

Former President Donald Trump



COURTESY OF REUTERS

start laying the groundwork for that.”

After losing the 2020 election, eyes are on Trump to see how and if he will modify his message to draw support from groups that voted against him previously.

“We have a number of Republican refugees who are conservative but not MAGA, people like George Conway and other Republicans Associated with the Lincoln Project,” said visiting Professor of Political Science Dr. Dylan Irons. “Unless Trump is able to speak with the more moderate Republicans, I think he will have a hard time winning a national election against anybody whether Joe Biden or whoever the nominee is.”

“There’s been a lot of talk about how Trump has broken precedent in a number of ways through his term as

president,” said Professor Anderson. “But that also means that there is opportunity to break precedent in campaigning for a second term.”

Notably, 2024 Presidential primary candidate and former President Donald Trump has recently been indicted and arrested. The first ex-president charged with a crime; Trump has been indicted on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. At this point it remains unclear the extent of Trump’s legal troubles, but over the next few months more information is expected to be released.

“On the Republican side it feels like Trump is the presumptive nominee, but everyone’s waiting to see what will happen with his legal issues,” said Associate Professor of Rhetoric Dr. Jeff Drury. “It’s tough because in 2016 I

thought the Access Hollywood tape would end his campaign, but clearly Americans don’t care if their candidates commit sexual assault.”

Though unappealing to moderates, it seems to be a consensus that Trump’s legal entanglement will do little to disenfranchise his loyal base.

“Trump’s base doesn’t seem to believe any of it,” said Irons. “The trend with alt-right folks is that it is a conspiracy or the mainstream media or whatever nonsense Trump seems to be feeding them.”

“Unless he is in jail, it will be hard for his base to move away from him. Just as there are ‘never-Trumpers’ there are ‘always Trumpers,” said Drury.

“Polls show that many Republican voters are not so bothered by Trump’s legal troubles and are eager for his

10 years, \$10.2 million



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Students pick Day of Giving t-shirts during the Day of Giving celebrations.

Glee Club uniforms. “The stronger that the annual fund is, the more that we’re able to give pretty much everywhere else,” said Andrews.

This year, the team watched late into the evening as the decade-long totals ticked over the \$10 million threshold.

“Everybody on the team was there when we made history,” said Dean Janssen. “We did it as a group, and we did it together. I’ll never forget it.”

This victory took the support of the entire Wabash community, and it embodied a vision that was years in the making. “When we started this concept 10

years ago, we had a lot of trust by the administration, the Board of Trustees and the Advancement committee,” said Klen. “They thought something like this could work. Each year in a different way, it has grown and become stronger.”

As more and more days of giving pass, younger alumni—especially those who were students during a previous Day of Giving—have become increasingly active. The alumni participation rate was key to this year’s record-breaking success.

“Once we started our days of giving young alumni started giving back more often, and they would give back with more money,” said Andrews. “But I think the most important thing

to note here is the participation. The alumni participation rates just changed dramatically overnight. For nine straight years, we’ve had over 40% alumni participation.”

This level of alumni participation is part of the reason why the Princeton Review again ranked Wabash as No. 2 in Best Alumni Network.

“It was just a true celebration for what that really meant for our students and for what this meant as a tradition for the college,” said Andrews. “It’s more than just the most recent Day of Giving, but it really is an accumulation of what we’ve been able to achieve as a college over the past decade.”

“It was just a true celebration for what that really meant for our students and for what this meant as a tradition for the college”

-Kevin Andrews ’10

“It’s hard to appreciate it if you don’t take a step back and realize that not all schools that have done these events have realized that same kind of year after year success,” said Klen.

To put Wabash Day of Giving in context, Indiana University’s “Indiana Day” graphic shows that their 2023

day produced over 4,350 total gifts, far short of Wabash’s 6,900.

Part of the secret of Wabash’s success is an emphasis on the number of gifts—not necessarily the biggest gifts—as the key to a successful Day of Giving. This separates Wabash from most other colleges and universities.

“I love the fact that we figured out very early that it’s about gifts, not dollars,” said Associate Director of Annual Giving Hugh Vandivier ’91. “The gifts drive the dollars, but a gift of any amount [matters]. Everyone has an equal chance to be the hero. So as we got close to 1,000 gifts, all of a sudden the gifts would shoot over—because everybody wants to be the person who’s going to help it win. That’s the microcosm of what happens with the affinity challenges. And I think that that’s the Wabash way of doing things, because everybody has a chance to have an impact.”

“I think what’s really unique about our model is that it provides each and every individual who wants to participate in improving students’ lives with an equal amount of agency,” said Andrews. “That kind of transparency is why people give early, give often and continue to see the Day of Giving as more than just philanthropy. It’s transcended into something much more than that. It’s about being part of something bigger than yourself.”

The state of RA preparation

PART 2 IN A SERIES



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Residential Assistant Sarvik Chaudhary '25 speaks during the Asian Hate Crime Vigil at the Chapel on Febuary 16, 2023.

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | STAFF WRITER • Residential Assistants (RAs) at Wabash have a unique task in front of them. Even considering the already-odd circumstance of managing buildings with only men, their job is more complicated than some may realize. This piece is an analysis of the current state of residential assistants at Wabash from their perspective, following up a piece covering administration’s perspective that ran two weeks ago.

In terms of the protocols set by administration, the RAs are extremely up-to-par. When interviewed about specific scenarios that an RA may need to handle, all interviewees responded in line with the policies provided by administration.

The RAs and administration are also in agreement on the role of Gentleman’s Rule in everyday residential management. Generally, severe situations need to be passed up the chain of command, but everyone wants conflict resolution to be kept in-house for the most part.

“Depending on what the situation is, I would have to reach out to either campus security or the deans,” said Wolcott Hall RA Sarvik Chaudhary ’25. “But it would first be on me to assess the situation and find a solution.”

However, despite the competency of the current RAs, they acknowledge that their training could be better. Whereas other schools may require a whole class to prepare for such a role, Wabash gives a comparatively brief education, comprised of a handful of sessions at the beginning of the semester. These sessions include a brief overview seminar led by Dean Marc Welch ’99, as well as panel discussions led by campus Health and Wellness staff.

“I’m not going to say I think a whole class is necessary,” said Nikolai Jones ’24, a Martindale RA. “But there’s lots of things that I still think do go unchecked.”

One way to improve RA training is to make them both more specific and more interdepartmental.

“I believe we can have more situation-based trainings, with specific scenarios created by campus security, campus services, and the Counseling Center,” said Chaudhary.

Some RAs have drawn inspiration from recent campus programming for ideas on how to improve RA training in the future. Jones referred to the implicit bias and conflict de-escalation trainings held earlier this semester by Right to Be as positive examples of the sort of programming that could flesh out RA education.

“We could have one training session like that for each of the major pillars: suicide prevention, conflict de-escalation, substance abuse and then maybe one about just being more comfortable communicating about sensitive topics.”

RAs are increasingly proactive in growing stronger communities in their living units. This effort is not without its challenges.

“We need to be doing community building right, especially at a college where community is a main emphasis,” said Jones. “Independents are a weird group because in some sense, it can be harder to keep a community of independents since they chose to be independents for a reason.”

Part of the effort to improve on this has been a greater emphasis on event planning, especially across different parts of campus. For example, RAs are doing joint events like ping-pong tournaments with prizes between living units in an effort to boost student engagement.

Despite the challenges, the current RAs are confident in Wabash men to take the reins of independent halls successfully.

“As long as you’re a good citizen and can take situations under control, you will make an excellent RA,” said Chaudhary.

News Analysis: What to watch for in summer politics

Continued from page 1

try and his mental faculties,” said Irons. “I’d be interested to see what left-wing insurrection occurs against Biden in the primaries, primarily because most Democrats don’t want him to run for reelection.”

“There is some push for the party over people. It is less about getting the best candidate and more about representing a set of party values. That often encourages folks to look past who a candidate is,” said Professor Anderson “In the primary season you have to be the most ‘Democrat-Democrat’ or the most ‘Republican-Republican’ and then those people who had to be extreme in the primary season now have to face off and win over the other side in order to win an election.”

Despite Democratic primary challenges, much more focus is put on the open field of Republican primary candidates.

“A primary season upset is more likely on the Republican side since Trump is not the sitting president so it’s technically a wide-open race and there isn’t recent precedent for the previous election loser to be nominated by his party to run again, but lately things have been looking not-so-great for Ron DeSantis as his most formidable challenger and even worse for lesser-known Republicans who’ve thrown their hat in the ring or indicated that they might,” said Dr. Gelbman.

Despite things not looking great for him, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis remains the most prominent alternative to Trump. DeSantis has not officially announced his candidacy and yet, he seems for many to be the most viable alternative.

“DeSantis is fervently anti-LGBTQ+. He has taken efforts to strip individuals from that community of their rights,” said Irons. “It is not an insignificant percentage of the population that are both members of the LGBTQ+ community and conservative. Those are not mutually exclusive.”

Florida’s GOP-dominated state legislature seems bent on clearing the way for a possible DeSantis run. Florida State Senator Travis Hutson (R) filed an amendment to an election overhaul bill that would allow DeSantis to launch his campaign while in office and exempting him from the state’s resign-to-run law. The amendment would “clarify existing law” that someone running for president or vice president would not be blocked by state rules that generally forced elected officials to resign their state office to run for federal office.

“I am a bit biased because I think Governor DeSantis has done such a good job, so I just want to make clear that if he is not the Republican nominee he can be back,” said Hutson.

As primary hopefuls look to differentiate themselves, there are several key issues to watch out for regarding how candidates present themselves, especially in comparison to front runners.

“Among the main issues are abortion, inflation, the war in Ukraine and inflation,” said Dr. Irons regarding the key issues primary hopefuls will focus on.

“It’s been interesting to see issues around immigration unfold, particularly because several of the candidates come from southern states,



COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE

President Joe Biden releases video announcing 2024 reelection campaign on April 25, 2023.

that have sort of a direct connection to immigration issues on a very sort of real and direct front,” said Anderson. “As well, gun violence has popped up and sadly, I anticipate that it will be an issue that continues with some prominence. As incidents may or may not occur, it thrusts issues around gun violence back into the light and I think responses to that will play some capacity in distinguishing between candidates.”

The question remains whether the issues that primary candidates align themselves with will speak to everyday Americans. As Republicans continue to spread the idea of culture war, some worry that they are losing sight of more pressing issues.

“The strategy of both Trump and DeSantis seem to be to lean into the culture war instead of focusing on substantive policy that really affects the everyday lives of Americans,” said Dr. Irons. “Transgender people having access to affirming care of education is not really affecting the everyday lives of most Americans. We care about inflation; we care about jobs, and we care about foreign policy. I do not know how important culture wars are to most Americans and I think how much folks buy into it will determine how much it will determine the Republican nominee.”

After the 2022 midterms elections, it was clear that abortion was a major issue on the minds of American people. It was especially clear that Republicans’ hard stance against abortion was hurting their electability, a trend that continues with Wisconsin voting in a candidate that flipped their Supreme Court to liberals for the first time in 15 years.

“Abortion has been the big election game-changer since the Dobbs ruling last year so it will be interesting to see how the various campaigns posture on that issue, especially as new developments in statehouses and courts continue to unfold,” said Dr. Gelbman. “It is especially unclear where the Trump campaign will land on this, so that is something to keep an eye on.”

“Across the spectrum of politics there are people on the left and right who want access to safe, quality reproductive care,” said Irons. “I think that is something younger candidates could differentiate themselves from Trump policy with.”

Primary runs are not the only notable shakeups happening. Within two

hours on April 24, Tucker Carlson of Fox News and Don Lemon of CNN were both announced to have been let go from their prospective networks. Both were known to be charismatic, if not provocative, media figures for their networks.

“To me the interesting part about this is, at its core, both firings seemed to be focused on some sort of truth, getting out in some capacity. Things Don Lemon said, both publicly and privately, seemed to be key indicators in him being let go,” said Professor Anderson. “And with Fox, the dominion lawsuit clearly indicates that what was said about the election had something to do with Tucker Carlson being let go.”

