandwidth of platforms overloaded by the sheer number of students moving online.

As students continue to settle into this new arrangement, it's important to remember what Wabash men are known for, even when they are prevented from gathering the brotherhood: Wabash Always Fights.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Professors are quickly trying to adjust to the new reality. Some professors are setting up to lecture to an empty room and a webcam, like Associate Professor of Religion David Blix '70.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Other professors are plopping down in front of a Zoom meeting to hold discussion classes, like Professor of Religion Derek Nelson '99.

Construction Continues on Football Stadium



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

One of the only things on campus that has not stopped recently is construction on the new Little Giant Stadium.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The construction work was not covered by the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order. Plans are for the new stadium to be ready for this Fall's football season.