Fox letting go of Tucker Carlson comes in the wake of a \$787.5 million settlement to Dominion Voting Systems regarding comments made by Fox personalities regarding the 2020 presidential election.

“I think that Tucker Carlson has caused Fox more headaches than they cared to deal with,” said Irons. “They had to argue in court that his show was not a news show, and that no reasonable person would think what he said was news.”

As for where Tucker or Lemon end up, it seems unclear at this point.

“Both CNN and MSNBC are left-leaning organizations, but they both employ right-wing talking points. CNN might be stupid not to offer him a position because people love Tucker. Financially speaking it might be a smart move for CNN or MSNBC to take a run at him,” said Irons. “Maybe there’s room for a show with both Tucker and Lemon.”

Ultimately, these firings may point to a larger trend for media groups and how they handle their image.

“The connection I see is that these are both different groups dealing with truth coming to light and how that needs to be managed. As we enter a world where fake photos, fake text and AI generated content is becoming ever increasingly popular and sophisticated, I think there will be a push to authenticity,” said Professor Anderson. “There are so many fake things out in the world that people know about, and I think authenticity will make a swing back and people will appreciate and buy into increased authenticity for the sake of credibility.”

As the general attitude towards politics continues to sour, it seems

people long for authenticity and civility. However, some say these things cannot come unless political leaders are held accountable.

“I hear a lot about the need to return to civility in politics, but I have not heard much about accountability in politics,” said Dr. Irons. “You cannot have civility without accountability, especially when there’s politicians whose platforms are inherently uncivil, especially when they are preaching violence against the LGBTQ+ community.”

A rise in violence against marginalized people can make calls for civility seem out of touch. Especially when the violence seems linked to divisive political rhetoric.

“We have a rise of hate crimes, a rise in antisemitic attacks, a rise in mass shootings—so it is not enough to call for civility. It is in bad faith calling for civility when a particular politician’s platform is inherently hateful,” said Irons. “At the end of the day, if we have a return to civility in politics, we must have a return in accountability.”

Though, at times, it seems we may have little control politically, we can utilize such values here at Wabash. Whether it involves making sure diverse voices are heard or respecting other perspectives and engaging with them productively and respectfully.

“At Wabash, we inherently have missing voices in our education. Not only the absence of women’s voices, but we are mostly a white straight man’ institution. The institution is doing better in terms of increasing diversity amongst the student body, but we still have a long way to go,” said Dr. Irons.

“I would just encourage students and faculty alike to be more willing and open to hearing alternative thoughts and theories and engaging with these ideas in the classrooms,” said Irons. “The purpose of higher education is to expose yourself to ideas beyond your own backyard. My interactions with my students have been mostly positive in that regard, but then again, I am a white straight man.

“I look like most of my students. I would encourage students who I have those kinds of interactions with to keep that same open mind with other faculty members who do not necessarily look like me or share similar demographics to me.”

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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 800 words.

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Farewell from the Editor-in-Chief



Cooper E. Smith '23

Reply to this opinion at
cesmith23@wabash.edu

If you've been reading *The Bachelor* regularly this year, I can guarantee that you've disagreed with something. It may have been a cartoon, an opinion or a news article. It may have moved you to write an op-ed or a fiery email.

Good. That means we've done our part.

As the Student Voice of Wabash, *The Bachelor*, at its best, aims to capture the intellectual and cultural debates around campus. Wabash is truly an exciting, energetic place—one where people actively speak their minds on divisive issues.

For our part, that requires journalistic independence and integrity. It requires judgment calls—which readers may certainly disagree with, sometimes vehemently.

We always welcome fruitful discussion about this use of judgment. We do not pretend to know some perfect, objective form of truth, however much we strive to support all of our articles with the strongest evidence available.

To everyone who has contributed to the paper this year—no matter how critical—I thank you. Thank you for joining the flow of ideas and for helping to keep this campus intellectually alive.

I've found meaning, lessons and excitement in this often-heated exchange.

It seems to be a feature of the Wabash ethos, and I think it may be part of the key to solving the difficult questions facing our world.

When our state, nation and globe face rising polarization, especially over seemingly unsolvable crises, we have to learn how to engage with ideas we despise. We cannot possibly make gains on poverty, climate change or security without learning how to speak to one another—not just to “win” debates, but to have a fruitful discussion. We have to see the humanity in our opponents.

In so many ways, Wabash seems to me to be an excellent training ground for young leaders to learn these very skills. Whether through *The Bachelor*, chapel talks—or even the dreaded email wars—Wabash students have plentiful opportunities to engage with each other.

My time at the helm of *The Bachelor* this year has stretched my ability to follow these pluralistic ideals I claim to profess. Somewhere along a road of critical op-eds and angry emails I became more comfortable sitting alongside ideas with which I disagree, focusing on how to respond to the ideas and arguments, not to the person. Far from perfect, I cannot help but feel that this year's duties—and a truly incredible staff of writers, brothers and advisors—have helped me move closer towards the man and global citizen that I hope to become.

To the entire Wabash community, I cannot thank you enough for your support this year. My year as Editor-in-Chief taught me much about leadership and writing, but in an environment that allowed me to hear and share powerful stories about the Wabash family and its role in the world. For that, I am truly grateful.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

FOUR HORSEMEN OF FINALS WEEK

Lo-Five to the apocalyptic signs on campus this week. Between the eerie bagpipe sounds emanating from the library, the reappearance of HK, an uncloaked cloak kid and an ungodly amount of cake muffins, it must be the last days on campus.

#1 VICTORY ROYALE

Hi-Five to Joe Biden for announcing his intent to run again in 2024. It's always good to see more Minecraft streamers seeking political office.

EAT OUT CRAWFORDSVILLE

Hi-Five to Senate for doing the impossible and bringing back Carry Out Crawfordsville. If we run any positive stories, we want to make clear we support this program.

NOBODY WANTS TO BE SEEN WITH A BIGOT

Hi-Five to Fox for parting ways with Tucker Carlson. It's still a mystery, but we're pretty sure he was taken down by The Bastard's coverage of his illicit affairs with the Green M&M.

THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE

Lo-Five to The Bachelor staff for another year of heinous takes in the Hi-Fives section. We truly reached an historic low this year that we can't wait to break next year.

Promises made. Promises kept.



Jakob Goodwin '23

Reply to this opinion at
jmgoodwi23@wabash.edu

Four years ago, on Ringing In Saturday, Dean of Students Greg Redding '88 and then-NAWM President Marc Nichols '92 made some promises to me and the class of 2023. They didn't know that our time at Wabash would be derailed by a pandemic that would cause Wabash to cancel classes for the first time since JFK was assassinated, nor did they know what extracurriculars we would do, what classes we would take or what friends we would make. So, in my farewell opinion, I want to go back and see if they were right.

“In the end, your college experience will be only as good as you make it. Your path through Wabash may zigzag a bit. You may stumble a time or two along the way. But if you choose to seize them, you will have innumerable opportunities for growth both in and out of the classroom. I promise in return, that we will take you seriously. We will help you pursue your dreams and aspirations, your desire to achieve and to grow and to construct a life of meaning.” – Redding

Even without knowing COVID was on its way, Dean Redding couldn't have been more right. My four years at Wabash have zigzagged. I've lived with people I never met before and with my best friends. I've suffered depressive episodes and semesters of pure joy. And I've had semesters where I was at my academic best and others where I dragged my body across the finish line of finals.

Through all of those experiences, I've had those opportunities for growth in and out of the classroom, and I wouldn't be where I am without the help of professors and faculty who were there for me. I have to give special recognition to Associate Professor of

Political Science Scott Himsel '85. Not only has he served as my pre-law advisor and professor, but as a real mentor and friend.

“Your fellow classmates will become some of your greatest and most frequent teachers in the classroom and in life. Take a look around gentlemen, look closely at each other. These are your competitors and your future best friends. The guys who you ask to be the best man at your wedding and the godfather of your children.” – Nichols

As I sat in the back of the Chapel's balcony 1350 days ago, I never could have appreciated the friendships I would make over the next four years. Whether it be sitting in my room reading the Moot Court briefs over and over with Cooper or working through CSC-101 homework with Ben, my best friends have been my greatest teachers outside the classroom. And I have a sneaking suspicion they'll stand beside me at my wedding.

“We will challenge you to work harder, strive further, question more and reach higher than you ever have up to this point in your lives. We will empower you to discover your full potential to push past self-imposed limits and to own your collegiate experience.” – Redding

If Wabash has done nothing else, it has changed my life and my outlook on the world. When asked where I saw myself a year after graduation, I first said I would work on Ted Cruz's re-election campaign (HAHA how dumb was I), and go to Yale Law School like my hero, Clarence Thomas. Then my first opinion in *The Bachelor* was about how Republicans could vote for Biden. It was the liberal arts education, which questioned my beliefs and assumptions, that opened my mind to new avenues.

Wabash makes a lot of promises to its students, including the moronic one that it “might be the best school in America,” but it walks the walk. Four years ago, Wabash made many promises to the class of 2023, and despite a pandemic that disrupted and radically changed our four years, it kept them.

Thanks Wabash.

A Sinclair Lewisian warning from Sudan



Benjamin
Bullock '23

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When protests in Sudan led to the ousting of dictatorial military leader Omar al-Bashir in 2019, there were genuine and founded hopes that Africa's third largest nation might start on the path to democracy. Pro-representation activists had fought for years to push out al-Bashir, and finally their efforts had paid off. The transitional military leadership promised a shift toward civilian-led government. It seemed as if the Sudanese political landscape was forever changed.

Fast-forward four years, and the nation's capital Khartoum is indeed a changed place. The Sudanese military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF, who share dual power with the army) have come to loggerheads in recent weeks, dragging the country kicking and screaming into what might prove to be a long and bloody civil war. In Khartoum, military jets fly low overhead, fighting has engulfed residential areas and thousands of people are seeking refuge in neighboring Egypt, Chad and South Sudan. The United Nations warned earlier this week that the conflict threatened to destabilize the entire region.

The current situation didn't, as some news outlets would have you believe, come out of nowhere. The transition to democracy has been on tenterhooks since a military coup in October 2021 installed General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan as the nation's de facto leader. But al-Burhan was forced to share power with RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (better known as Hemedti), a personal rival of al-Burhan. Both men are power hungry, egotistic and genocidal. And when it comes to running a country, two such personalities don't mix well.

Behind the veil of factional in-fighting and political struggles, there is an ensuing humanitarian crisis. As Nesrine Malik put it in a column for *The Guardian*, “Sudan's tragedy is that of a country that dared to ask for more and is now being punished for it.” While Sudan's military bigwigs get to play war, the country's people suffer the consequences.

From Crawfordsville, Indiana, this fighting may feel like a world away. And perhaps that's true. After all, as Sinclair Lewis so aptly put it, “every man is a king so long as he has someone to look down on.” War in Sudan? Doesn't affect us. Invasion of Ukraine? We're protected. Civil disunity on our doorstep? Well... we're not like those other countries. We're too big.

“It can't happen here.”

Well, it can happen here, and it can happen right under our own noses. I may be an international student, but as one I have a unique perspective on the civil disunity that is tearing at the seams of American democracy. In an age when facts are constantly under attack and people are less and less willing to engage each other on political issues, democracy isn't a given. It's a constant fight, and we have to put in the work to keep ourselves informed, keep our minds attuned to current events and keep pressing on the matters that mean the most to us.

I'm not by any means saying that the U.S. and Sudan are comparable. The two countries are in very different places and have been shaped by remarkably different historical forces. But the speed with which hopes for democracy soured and turned into civil war in Sudan should prove to us in the U.S. just how important the permanent fight for democratic principles is for the health of this union.

If there is a Sinclair Lewisian lesson to be drawn from the burgeoning crisis in Sudan, it's that democracy and freedom are not guaranteed—ever. Only through continued engagement with present issues and each other will we be able to protect the freedoms we so pride ourselves on

Responses to *The Bachelor's* special report on wrestling

Tyson Nisley '24

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Last week, an article was released in *The Bachelor* about our wrestling program, but not in the typical light that our prestigious program is usually portrayed in. Instead, this was an article piloted by former members of the team criticizing the coaching staff and exemplifying a supposed toxic culture within the team. This article came off to myself and the rest of my teammates as an attack on our program's vision, but it's given me a chance to reflect on what makes the sport of wrestling unique, and as a participant of the sport for over a decade of my life, I'd like to elaborate just a little bit to the general public of Wabash College this sport is really about.

It's hard. Really, really hard. Wrestling demands so much from its athletes. Wrestling looms over your shoulder and consumes your everyday life, from meticulous dieting to rejecting the temptations of the college lifestyle. So it's no surprise that many people on the team struggled with issues regarding mental health. Something very unique about wrestling, compared to most other sports, is that the central focus of your training revolves around mental toughness, whereas

many other sports, like football or basketball, are more largely focused on achieving peak athletic ability and performance. Wrestling regularly places individuals in incredibly difficult situations, and often in the last minute of a seven minute match, it is the mentally tougher wrestler that wins the bout, not the more physically adept. So it would be unusual for the coaches to foster a mentality not revolving around mental toughness. For two hours a day, the coaching staff is designed to bring you to your mental limits, so that you are in familiar waters when in a similar situation at a tournament.

It appalled me that many former wrestlers felt unheard and rejected by our coaching staff. I do believe, however, that many of these athletes fail to understand the role of a coach regarding mental health. A good wrestling coach understands that when placed in a difficult situation, an athlete may consciously or subconsciously be looking for a way out. These moments are often pivotal in someone's athletic career, and good coaches understand that these roadblocks are important to overcome. Success in any sport requires that you embrace the uncomfortable, instead of catering to the adversity to remain comfortable. What I'm going to say next is something I will defend to the grave: quitting something because it is too difficult is never a good decision. Quitting breeds

mediocrity, and those who escape something uncomfortable because it is too difficult danger themselves with a mentality in which adversity in their lives requires that they must escape from it, instead of confronting it. I understand that mental health is a real thing, but I would also argue that continuing to surround yourself with that source of stress is vital for developing someone into a mental fortress, one that can withstand the erraticism of life.

Many people may view wrestling culture as a display of "toxic masculinity," in which we create an environment that discourages quitting and pushes men to stay tough, in simple terms. I would say, however, that there is nothing toxic about mastering your mind and taking on your mental health struggles in a more proactive manner, rather than removing yourself from the stressful environment entirely. The culture that Wabash wrestling tries to create is one that builds Wabash men into highly successful members of society after college, ones that can withstand the trials and tribulations of the real world. To my former teammates, I will never look at you judgmentally for your decision to leave our program. We understand that wrestling isn't for everybody. But reevaluate closely within yourselves if the failure came from the behalf of our team, or yourself.

CORRECTION: Last week's article included a photo of Head Wrestling Coach Brian Anderson alongside a caption that incorrectly labelled a wrestler's mother as Anderson's wife.

Collin Meggison '21

Reply to this opinion at [@themegg_2.0](https://www.instagram.com/themegg_2.0) on Instagram

After reading this article, I am as happy as I am saddened by it. Much of what I read was very reflective of my own experience during my time in the wrestling program. The fact that some of the issues talked about in the last article scarily reflect what was happening back in 2017 is no surprise.

There is heavy favoritism placed on the Wabash wrestling program, to a detrimental degree. When I read that:

"They shifted me around; they wouldn't talk to me and they would coach against me—they would coach whoever I was wrestling with instead of me." It rings as true as the Monon Bell.

I struggled my first year and only began finding my footing late into my second and final year. Towards the end of the season, I was winning what would have been my first match. The only issue was that none of the coaches wanted to coach me, so one of my teammates stepped in. It was only in the last 30 seconds of the match after it was clear I would be winning that one of the coaches came to step in and help out.

Similarly, the role of favoritism is not limited to whom the coaches choose to coach, but also includes who they allow to wrestle. When I was cut from the program, I was informed that the reasoning behind my dismissal was a combination of grades and dedication. In the two years immediately following, I watched as many of my former teammates met similar ends due to various reasons, some with founding, others without.

"I've heard from guys on the team that we've been ridiculed for doing this and ridiculed for speaking out about our concerns because we're 'betraying' the team," said Henry.

I do not believe the environment in the wrestling room is one that correlates with an atmosphere that promotes positive mental health. Further I believe that there is a significant reason for a lack of willingness to come forward by those currently still on roster or seeking their degree. This program has been allowed special privilege and protected by the College, and it condemns its athletes for speaking out. This is a disservice to the spirit of the Gentleman's Rule and what it means to be a Wabash man.

Jared Timmermann '22 and Owen Doster '20

Reply to this opinion at o.d.dost.5@gmail.com

We owe much of the men that we are today to the sport of wrestling. It was the one thing as young men that we felt was exclusively ours. It challenged us in many ways and saved us in others. Wabash College wrestling, Brian Anderson, Eracleo Vallejo, Jake Fredricksen, Dan Del Gallo and the other coaches who have come and gone, along with the school at large, gave us a home. That home like many homes was not resided in without a lot of sacrifice, some pain, but most importantly, a willingness to be selfless at times. We came to Wabash expecting one thing: an opportunity. The opportunity to walk through the doors of the Shelbourne Facility was the only thing granted, and like many of our teammates will echo, that is the only given that Wabash College has to offer.

"An act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy, sacrifice."

What is more important: individual gain or team gain? That seems to be the crux of the issue presented by *The Bachelor* on behalf of the anonymous wrestlers. It is an important decision as wrestling is often an individual sport. However, it is still wrestled on a team with nine other men who want and desire the same things. Sacrifice comes in many forms. For Jared, it was stepping on the mat injured at the National Tournament in Roanoke, Virginia, in 2019 to secure team

points knowing it may end badly. For Owen, it was competing for four years at the same weight-class, and struggling each year to fill that role.

Neither of these anecdotes are to revel in the stories of men who accomplished some things. It is to portray that sacrifice is about committing to something bigger than you until the end.

As we recall, many of the men who come to Wabash commit four years to the program before anything starts. Each of these current anonymous wrestlers did not see the journey through to completion. To them it was not worth it, and they chose not to see it through.

That is their choice, but choosing to step away from something does not give one the right to dismantle it because the end result was not what they anticipated.

Again, our problem is not necessarily with the wrestlers, but with the opinions that were painted as fact. Just as they see bad in Wabash wrestling, many see good.

Growth is a product of time and work. Hard-work and patience make up much of what an athlete goes through. Regardless of sport, an athlete prepares weekly with no immediate reward. With wrestling, this is no different. The men prepare all week to showcase their body of work.

From *The Bachelor* article, one would think that wrestling is the only sport where coaches decisions play a role in playing-time or perceived opportunity. That is far from the truth. What is the truth though? On one hand, *The Bachelor* wants us to be viewed one way, while those intimately involved see it another way, including current and former athletes.

Patience is hard when it is intertwined with something we love. When much of your identity is tied to a state-of-mind and a tangible event, it can be difficult to pivot when the time for that endeavor is up.

Regardless of that, that is our opinion. The opinions of the seven wrestlers who spoke up are different. Each of these men should take the time to reflect on their opinion as well. We do want one thing to be remembered though: each opinion is that—an opinion, a reflection of one's personal experience but does not necessarily extend to the realm of precise fact.

The Bachelor and its one-sided account of the "factual" events going on in the Wabash wrestling program, while scathing, are just a microcosm of the truth and experiences of many men that have donned the scarlet and white.

Also, it is hard to find accountability in anonymity. The context of anonymity safeguards those choosing to step forward from taking any personal accountability. As young men we make mistakes and often want those to go unnoticed. The proposition that these men "did all the right things and did not step out of line" is preposterous and known to be false. However, it is not expected that each wrestler be perfect, yet accountable and responsible for his own actions as the Gentlemen's Rule dictates.

One may question if blaming, tarnishing, or hating the coaching staff or the Wabash wrestling program without taking person responsibility as a whole is the Wabash way. Nonetheless, it should fall on *The Bachelor* to maintain the sanctity of fair reporting.

David Miller

Reply to this opinion at dwmiller1313@gmail.com

Last week's *Bachelor* contained reports critical of coach Brian Anderson and Wabash's wrestling program. For more than 20 years, I have closely observed Wabash wrestling as a wrestler's dad, recruiter, fundraiser, mentor, volunteer and advocate. There are few Wabash wrestlers in those 20 years whom I have not met and had many conversations with. I start by saying no Wabash wrestler has ever claimed to me he found Coach Anderson unfair or ill tempered. They do tell me he is challenging, tough minded, supports winners and demands the best.

Between 1999-2004, Wabash had four wrestling coaches, producing only two national qualifiers. The sport's leadership was a revolving door, and the team reflected it. The team struggled to field a full roster. Each freshman class was five or six recruits,

at best. There was no recruiting. By senior year, usually only two or three wrestlers remained. Coach Anderson changed that. For the last 10 years, the average freshman class is 24 wrestlers, [and] recruiting is a year-round job. Wabash consistently sends five to seven qualifiers to nationals and is recognized as a top destination for serious athletes. Academics remain strong, with a team 3.55 GPA and seven Academic All-Americans. The wrestling team is the embodiment of Wabash—best in the classroom and best on the field (mat).

The Bachelor's sources complain the injured ride stationary bikes. An injured wrestler can't drill or wrestle, but needs to be in the room, with the team, and do something physical. The former wrestlers said they were called "losers" or "quitters". Motivating someone to excel is a challenge and many approaches are necessary. But at the end of the day, the very hard reality is that losing or quitting will not get a Wabash man where he needs to be.

In a culture that gives ribbons for participation, sees rising GPA's while test

scores show academic performance declining, and our cultural norm is to accept obesity, the real truth is: losing, mediocrity, being fat and quitting are diseases that will destroy us. If Wabash does not teach that, the workplace will.

I am immensely proud of my son and Wabash graduate who owns several successful businesses and gives back to the College. We both credit the "Wabash accepts only the best" attitude. His freshman year he wanted to quit wrestling, the then coach ridiculed him. It worked, he came back and competed for four years. I am also very proud of dozens of Wabash wrestlers I have known in 20+ years who now are doctors, lawyers, sales reps, business owners, pastors, teachers and CEOs. These guys don't quit, complain or lose. They go 110%! That is what Wabash, Coach Anderson and wrestling taught them. I harbor a fervent hope that my 11-year-old grandson will someday be a part of this Wabash legacy. The world is a difficult place, best if our Wabash guys realize that here and now.

and multiple Top 10 Scholastic team finishes. These accolades are the product of a talented leader engaging his team and challenging them to seek excellence in every single aspect of their lives. I remember the meetings when Brian pushed us to hit these goals. He was clear that he wanted us to develop a competitive edge and winning mindset that would benefit us in life after school. Brian set the highest of expectations for us—but treated us like men. We were expected to take care of ourselves and our health, both physical and mental, and to reach out for help when it was needed. In my time at Wabash, I can say that Brian was the loudest voice in the room preaching that we should do things the right way. I also remember when he personally intervened for me, at a time when most coaches would have seen a struggling sixth string, and cut me loose.

Wabash is fortunate to have a leader at the helm like Anderson. If he chose to leave Wabash, his biggest problem would be figuring out how to navigate through the deluge of programs desperate to get him in their employ. I'm completely certain in saying that the overwhelming majority of alums of Wabash Wrestling give Brian their full vote of confidence. It's time that the College itself publicly does the same.

Duane Hile '67

Reply to this opinion at hilehmc@aol.com

I will begin by saying thank you for confirming that wrestling is "the College's most successful athletics program." Too few on campus realize that.

First, there is a Counseling Center with licensed and trained personnel for mental issues and the wrestling coaches and college doctors for physical issues. Each department addresses its area of expertise. Quotes from both Coach [Brian] Anderson and [Athletic Director Matt] Tanney confirm their support for mental health and the campus resources.

Second, athletes quit for a variety of reasons that can be labeled "stress": academics, family, friends, personal commitment and others. Quitting has occurred forever; in my freshman year there were 12 classmates with me on the team, and in my senior year I was the only one left. Attrition is part of any sport. In fact, attrition is part of any college's general population, including Wabash.

Third, the nature of collegiate competition has changed significantly over time so that internal wrestle-offs (we used to call them challenge matches) have been replaced largely by open tournaments. Instead of only one man per weight class competing in a given competition, we now have a virtually unlimited number. It doesn't take long in practice to understand your opponents' strengths and weaknesses, which weakens the significance of the wrestle-offs. I have witnessed wrestlers winning wrestle-offs then "choking" in varsity matches because they couldn't handle the pressure. However, as noted in [the] article, the open tournament provides a first-hand evaluation of varsity performance. Again, this phenomenon is similar to any sport—some athletes are "practice" and some are "varsity". Part of good coaching is recognizing the difference.

Wrestling alumni, past and present parents, and opposing coaches with whom I've connected have the highest respect for Coach Anderson and his staff. These WC coaches have done an excellent job of taking Wabash consistently to the top level nationally. How many other Wabash teams have accomplished that?

[Editor's note: Last week's special report included the perspectives of anonymous former wrestlers alongside voices from the head coach, the athletic director and the most recent national champion. *The Bachelor* also reached out to an assistant coach and four current wrestlers, none of whom responded.]

Restoring Trust in America: Lessons from the Wabash community



Bryce McCullough '23
Reply to this opinion at
abmcull23@wabash.edu

In my senior capstone paper for PPE, I argued that community associations could help revive trust in American institutions and in each other, which is vital to protect the liberal rights arrangements that make our democracy thrive. As I look back on my time at Wabash College, I realize that our culture serves as a glowing example of how to restore the ties that bind us.

The U.S. is facing a crisis of trust, which goes beyond elections and violates many American norms, as seen in the accusations of voter fraud and illegitimacy surrounding recent presidential elections, along with unprecedented riots across the country.

Institutional trust in the United States has fallen sharply in recent decades, leading to a crisis of social and political confidence. Trust in our fellow citizens, our government and our democracy has plummeted since the 1970s, and partisan distrust has also reached alarming levels.

In 2019, only 17% of Americans reported trusting the government in Washington, compared to over 70% in the 1970s. Around 70% of Republicans and Democrats report distrust of the opposing party's supporters, leading to social alienation and broken friendships and family relationships. For the first time ever, the U.S. was classified in

2021 as a “backsliding democracy” in a global assessment of democratic societies.

Community associations play a crucial role in the social trust of America, as argued by Tocqueville in his book “Democracy in America”. Civic associations are essential to human flourishing because people form them with or without government intervention, and they promote trust when people with diverse identities interact with each other, helping members see people of different political beliefs as allies and fellow human beings.

However, participation in civic associations has been declining over the years, which can lead to government intervention. The decline in participation in community organizations also affects the promotion of political trust, where citizens rely on government officials to follow institutional rules tied to the public purposes of social institutions.

The United States desperately needs a culture that values community and accountability to restore trust in institutions and each other. Fortunately, there is a model for this culture: Wabash College.

At Wabash, community ties have always been our strength, which is why the rest of the country should follow our culture to promote a healthier and more collaborative democracy. The Gentleman's Rule and mission statement, “Wabash College educates men to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely,” are at the heart of our culture.

Wabash's culture promotes personal responsibility and accountability, essential for building trust, which is lacking in our political institutions. The College emphasizes the importance of personal integrity, critical for building trust in our fellow human beings and their work in bettering society.

Students are expected to take responsibility for their actions and the consequences of

their choices through the Gentleman's rule. Accountability is a significant factor that contributes to trust-building, and Wabash sets young men up to be reliable and accountable individuals, cooperating with others.

Wabash College's culture also promotes community building and connection, essential for restoring trust. The College offers many outlets such as TGIFs, Chapel Sing, Homecoming, Pan-Hel, the Sphinx Club, Student Senate, IFC, IMA and fraternities that foster an environment of community, connection and mutual respect.

These outlets create a sense of obligation to others, with individuals cooperating to fulfill their duty to be upstanding citizens. While it is impossible to replicate the ties we have at a small liberal arts college, the values we cultivate here can be practiced anywhere.

At Wabash, we form connections with our peers through fraternities and clubs, faculty and staff through class, office hours and faculty dinners, and coaches through sports. These associations create a sense of belonging and foster relationships based on mutual respect and trust. Many people feel disconnected and isolated in America. We feel as if we can't trust one another. Our bubble at Wabash College has proven to be the direct opposite of that.

As our nation strives to revive trust and decrease polarization, communities should look right here at the culture Wabash men have built over decades. If other communities were like ours, we might find it easier to trust one another a little bit better, and our democracy would be in a much better state.

I, for one, will take the Wabash spirit with me in an effort to show others how we should live together and cooperate with one another to solve problems. I encourage you all to do the same.

Small artists are already on campus



Julia Phipps
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The editorials and conversations surrounding National Act continue to focus on bringing smaller acts to campus and being more fiscally responsible with the Senate funding. As the Academic Administrative Coordinator in the Fine Arts Center, I have news for the student body: smaller acts are already coming to campus several times a year.

I'm on the Visiting Artists Series (VAS) committee, and we've brought in artists large and small to Salter Hall and Ball Theater. The VAS strives to bring artists that are enticing to the student body, the campus community and Crawfordsville at large. We also want the artists to enmesh themselves in campus for a day or two, visiting classes, hosting workshops, giving lunch talks and teaching masterclasses.

This year's season featured a one-woman play, a tango group, a Japanese puppetry company and a capoeira troupe. Past seasons have included Straight No Chaser, Aquila Theatre Company, Taiko drumming, David Sedaris, Manual Cinema, magicians, musicians, live podcasts and more. Tickets are always free, but you should reserve them in advance (an editorial for another day), especially when a popular band is coming to campus.

Next season we are bringing four artists that I am super stoked to see. Carrie Newcomer is a folk musician who has some super fans in Crawfordsville. She was on campus in 2016 for a sold-out concert, and this time around she'll be visiting some classes and working with the Glee Club. Kristina Wong is an incredible Asian-American comedian who will be performing Kristina Wong for Public Office, a timely parody of an election campaign. If you want to be onstage as a part of her show, let me or Prof. Strader know! There's an opportunity you'd never have with National Act.

The Doubleclicks is the band I'm personally most excited for because I'm a huge dork. They write songs about nerd culture, dinosaurs, lasers and feelings, cats and songs filled with puns and joy. Then we finish the season with 9 Horses, who will be having a mini-residency with the Music department, teaching about chamber music and where the lines between folk art and fine art cross.

The entire VAS season is less expensive than National Act. We work within our VAS budget to find the artists we can afford and that we think you might enjoy.

But here's the deal: I have no idea what's cool anymore. This will happen to you when you're in your 30s also. My taste in music and art is kind of weird and very nerdy, with a splash of "I lived in Austin ten years ago and this was cool when I was 23." If you have an artist, a musician, a podcast, a comedian, a magician, an actor, an improv troupe and/or a band you want to see on campus, please email me and let me know the name of the act you'd like to have come to campus. I can't promise anything, but I will give the committee that information so we can try to bring your act or something like it to campus.

When you're lamenting the lack of cool things to do on campus, try walking across Grant Avenue and visiting the FAC for one night. I'll even get you home by 10:00p.m. so you can have an afterparty.

LGBTQ+ rights: Iran and the U.S.



Sean Bledsoe '26
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If you pay attention to American politics today, you know a majority of the hot topics that are discussed by politicians, news networks and everyday U.S. Citizens. Gun control, abortion, climate change and terrorism are just a few. One topic in particular is one that has been quite controversial on campus, in our state, on a national level and even on the international level: LGBTQ+ rights and homophobia.

As far as homophobia goes here on campus, it depends on who you ask. I have heard both points of view. I have heard people say that homophobia is not an issue on campus and that people are too sensitive when it comes to that topic. I have also heard people say that homophobia is an issue on campus and that we need to do more to stop the hate. Either way, we cannot disregard this issue as it has been a constant headline in our state's news.

HB 1608 (which essentially prohibits the discussion and acknowledgment of LGBTQ+ people in schools through banning conversations about sexuality) has been a source of debate since February. On the national level, it has been a clear point of emphasis for President Biden to advance LGBTQ+ equality during his presidency as he, along with plenty of other Americans, believes that LGBTQ+ people are at a disadvantage in this country.

While life for members of the community may be viewed as difficult here in the states, the lives of LGBTQ+ people in other countries are significantly tougher. One of these countries is Iran.

Throughout the past ten years, the Iranian government has made it clear through their laws and legislation that they believe that homosexuality is a crime. According to Human Dignity Trust, an organization working globally to challenge anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, these laws can be found under Penal Code 2013 in eight particular articles that essentially state any form of same-sex intimacy will result in a number of lashes (whipping) and that any form of sexual intercourse will result in the death penalty.

Obviously the Iranian military and police forces work for the national government to help enforce the laws, including the ones concerning homosexual actions. Human Dignity Trust has publicly stated that they have found evidence suggesting that LGBTQ+ citizens are frequently being mistreated

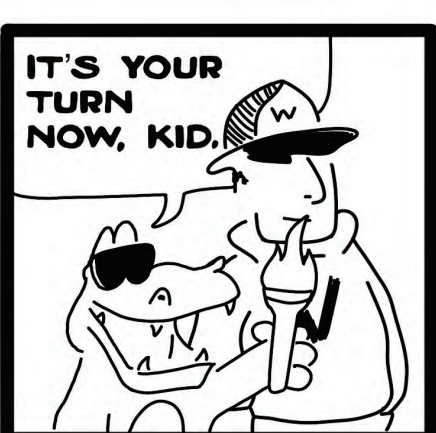
while being arrested (including harassment, assault, and even murder). Because of the lack of support for community members in Iran, there is no backlash for the military and police forces for their treatment on queer people.

The reasoning behind the discrimination on the Iranian LGBTQ+ community lies in some interpretations of Islam. Similarly to other religions, Islam and the Koran states that homosexuality and same-gender sex is a sin. The Koran does state that men having sexual intercourse with each other should be punished, but it does not specifically say how they should be punished. With that in mind, Iranian laws clearly reflect the government's beliefs on how they do not want any form homosexuality in their country.

These laws make these acts of love out to be “homosexual crimes.” Not only does the government publicly portray these actions as crimes, they physically punish people for simply expressing their love for someone else (who just so happens to be the same gender). These harsh physical punishments like lashing and even the death penalty are cruel and unusual.

The way I see it is that there is a lack of respect for basic human rights. Everyone should have the right to love, regardless of their sexuality. This entire story makes me want to ask one question. How does who you fellow Wabash men love affect you in any way, shape, or form? Hint: it shouldn't.

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Morillo's parting gift: A slew of (mostly-true) memories

‘Artichoke liqueur, shirtless comprehensive exams and an all-time faculty basketball draft’

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23, JAKOB GOODWIN '23, COOPER E. SMITH '23 | SPORTS EDITOR, MANAGING EDITOR, SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • On a cold March night in his final semester, the legendary history professor walked into the Crawfordsville-beloved Backstep Brewing Company, armed with his classic Birkenstocks and socks. Peering from beneath his staple black felt Outback hat, he spotted three senior editors of *The Bachelor* waiting for him at the far end of the bar, offering the first of many cocktails in exchange for (mostly-true) tales from a 34-year career as a Wabash history professor.

In the classroom, Professor Stephen Morillo H'91's historical themes have focused on world history, medieval history and military history. Of all the courses he's taught, one of his favorites—which demonstrates his albeit-quirky style—was World Naval and Maritime History 1000-1800, which he co-taught with Professor of Chemistry Dr. Lon Porter.

“Why Lon Porter in Chemistry, you ask? Because I invented a tabletop naval combat game, and he was my game master,” Morillo said. “And that works so beautifully. We had big battles going on, and it was such a great course.”

As a long-serving chair of the history department, Morillo has seen his fair share of senior comprehensive exams. Many were good. Others were not.

Morillo explained a secret deal struck during an otherwise-successful oral comp. The comp started off strong and normal, with great free-flowing discussion. But somehow, during the exam, Morillo and the student agreed that the ultimate comp grade would depend not on his oral performance, but on a one-on-one game of Formula D (a racing board game) the next day. “He came back the next day, and he did well enough to pass,” said Morillo.

“One of my favorite things for making cocktails these days is Cynar, an artichoke liqueur.”

- Stephen Morillo H'91

But not all students demonstrated such academic or board game mastery. During Morillo's first year—in one of his first ever comps—he served as major examiner. As Morillo recalled, one student was so nervous, sweating and visually shaking. He kept missing early softball questions. So Morillo tried something different.

“So I tried to back it off,” said Morillo. “Just let him tell us about himself. I asked, ‘You grew up on a farm, right? Did you have a dog? What's your dog's name?’” The student could not answer. “He could not remember his f—king dog's name,” Morillo laughed. “That's how frozen up he was.”

But it all worked out in the end. The panel decided to tell the student to come back and retry his oral comp in March. As Morillo put it, he came back with no problems, did a great job and passed.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Morillo gives a speech at his retirement party on April 5, 2023.



COURTESY OF RAMSEY ARCHIVES

A satirical poster published in *The Bastard* on March 31, 2006.

Other Morillo comps stories were just... odd. He told of an early 2000s oral comp with a double major in history and art. Morillo described him as a conventionally-attractive, stereotypically-art-major-looking guy.

“He walked into the comps wearing short shorts, boots and nothing else,” said Morillo. “He passed! He did just fine.”

Morillo is a cocktail enthusiast, with tastes ranging from the classics to the bizarre. He always loves a good Old Fashioned or Gin and Tonic (many rounds of which were necessary to produce this article). He also mentioned Aviations and Paper Planes, classic drinks that his wife Lynn is also a fan of. But it's not all standard recipes.

“One of my favorite things for making cocktails these days is Cynar, an artichoke liqueur,” said Morillo.

[Editor's note: *The Bachelor* made sure to verify that Morillo truly said “artichoke” and that he was comfortable releasing this detail on the record]

“It goes great with bourbon, cranberry juice and Angostura bitters,” said Morillo. “It's got a kind of earthy flavor and an undertone of bitterness to it. That goes really well with things without overpowering with its own flavor.”

Dr. Morillo swore that he has, in fact, served cocktails with artichoke liqueur to other (presumably human) people, who he swore enjoyed them.

Beyond the jovial historian is also an artist. Morillo recalled his worst job ever: graphic designer for a plastic cup company in his childhood home of New Orleans. Morillo designed the art for commemorative cups, including many cups for Mardi Gras.

He fondly recalled his favorite

product from that job: designing the commemorative cup for the Pope's visit to New Orleans in September 1987.

“I drew it—the atheist drew it!,” said Morillo. “So I put my signature on his sleeve, as if it were a Morillo-designer cask-sock.”

Morillo has continuously fed his artistic streak, whether in New Orleans, Oxford or Crawfordsville. Over his Wabash career, he contributed many editorial cartoons to *The Bachelor*, eventually teaching student cartoonists in his “Cartooning 101” series.

“I’ve had plenty of ‘aha!’ moments in class and good feedback. That positive feedback really makes me feel like I’m in the profession for a reason—it pays off.”

- Stephen Morillo H'91

Morillo is also an NBA player—no, not that one. The Noontime Basketball Association is a group of faculty and staff (and years ago, townies) who play basketball against one another. Morillo is a firm believer in what he describes as the “ancient Greek liberal-arts mindset”—a holistic education focusing on strong minds as well as strong bodies. To fuel his academic and artistic endeavors, he has been a long-time player in these faculty basketball games.

“The best remaining part of my game at this point is passing,” said Morillo. Nevertheless, we asked him to draw upon his many

Twenty Questions and One Answer With: Steven Morillo

by Gary E. Hester

Name: Steven J. Morillo
Alma Mater: Harvard '80
Age: 31
Birthplace: Ann Arbor, Michigan
Hometown: New Orleans

1. What did you do after receiving your Doctorate? I worked as a graphic artist and cartoonist for the *Gambit*, a New Orleans weekly.
 2. When did you begin your teaching career? I taught part time at Loyola in '87, and taught full time at University of Georgia, Athens in '88.
 3. Aside from the music scene, what did you think of U of G? It was a good year for me professionally, but I was glad to leave.
 4. Why did you decide to teach at Wabash? They made me an early offer, and a very good offer indeed.
 5. What is your exact position? Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of History
 6. What is your primary area of interest in the field of History? Medieval history, especially military history.
 7. What do you think of Crawfordsville? It is close to Indianapolis, wheel!
 8. What do you do for fun? I play with my four cats.
 9. What was your first impression of Crawfordsville? Despite seeing it in mid-winter, pretty good.
 10. If you could change one thing about Wabash, what would it be? Move it out of Crawfordsville, and make it co-ed.
 11. What do you think of George Bush? A kinder, gentler fascist.
 12. Compared to Bush, what is your impression of Dan Quayle? I pray for the continued good health of the “kinder, gentler fascist.”
 13. Is it true that like Hitler, Quayle has only one testicle? No comment.
 14. What is the biggest threat in the world today? MNC's. Multi national corporations.
 15. Why? Because ethics to an MNC are not important, and the union of MNC interests and national security -directed states produces fascist repression.
 16. If the government should not be serving the evil interests of the MNC, who should they be serving? All of the people, naturally.
 17. If the government does not serve “all of the people” equally, do institutions like Wabash have a responsibility to change this? Yes. Making people aware of this is one of the functions of a liberal arts school.
 18. Do you feel Wabash is meeting this responsibility? In the classroom, yes, socially, no.
 19. What do you feel to be your greatest challenge at Wabash? Getting up for the 6am Thursday radio show.
 20. What is the greatest painting in the history of Western Art? Las Meninas by Velazquez.
- Answer: Minority recruitment.
Question: What is the reason Morris Price has been too busy to have my wife and I over for dinner.

COURTESY OF RAMSEY ARCHIVES

A Q&A with then-new Professor Morillo published in *The Bachelor*.

years of experience to draft his all-time faculty basketball team. After placing himself at point guard, Morillo provided the following roster:

Shooting Guard, Team Captain: former professor of English Tobey Herzog H'11

Small Forward: Dean of Admissions Chip Timmons '96

Power Forward: former professor of mathematics Mike Axtell
Center: Professor of Psychology Preston Bost

All this talk of warfare, masculinity and athletics led to a question too-oft repeated from the lips of errant Fox News hosts: are today's men less masculine than they used to be? Have Wabash men gone soft?

Morillo doesn't think so. He recently taught the same course—War and Conflict in the Middle Ages—both at Wabash and at West Point.

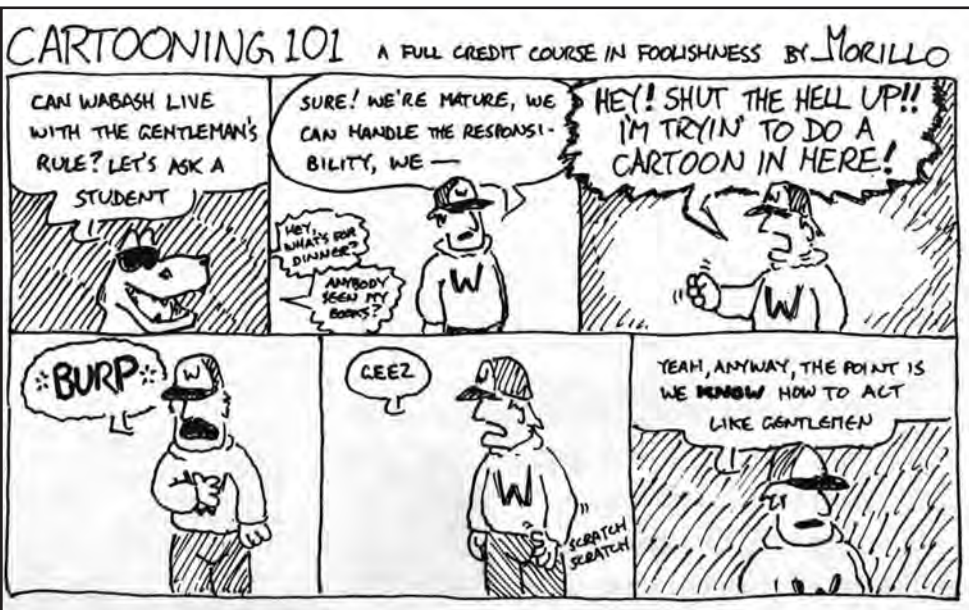
“Wabash men way out-performed the West Point cadets on that one,” Morillo said. “Wabash

students are just more creative, and that's partly West Point's fault. I had a couple students in that class tell me it was the first time they really felt like they were in college. West Point micromanages every decision about their lives, they don't teach leadership or teach people how to make good decisions.”

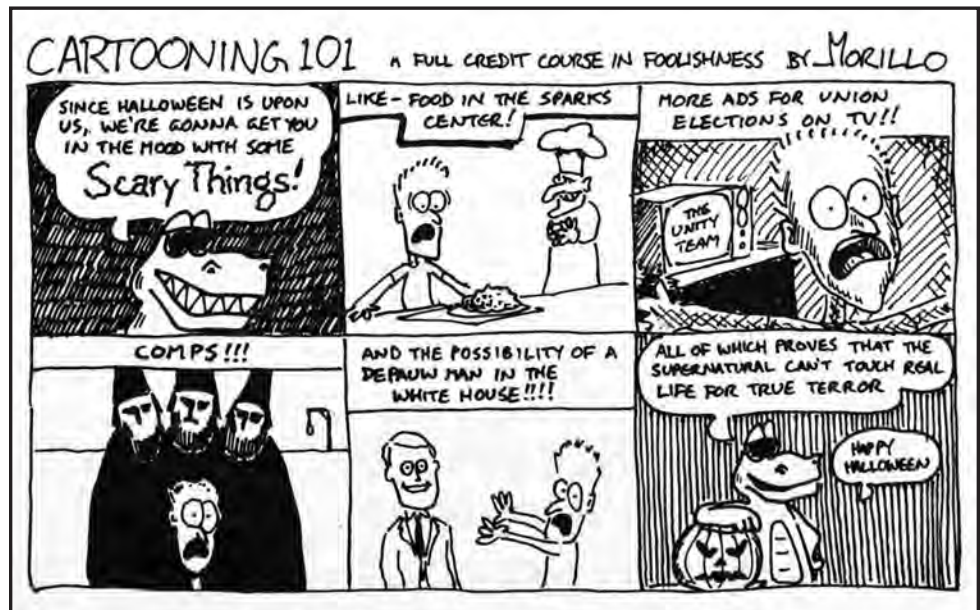
And in moments like these, Morillo realized that Wabash was indeed the right place for his storied, varied and quirky career.

“This has been a good place for me to teach,” Morillo said. “Both because I like teaching and I've liked the students. Wabash guys have relatively low levels of cynicism and low levels of privilege, and are therefore really rewarding to teach. I've had plenty of ‘aha!’ moments in class and good feedback. That positive feedback really makes me feel like I'm in the profession for a reason—it pays off.”

Farewell, loyal son.



COURTESY OF RAMSEY ARCHIVES



COURTESY OF RAMSEY ARCHIVES

Senior spotlight: AJ Miller '23

'I'm pushing the barrier of what art is'

ELIJAH GREENE '25 | PHOTO EDITOR • When I met with AJ Miller '23 for our conversation about his senior spotlight, the art major and economics minor had donned the traditional post-initiation rhyne outfit befitting a senior Sphinx Club member. Not his traditional look, but very few things about Miller are traditional.

To start, Miller is a native of Carmel, IN—but did not grow up in the suburbs. His family bought and lived on their family farm long before the affluent addition of Indianapolis became a flourishing metropolis.

"My parents bought the farm before Carmel became what it is today. Carmel was built around us," said Miller.

After graduating from St. Theodore Guerin Catholic High School in Noblesville, IN, Miller decided on Wabash because of its nontraditional traditions. Something about Wabash's uniqueness and its out-of-the ordinary campus traditions persuaded Miller that Crawfordsville was the place for him.

His time since has been just as unorthodox as he hoped. Coming in as a freshman, Miller thought he would embark on the pre-med track, but after his first-ever art class, he decided to switch his major completely to something he was truly passionate about: art.

"I didn't take a single art class in high school," said Miller. "I just doodled. And then I came to Wabash, I took art classes my fresh-

man year, and absolutely fell in love with the craft."

Armed with his new passion, Miller forged forward in his Wabash journey, earning his pot and stripes as a Sphinx Club member and playing lacrosse along the way. But there was always a sense of unease surrounding his own art. He wasn't satisfied with his level of creativity.

"I got into this habit of constantly creating," said Miller, "but I felt like I had a longing for something more: to be uncomfortable. I felt like I was being too comfortable in my own space, and then I found performance art."

One of Miller's performance art pieces this semester was the talk of Wabash for a month. He sat outside on the Mall, in plain view, meditating and stacking bricks. No one could understand the point, but Miller did.

"I just do what I want and then I see if it's called art," said Miller. "I'm pushing this barrier of what art is. That's my objective. I feel like there's so many lines that haven't been crossed."

Miller has certainly been pushing. And people in the art space have begun to take notice. On March 31, 2023, Miller opened his first solo show 'Persona' at the Kuaba Art Gallery in his hometown of Carmel.

"[The show] was all paintings and it was super unique, because solo shows for someone my age are super rare. I had an incredible op-

portunity with this.

Along with the Wabash Senior ART Exhibition debuting on April 22, when Miller and his two fellow senior art majors were featured, Miller has his performance art on full display for those at the opening.

While all this exposure is certainly beneficial for a young artist, Miller has his sights set on loftier goals.

"After I graduate, I don't want to do anything but create [for] my entire life," said Miller. "It's the biggest passion I have. I want to discover myself more in the next three months, so this summer I'm going to just create."

Once his summer of self-discovery ends, though, Miller has the opportunity for an apprenticeship in Africa, with an artist in Zimbabwe. And Miller's plans don't end there. He plans to return to the U.S. for graduate school, hoping to study for his Master's in Fine Arts to continue his development as an artist.

"The thing about [art] is that it's a discovery about myself," said Miller. "Each work I produce projects a new reflection of who I am. My process is kind of weird."

But this weirdness is no stranger to the likes of Wabash College. Miller's approach may be unorthodox, but his methods fit in just fine here in Crawfordsville.

If you would like to visit Miller's work, the Senior Exhibition closes on May 13 and the Kuaba Gallery will be hosting Miller's show throughout the summer.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Alumnus feature: Joe Kiley '61

'My loyalty is as deep as it can get'



COURTESY OF @THEMASTERS ON INSTAGRAM

The hat that broke the Internet.

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | STAFF WRITER • Three weeks ago, the 87th edition of the Masters took place in Augusta, Georgia with Spaniard Jon Rahm walking away wearing the coveted Green Jacket. The official Instagram page of The Masters—with more than 1.3 million followers—kept the sports world engaged with nonstop photo coverage of the four-day tournament. But out of all the photos shared during the week, none got more traction among the Wabash community than that of a Masters superfan donning an iconic green and gold cap, adorned with more than 38 hatpins—beloved Wally Wabash and the iconic Wabash "W" pinned front and center.

"If you quote me on anything, I just love Wabash."

- Joe Kiley '61

But who is the man under the hat? The answer is none other than Wabash alumnus Joe Kiley '61, whose obvious love for golf is only overshadowed by his love for his alma mater.

Kiley arrived at Wabash after a single semester at Notre Dame, interrupted by a four-year stint serving the United States in the Korean War in the Navy. After his service, he could have gone back to Notre Dame, the school that all his family had attended.

"I have never missed a year donating to Wabash. I wish I was richer so I could give you all more. My loyalty is as deep as it can get."

- Joe Kiley '61

"But [I] decided at the last minute to stay at Wabash," said Kiley. "And that was the best decision of my life."

While at Wabash, Kiley donned his first pin-filled hat as a member of the Sphinx Club. He also spent his Wabash days as a proud brother of Phi Delta Theta and—you guessed it—an avid golfer on the golf team.

Kiley spent the next 47 years in the insurance industry in Kokomo after graduation. Upon

retirement, he got involved in the Service Club of Indianapolis and he now lives on the north side of Indy. His current daily life is one to be envied: "I have been retired for 23 years, and I play golf five times a week."

Kiley loves to donate and give back to the college that he is so proud of, and he has for the past 67 years.

"I have never missed a year donating to Wabash," says Kiley. "I wish I was richer so I could give you all more. My loyalty is as deep as it can get."

Kiley sees the quality of Wabash men as being some of the best in Indiana, and he believes that Wabash truly sets its graduates up for the future.

"I tell everybody that I will take our graduates up against any school in the state," says Kiley. "This is the best group of people in the world. I am very proud of being a graduate of Wabash."

Kiley's love for Wabash is apparent even after graduating over a half-century ago. He is sure to represent Wabash at each Masters tournament he attends for the rest of his life.

"If you quote me on anything, I just love Wabash," said Kiley.

Faculty farewell: Dr. Sabrina Thomas

'Constantly learning and moving'

COOPER SMITH '23 | SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • In an exciting personal move—though one leaving a major vacancy in the history department—History Department Chair and Associate Professor of History Dr. Sabrina Thomas is headed for warmer climates. At the end of this semester, Dr. Thomas will leave Wabash to become the Associate Professor of African American History at Texas Tech University.

Dr. Thomas started at Wabash College in 2015, earning tenure during the 2020–2021 year, becoming the first Black woman to receive tenure in the College's history. Her research centers on U.S. foreign policy and how it intersects with race, gender and war. Dr. Thomas's first book, "Scars of War: The Politics of Paternity and Responsibility for the Amerasians of Vietnam" received the Phi Alpha Theta Best First Book Award in 2021.

"She's open-minded and constantly learning and moving," said Associate Professor of History Dr. Rick Warner. "There's nothing slow about her. Even just walking around campus, my 66-year-old legs can barely keep up, even if we're just going to the next building. I've definitely appreciated her in her time here."

Among Wabash students, Dr. Thomas is known for being one of

the toughest professors on campus. Each registration season, underclassmen cautiously ask upperclassmen questions such as "Just how much reading is in a Thomas course?" or "Can I actually survive one?"

Dr. Thomas has certainly earned her tough but kind reputation, and she knows it.

"I do have high expectations," Dr. Thomas said. "I feel like that's where you should be in college—you should raise your expectations of yourself. I think that's critical. It's our job to teach you that, because that's the only way you'll be successful in life. Maybe that's an old school view—but I find it to be true."

Texas Tech is home to the world's largest archive on the Vietnam War, and it is currently fundraising to build the national Vietnam War museum on its campus. As much of Thomas's work focuses on the children born and left behind in American conflicts—especially the Vietnam war—this position provides an enticing research opportunity.

"I'm hoping I will be able to add the voices of Black soldiers into that archive, and I'm super excited about that," said Dr. Thomas. "It's an R1 university, so it gives me a bigger platform not only to continue my research, but also to be able to connect with the community on these topics.



COURTESY OF BOWSTRING STUDIOS

Though leaving soon, Thomas offers a vision of Wabash—one that focuses on its stated priorities of belonging and inclusion—that leverages its culture and resources to promote an enriching, well-supported academic community Black studies.

"I have always believed that Wabash—especially because of the Malcolm X Institute for Black Studies—could be a place that could capitalize on scholarship that deals with race and gender," Dr. Thomas said. "I feel like with the MXI, this could be a place where you could have Black

scholars who are established, who are well-renowned to come and study. To come integrate themselves in a community where you have Black men and white men, both populations that are facing challenges in different ways. And I feel like it's missing the boat to go with the status quo and not rock the boat."

To achieve this vision, Dr. Thomas feels that the Wabash community needs to focus specifically on how to recruit and retain faculty of color, especially Black faculty.

"I do think there are a lot of blind

spots when it comes to faculty of color, specifically to Black faculty," Dr. Thomas said. "I've been really happy to see the quick turnaround that the administration has been able to support with new hires, specifically focusing on Latino faculty and students. I think that's really good, and I commend them for that. I just don't see the same kind of dedication to specifically Black faculty or Black students. And I think that's going to that's a blind spot that is going to hurt in the long run."

To Wabash students, Dr. Thomas offers the following advice:

"Continue to challenge the institution—and yourselves—to progress," Dr. Thomas said. "If our students aren't evolving in their thinking while they're here, we're failing. You guys are the ones who are living in the world that we're preparing you for. And we're outdated. We date ourselves really quickly, because you're in motion, and we're static."

"This is your opportunity to figure out who you're supposed to be not only as a man, but your civic duty as a political person, whatever that means to you," Dr. Thomas said. "You're in a safe space—for lack of a better term—here, to try out different ways to do that, to get your voice heard and to get change to happen. You will never be in a space like this again."

Sudoku

6		5	3			1	9	
9		4			5			7
1	8	7			2	5		
	6			1	9		5	
	9		2			7	8	6
	4	2		5	6	3		
4		6	9				3	
8					3	2		1
2	1		5	6	8			4

Easy

4		3	1			9	6	
			9	4		1		
9			6			4	3	
6		1				4	3	
			2		1		5	8
		5	4		7	2		1
5					6	1		9
	3			2		5		
	7			9				4

Medium

	9		2	5				
	2	7				1		
5					1		2	
			7				1	2
		1		9			3	
6	7	4	1					
4	5			8		7	9	
	8		9	1		2		3
					7			5

Hard

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of Indianapolis

Congratulations, Jack Heldt '23
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Scholar-Athlete Award Winner



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500 Festival Mini Marathon on May 6


'The end of an era'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
	20			21						22				
			23					24						
25	26	27		28		29		30			31	32	33	
34			35		36		37				38			
39				40		41				42				
	43				44				45					
			46											
47	48	49		50				51			52	53	54	
55			56					57		58				
59						60	61	62						
63					64						65			
66					67						68			

- Across**

1. Fortune's partner
5. Mosey
10. I owe you one?
14. Sign in a store window
15. Chucklehead
16. Pink
17. Apt name for a scientist?
18. Crannies
19. Where rials are spent
20. *George R. R. Martin quote, part one*
23. [Nod]
24. Musical follower of "Live" or "Farm"
25. Car ad fig.
28. Dining custom that might differ between cultures
30. The G.O.A.T., maybe
31. Neighbor of Ken.
34. Oracle, say
36. Pond scum
38. Crash pad
39. Vietnamese capital
41. Prefix with "rock"
42. Alley rentals
43. *Quote, part two*
46. Naan or pita, e.g.
47. Big mouth
50. "____ Poetica" (Horace work)
51. Goof
52. X
55. Movies with "12," "13" and "8" sequels
57. Subway systems
59. *Quote, part three*
63. Goddess with a peacock emblem
64. Belted hunter
65. Unused, as hands
66. Uses an abacus, maybe
67. Accounts
68. Certain soldiers
- Down**

1. Frequent London phenomenon
2. Hylobatidae and sapiens
3. Drop-down offering
4. Foe
5. Jason Bourne's obstacle
6. Tie up
7. Furrowed feature
8. Mischief maker of myth
9. Chain up
10. Like prunes and raisins
11. Profit
12. Brangelina half
13. X
21. Got to know
22. Piercing place
25. Pokémon protagonist
26. Plants in a pod
27. Apt rhyme for "casino"
29. Implicating pieces of evidence, maybe
30. Ripen
31. Straighten out, say
32. Fibbed
33. Weightroom units: Abbr.
35. Canopy
37. Goopy mass
38. Central african republic
40. Off the coast
42. Wall Street units
44. Eavesdrop-able distance
45. People from Potsdam
47. Starbucks order
48. Pined
49. "Al" of musical fame
52. Doctrine
53. Boughs used to "deck the halls"
54. Keys
56. "Shucks!"
58. Annoying person
60. Popstar Rita
61. Lubricant, or lubricate
62. Jane in court
- 
- Scan for solution!

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Track and field hits the home stretch

Little Giants win Indiana DIII Championships, finish fourth at Rose-Hulman

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS WRITER • As the semester draws to a close, the Wabash track and field team is rounding the final turn in their season and looks ahead to the final stretch, the NCAC conference tournament. But before the final leg of the race, the team will have one last tournament to put the finishing touches on the regular season.

The Little Giants have been in peak form the last few weeks. The team captured the top spot in the Indiana Division III Championships at DePauw on April 15. They then followed up the win with a fourth place finish in the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Twilight Invitational.

Brayden Curnutt '25 took home the top spots in the 1500m race in both meets, as well as the first place finish in the 3000m race at Rose-Hulman. For this, he was named NCAC Men's Outdoor Track Distance/Mid-Distance Athlete of the Week.

Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 won another 800m race in the meet at DePauw with a time of 1:51.18. This was good enough to tie the sixth-fastest 800m time in DIII and set a new record at Blackstock Stadium. He did not participate in the Rose-Hulman meet but will return in upcoming meets.

Just as effective in the classroom as on the field, Reis Thomas '23 was chosen as a finalist for the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar of the Year by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine.

The team is putting a lot of focus into practice to make sure they are in their best form heading into the Terre Haute tournament. Late into the season, athletes are at a higher risk of injury, which can be detrimental to the entire team.

"Our biggest thing right now is staying healthy. Our guys are working on taking care of their bodies so that we can be at 100% for the conference meet," said Seth Acero '25. "As for everything else, our guys have been approaching practice the same as usual. We don't change things up just because conference is here. We stay consistent and view conference as just another meet."

On Saturday, April 29, the team travels to Terre Haute to compete in the Indiana State University open. This meet will be a great preparation for the team before they head to the conference tournament. The invitational will include



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Julius Hearn '25 crosses the finish line at the Huntsman Family Invitational on April 8, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.

a list of DI and DII schools that will set a high bar of competition for the team to prepare against.

In the coaches' pre-tournament poll, Wabash was chosen as the favorite to win the tournament, which would be their fourth-straight title. The team is ranked sixth in the Great Lakes region and looks to be the clear favorite when compared to the other NCAC teams.

Winning the outdoor conference title is the singular focus of the team, and has been since they won the indoor championship back in February. Now the team is working to make sure that their efforts at practice prepare them for the outdoor tournament.

"We're locked in to win the inner battles everyday at practice so that when we show up to conference, we believe in our abilities and we compete for each other," Diemer-McKinney said. "As far as improvements, we want to avoid complacency. It's easy to walk in as the favorites and think we can just go in there and take it, but we're gon-



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Brandon English '23 picks up speed as he preapres to throw the hammer at the Huntsman Family Invitational on April 8, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.

na have to fight for every point."

The outdoor track and field NCAC conference tournament will

be held May 5-6 at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio.

Tennis looks to end season with a bang

Wabash faces Oberlin in NCAC quarterfinal

JAMES WALLACE '26 | STAFF WRITER • Following four straight seasons without a single conference win, the Wabash tennis team is coming to the end of a breakthrough season. Finishing the regular season with a 13-7 (3-4 NCAC) record, Wabash will be heading to the NCAC championship tournament for the first time since the program was taken over by Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett in 2019.

"This season has been a huge success," said Chris Zimmerman '25. "Every milestone or achievement we've made this season is something the team hasn't done before under this new coach."

"The Wabash mafia should be on the lookout and continue the tradition of coming out and supporting the team, we'll definitely give you something in return."

- Chris Zimmerman '25

The Little Giants truly have had a record-setting year, and they are looking forward to continuing this trend in the next season. The team is also in a comfortable spot when looking back to the beginning of the season, especially when it comes to team camaraderie.

"I think the biggest thing this year was just us getting into the mindset of the team we are now," said Coach Bickett. "Some of the older guys got to experience being the favorites going into matches, and this is something that they haven't gotten to experience on this



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Cole Borden '24 stretches for the ball at the net against Wittenberg on April 7, 2023, at the Collett Tennis Center.

team before."

This change in mindset is sure to help the Little Giants as their next season approaches, especially after they have wrapped up such an incredible year.

"I think it's tough to not say

that it was a good season," Coach Bickett said. "We got our first conference win since the 2017-2018 season, which is something that no one on the roster has ever experienced."

The Little Giants finished 3-4 in

conference, which puts them comfortably in 5th place in the NCAC standings, barely trailing behind Oberlin, who they are set to take on this Friday, April 28. While Wabash lost to Oberlin previously this year, they are looking forward to taking them on again during the NCAC tournament, which will be held at DePauw.

"When we played Oberlin earlier this season, it was the first time we'd gotten a chance to see most of their players play," said Coach Bickett. "So we were able to understand their team a little bit more, which allows us to make individual adjustments."

These individual adjustments could be what makes or breaks the team's season, as the tournament-style bracket leaves no room for error. However, the team is confident that they have a great chance during this match.

"I think it's going to be a really good match. Last time there were several close matches that didn't go our way," said Zimmerman. "I think that playing on neutral territory could play to our advantage a bit as the last time we played them was at Oberlin's home courts."

The Little Giants' confidence even extends past the NCAC tournament this weekend, and they are confident that they will continue to build on the success that they have found this season.

"I think our program can make some waves in the next few years, even more so than the ones we've made this season," said Zimmerman. "The Wabash mafia should be on the lookout and continue the tradition of coming out and supporting the team, we'll definitely give you something in return."

Bullock: Reflecting on a year at the sports desk

It may not always be popular, but good sports journalism should not be unthinking propaganda

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS EDITOR • As my one-year tenure as sports editor of *The Bachelor* comes to an end, I am sure there are some who will be glad to see me gone.

The sports section in this year's paper has been radically different from previous years, and that was by design. Rather than only producing simple match recaps and untimely player profiles, our staff and I have rallied together to produce thoughtful, analytical sports journalism. It's a shift that, while not always popular, is imperative to the continued development of free student journalism at Wabash. Because while you might not always like what we write, the Wabash mantra to "think critically" does not stop short of the sports desk.

Of course, the best part of my job has been celebrating the accomplishments of my fellow classmates. In March 2023, Jack Heldt '23 won the national heavyweight title, and I was honored to write a full-page story celebrating his and the wrestling team's success. That same week, Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 won bronze in the 800m run at nationals, made all the more remarkable by the fact he almost didn't qualify at all.

These are but two examples of the amazing success stories we have covered over the past two semesters. My amazing team of dedicated sports writers have covered basketball's conference championship victory, the track and field team's consistently stellar performances, the lacrosse team's breakout year and much, much more. I can say quite confidently that nobody has been a bigger cheerleader for these victories than *The Bachelor*.

That's not to say that I have been able to cover everything I would have liked. I started out the year hoping to leave no stone unturned, but alas here we are, at the end of the academic year, and our team is still brimming with ideas. In other words, watch this space. I am so excited to see what the new sports editor and staff come up with next year, and I think the readership of *The Bachelor* should be too.

But as much as I love to cover success stories, part of my job as a sports editor has been to think critically and look beyond just the score lines. If I wanted to write nothing but positive news—even if that didn't align with the realities on the ground—I would establish a Wabash propaganda arm. That's not what *The Bachelor* is, as much as some would like to see it that way.

Sports journalism is not just pomp and circumstance. It is not just propaganda for your favorite team. And it is not meant to be uncritical, unthinking or uncontroversial. Sports journalism can celebrate while also providing meaningful analysis and commentary. *The Bachelor* has done that this year with columns, tactical analyses, power rankings, special reports, statistical comparisons, historical features and more. Yes, we have celebrated the highs, but we have also reported on the equally important lows.

I am proud to have led a team of sports writers who understand that their jobs go beyond simple match recaps. And I am proud of the journalists, in my section and across the entire paper, that have pushed the boundaries and not been afraid to write things as they see them, even if what they are writing is unpopular or controversial.

Analysis mandates journalists to go beyond the surface level. Sometimes that's going to force you to engage with an opinion you disagree with, and that's very much the point. Thoughtful commentary isn't always popular, but it is essential to a free student press—even in the sports section.

Wallace: Golf tees off at NCAC tournament, closes out historic season

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS WRITER • The bags are packed for Wabash golf as they head to Westfield Center, Ohio, to compete in the NCAC Golf Championships. The team has seen tremendous success through the season under the first year of Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp.

“We’ve been preparing for the conference tournament all year,” said Kopp. “From creating goals at the beginning of the season to talking about how we want to peak for conference throughout the season and how to do that, conference has been our main focus.”

The tournament is scheduled to start on Friday, April 28, and will last three days at the Westfield Country Club. The format will include 54 holes over the three days.

“We’ve had other 54-hole events, but they’ve been over two days,” Kopp said. “The three days will be different as it will force us to focus across three different days and have three strong starts.”

The Little Giants were picked to finish fifth in the NCAC pre-tournament coaches poll, where they tied with Wooster. This is an impressive feat for the team, considering three of the NCAC teams (Wittenberg, Denison and Kenyon) are ranked top seven in the region.

Wabash, ranked 64th in the nation, are a long-shot to win the tournament, but the impact of Kopp on the team cannot be denied. His experience from both playing with and coaching this team has all-

owed him to push the program to new heights in just his first year as head coach.

“The arrival of Coach Kopp has changed the way the program has trended, and I believe that is because Coach competes with us and makes sure that we’re competing with each other day in and day out,” Allen Johnson Jr. ’23 said. “I also believe that the team’s performance this year is a testament to how Coach has adjusted to this new position. He has done a great job working with the team to become better.”

This tournament will be a difficult one for the team, requiring them to perform well over the course of three full days of golf. However, with this difficulty comes tremendous opportunity.

“Coach has placed a focus on rest and healthy habits leading into the week,” said Mark Poole ’24. “In practice, we have been trying to hit more golf balls to keep our swing feeling good and build confidence. Hitting a lot of greens gives us the only chance we have at winning conference.”

In a sport where winners and losers are determined by one stroke over the course of an entire tournament, the Wabash team is capable of upsetting any opponent if they play well enough.

“We’d love to finish the season strong,” said Kopp. “We firmly believe that if we all play well, then we’ll have a chance to win the tournament. We’re currently ran-



Brayden Weiss '24 practices his putting stroke at the Illinois Wesleyan University Invitational on April 7, 2023, at the Weibring Golf Club.

ked 64th in the country, which is the highest the program has ever been. Our main challenge will be tracking down 8th-ranked Wittenberg. We believe in ourselves and I'm excited to watch the guys prove what they can do this weekend.”

The tournament gets underway at 8 a.m. on April 28.

Greene: Lacrosse is battered, but unbowed

ELIJAH GREENE '25 | SPORTS COLUMNIST • In a less-than-ideal ending to its season, the Wabash lacrosse team looks to compete in its final NCAC matchup against Denison on Saturday, April 29. The Little Giants have struggled as of late, dropping their last six games, each by a double-digit margin.

But, in a conference as stacked as the NCAC—with the top three teams all being ranked nationally—it comes as no surprise that Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke and his staff still have plenty of work to do. This is to be expected.

While their record may not reflect it, the Little Giants have come far this season. Maybe not by their own standards, but it takes little scrutiny from the average fan to see this season’s improvement. From 4-12 overall to 7-8 before the Denison game, Burke has managed to close the gap this season between Wabash and the rest of the competition around the conference.

From a 19-3 beating in the 2022 season to losing in the final minutes 11-10 but a week ago, Wabash’s one-point loss to Wittenberg acts as a gauge for their improvement this season.

The team’s record may not reflect it, but Wabash lacrosse has been competitive all year. Just look at their stats. Despite their conference record being very similar, the goal difference this season in conference was closer than the last: -10.4 goals per game instead of the -15 they posted during the 2022 campaign. Total goals? 54, compared to 37 last season. And those 37 were from all nine of Wabash’s NCAC matchups in 2022. With Wabash yet to play Denison, they will increase that gap even further.

This team also broke plenty of records this year. Ethan Stonis '23 broke the single-season goals record (51), total points (66) and was recognized as the NCAC Scholar Student-Athlete of the Year. Luka DiFilippo '25 broke the single-season record for ground balls (111) and Artie Rogers '24 broke the all-time record for assists (69).

This team is still in its infancy with Coach Burke, and their ceiling is still unknown. Especially to them.

“I think that our guys are still



Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke talks strategy with the starters during a timeout against Hiram on March 25, 2023, at Fischer Field.



The Wabash lacrosse team stands for the national anthem at the Military Appreciation Game against Earlham on March 1, 2023, at Fischer Field.

trying to figure out their identity,” said Burke. “What they want to look like is important, and I have a feeling we’re still looking for that.”

Burke recognizes that this season was a step forward, but his vision for the program is ambitious, indeed.

“There’s been a lot of positives [this season],” said Burke. “But for us, our expectations were higher. And when you don’t meet expectations, it sucks. We wanted to get two conference wins and finish .500.”

While neither players nor coaches wanted to admit that their skeletal roster was a root cause for some of the team’s losses, a glance around the conference puts the team’s plight into perspective. With by far and away the smallest roster at 19—and most of the time, less—Wabash was at a distinct disadvantage in every game they played in.

“Seventeen guys going up against squads of 60 to 70, nearly two team reserves. For our roster size, I think we had the best team in the state.”

- AJ Miller '23

Lacrosse is a substitution game, meaning players sub in and out almost constantly, keeping fresh legs on the field at all times. Wabash does not have enough players to sub out their entire team. When compared to rosters of 40, 50, even 60-plus players, what this team was able to accomplish was monumental.

“We have 17 guys [healthy], right?” said AJ Miller '23. “Seventeen guys going up against squads of 60 to 70, nearly two team reserves. For our roster size, I think we had the best team in the state.”

Hopefully the roster woes will soon be put to rest. With almost 20 new recruits coming to Wabash next season, Coach Burke should have his squad back to a healthy size.

“I wasn’t making promises to any of [the recruits],” said Burke. “I said, ‘Listen, you’re coming into a building program. It’s going to be what you make it.’ The bonus of coming into a small roster is you get to compete for time immediately. So a lot of guys are coming in with that competitive edge.”

With few juniors and seniors currently on the team, the team demographic won’t change overnight. Wabash will most likely struggle again next season, trying to build itself into the flagship program that is a part of Burke’s vision. But with the talent and drive that comes with youth, who knows? Wabash may surprise us yet again in 2024.


ETHAN STONIS '23
Wabash attacker




PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

2023 STATISTICS
POINTS: 67
SHOT %: 41.3

WABASH vs DENISON
Team total goals:

**Wabash College**

**Denison University**

169

236

Luke Fisher
Denison attacker



COURTESY OF DENISON ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

2023 STATISTICS
POINTS: 79
SHOT %: 29.0

Rugby team set to make national tournament debut

Friday, April 28, 2023



VS.
9:44 a.m.



VS.
1:02 p.m.



National Collegiate Rugby National 7s Championships
University of Maryland

SCAN FOR THE BACHELOR'S
LIVE COVERAGE FROM
WASHINGTON D.C.:



Brayden Goodnight '23 warms up ahead of the Wabash College Invitational on March 25, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.



The Wabash rugby team poses with the Monon Keg after the Wabash College Invitational on March 25, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.

Sports photos of the season

The Bachelor's photographers explain and caption their favorite snaps from 2022-23

Jake Paige '23



"In the heat of competition, vulnerability can be camouflaged behind eye black or team huddles, however, often the most vulnerable moments in sports are found in the midst of celebration. The first image of Derek Allen '24 is placed in the endzone, topping his touchdown off by pointing at the camera, proudly exuding his game-time dominance."



"Bruno Zamora '24 assists Alexis Delgado '23 in scoring a goal. The photo frames the two during their celebratory embrace. Although, the photo doesn't end there. All the while, Bruno looks toward his team on the sidelines, acknowledging the group that supported his success."



"This photo of Ahmoni Jones '24 was taken after he hit two clutch shots, including the game-winner, against Ohio Wesleyan. Jones carried the pressure of filling the shoes of last year's senior class this year, and in the photo, Ahmoni's eyes look past the hordes of fans and students as if this was the moment when he could finally staple his own legacy."

Elijah Greene '25



"Edreece Redmond II '24(left) and Sam Comer '24(right) help each other up from the floor during their game against Hiram. I took many shots like this during the season, but this one was special because of the brotherhood and camaraderie that emanates from their closeness, showing how unbreakable the bonds between teammates are."



"This shot is from the first lacrosse game that I ever shot. It's not only in great focus but Quinn Fitzgerald's '26 'Hand of God' conveys so much raw, in-game emotion. This photo tells an incredible story."



"This photo is just plain awesome. Jake Oostman '25 arching his back over the bar, clearing almost two meters?! Picture almost takes itself."



Michael Galanos '25 stares down the incoming pitch against DePauw on April 4, 2023, at Goodrich Ballpark.

PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Goodwin: Football will return stronger in the fall

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • The brutal 49-14 loss to DePauw in the 2022 Monon Bell Classic still haunts the dreams of many Little Giants. But despite the gut-wrenching end to the year, Liam Thompson '24 was one of, if not the best quarterback in the nation, with more than 3,500 yards and 34 touchdowns. The 2023 football team is set to return as but one starter from an offense that scored 42.5 PPG. Little Giants fans have a lot to look forward to this year.

Wabash's offense is a known commodity. With Thompson at the lead and receivers Cooper Sullivan '24, Derek Allen Jr. '24 and Donovan Snyder '24, the offense should look mostly the same. Barring an incredible performance by a new recruit, Connor Thompson '25 and Penn Stoller '24 should round out the offense with Heisman Skeens '23 graduating in a few weeks. Still, expect Xavier Tyler '26 to play a larger role in the offense. Earlier this year, Sullivan and Allen told me that they were surprised he wasn't playing a bigger role.

While the skill positions stay the same, it's an even bigger deal that the entire offensive line is returning, with Joe Mullin '24 and Mark Caster '24 returning for their fifth years to join Quinn Schlar '26 and Cameron Ford '25 as part of a group that only gave up 18 sacks and cleared the way for nearly 2,000 yards rushing. With a strong and experienced offensive line, Head Football Coach Don Morel's Little Giants offense should be just as, if not more effective with the ball.

With such an effective offense, Wabash's clear weakness was its defense, that gave up 33.9 points per game. Giving up 28 points five times, the defense struggled against quality competition that could attack downfield. The Little Giants will look to get better as their defensive backfield matures, with Mike Holsclaw '26, who played all ten games last year, seeing more reps in spring ball. Additionally, a new group of recruits will join the team to bolster depth and push the young defensive group losing Jose Franco '23, Cade Lansdell '23 and Giovanni Zapalla '23.

Wabash's pass rush will return, forcing 16 fumbles and sacking opposing quarterbacks 15 times. Owen Volk '25, who carried four sacks on his own, will be looking to lead the pass rush with Steven Thomas '24 and Will Olive '24 picking up the slack from Jamari Washington's '23 production. Gavin Ruppert '26 will look to lead the Wabash defense after a breakout freshman year, when he racked up 95 tackles in just nine games. No doubt, with another year under Defensive Coordinator Mike Ridings, the Little Giants' defense will be better than last year.

Despite big losses to DePauw and North Central last year, the Little Giants were excellent last year. And with a strong recruiting class and another year of development for young players, the Little Giants should be NCAC contenders next year. And with the Bell game back at Little Giant Stadium, the site of a legendary comeback in the 2021 Monon Bell Classic, the Little Giants should be favored entering the final game of the regular season.

Baseball wins two of three heading into pivotal conference doubleheaders, Coach Martin surpasses 300 career wins

ANDREW DEVER '25 | OPINION EDITOR • The Wabash baseball team won two of three important games over a four-day stretch on April 22-25. The Little Giants split a doubleheader against the Kenyon Owls before grinding out an obscure midweek non-conference game against the Earlham Quakers. The win against Kenyon marked Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin's '03 300th career victory as a coach.

It did not start out pretty for the Little Giants. In their first game against Kenyon, Wabash was simply outplayed. Despite taking the lead off a Liam Patton '23 solo home run in the first inning, Wabash quickly found themselves in a significant hole. Between the second and fourth innings, Kenyon exploded, putting up 10 runs in the span.

Wabash scored a run in each of the fourth and fifth innings, but would not get any closer than 10-3 in the game. Eventually, Kenyon put up seven additional runs to defeat the Little Giants. The final score was 17-3.

Wabash was led offensively by Patton and Kamden Earley '24. Patton was 2-3 with a walk and an RBI, while Earley was 2-4 with an RBI.

However, Wabash Always Fights is more than just a motto. After getting run-ruled in the first game, the Little Giants regrouped, collected their emotions and put on one of their better performances of the year against Kenyon in the second game of the doubleheader. In this second game, the Little Giants triumphed 5-2.

The major change for the Little Giants started on defense. After giving up 17 runs in the first game, Wabash's pitchers held the high-powered Kenyon offense to only two runs. Starting pitcher Caleb Everson '26 was steady on the mound, throwing 6.1 innings and only giving up two runs. Everson improved to 4-0 on the season and steadied Wabash early in the game.

In relief, Sam Phillips '23 dominated on the bump, only allowing one hit in 2.2 innings and got his fourth save of the season. Everson and Phillips' dominating



The Wabash reserves look on as their brothers take the field against Hiram on April 15, 2023, at Goodrich Ballpark.

COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

performances allowed Wabash to hold on to an early 2-0 lead, never trailing in the game. While Wabash's bats were not overpowering, they contributed enough to get the job done. Will Phillips '25 led the Little Giant offense and was 2-2 on the day with three RBIs.

"In our first game, we were struggling to compete with their guys at the plate," said Earley. "However, in the second, we had to be effective at flushing the first loss, and as a team we collaboratively stepped up and were able to be much more competitive on offense and defense."

As well as being an integral conference win, Wabash's victory over Kenyon was a landmark victory for Coach Martin, the 300th of his career. After winning 161 games in seven seasons as the head coach for DePauw, Martin returned home to Wabash in 2017. Since then, he has won 139 games. His fellow coaching staff took to social media to congratulate him.

"BashNation! Congratulations Coach Martin," said Head Wrestling Coach Brian Anderson on Twitter. "Keep it going!"

After splitting against Kenyon last weekend, Wabash continued its home stand with another victory on Tuesday, April 25. The Little Giants hosted the Earlham College Quakers in a non-conference Indiana showdown. With a 17-13 record coming into the contest, Earlham posed a formidable challenge. But in what can only be described as an offensive explosion, the Little Giants were able to hold off the Quakers 14-13.

After going back and forth with Earlham over the first four innings, the turning point of the game came in the fifth inning. Entering the fifth down 6-5, the entire line-up came up to bat. Wabash scored eight runs on seven hits, with six different guys contributing RBIs.

The highlight of the inning came toward the end of the extended rally. Up 11-6, the Little

Giants further extended their lead to 13-6 off the two-run double by William McKinzie '26. McKinzie was arguably the brightest spot for Wabash in the game, going 3-4 from the plate with three RBIs and three runs scored. Fellow freshman Benjamin Henke '26 also produced a really impressive showing, going 3-3 with an RBI and two runs scored.

For McKinzie, his big day was just another way for him to do his part for the team.

"I think for me personally, playing the best I can is exciting because I always want to contribute however I can to win," said McKinzie. "I think right now as a team we're playing great and ready to keep building this momentum moving into more conference series."

In the sixth inning, after Earlham closed the gap to 13-9, Patton's solo shot lengthened the lead to 14-9. Patton would end up being the game-winning run, as Earlham reduced Wabash's advantage to 14-13 in the final

innings of the game. Patton also had a fabulous game at the plate, going 2-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

"We are hitting well as a team right now," said Patton. "The key for us is to stay within our approach, make them throw to us. As for our mindset, we are here to f— s—t up."

The Little Giants' record for the 2023 season now sits at 21-13 (5-5 NCAC).

Baseball returns to the diamond against Oberlin on Saturday, April 29. In this pivotal doubleheader, the Little Giants will look to improve their conference record and will also honor the seniors in the program. The team will then travel to Ohio Wesleyan and the College of Wooster for their final two doubleheaders before competing in the NCAC tournament on May 11-13.