

Rhetoric Department Newsletter Summer 2015

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Message from the Chair

The Rhetoric Department enjoyed an active year in 2014-2015. We completed our departmental review in the fall, which allowed us to reflect on our curriculum and co-curricular activities. We remain a strong department. In their final report, our outside reviewers described us as an "exemplar liberal arts department," highlighting the Rhetoric faculty's commitment to teaching, service, and scholarly work. We always seek to improve, however, so we are considering several ways to further enhance our offerings.

Rhetoric faculty embraced new opportunities and challenges this past year. Both **Jeff Drury** and **Sara Drury** successfully completed their fourth year reviews. They are wonderful assets to the department, and their reviews affirmed this belief. **Todd McDorman** became Senior Associate Dean in Fall 2014, and Sara Drury became Director of the new Democracy and Public Discourse initiative in Fall 2014. Both remained Rhetoric faculty members alongside their new roles. Todd and Sara talk a bit about their positions later in this newsletter. I, along with Todd McDorman and two co-authors, completed our new public speaking textbook, *Public Speaking and Democratic Participation: Speech, Deliberation, and Analysis in the Civic Realm*. The book will become available by Oxford University Press this coming October 2015.

Rhetoric department classes continued to draw large numbers of students, with class sizes ranging from about 15-25 students. The faculty offered an array of elective courses in 2014-2015, including Social Movements in the United States (cross-listed with Political Science), Contemporary American Public Address, Rhetoric of the News Media, Deliberation, U.S. Presidential Rhetoric, and Audio Rhetoric (taught by **Jill Lamberton**, cross-listed with English.) We graduated 11 seniors last May, and they have already successfully gone onto further studies in law school and positions in business, sales, and education.

Jennifer Abbott, Rhetoric Department Chair

Members of the Fall 2014 rhetoric senior seminar at our annual spring dinner.



Back row, left to right: **Austin Jarrett, Peter Fouts, Jeff Samuel, Patrick Parham, Zach Mahone**, Front row, left to right: **Tanner Watson, Derek De St. Jean, Lorenzo Billups, Grant Klembara**

Brigance Forum Lecture



In February 2015, **Dr. J. Michael Hogan**, Liberal Arts Research Professor and Director of the Center for Democratic Deliberation at The Pennsylvania State University, delivered our annual Brigance Forum lecture. Not a stranger to the Wabash campus, Dr. Hogan participated in both the 2005 Brigance Colloquy on Rhetoric and Democratic Citizenship and the 2009 Brigance Colloquy on Public Speaking as a Liberal Art. Suitably, Dr. Hogan devoted his lecture to “The Legacy of W. Norwood Brigance in Contemporary Rhetorical Studies” and championed a “neoclassical rhetoric for the digital age.” He defended and sought to revive Brigance’s classical approach to the discipline of rhetoric, which emphasized the “ethics of civic discourse” and produced “socially useful knowledge” for students and fellow citizens.

[View Dr. Hogan’s Brigance Forum Lecture Here.](#)



2015 Brigance Forum lecturer **Dr. J. Michael Hogan** talks with **President Hess, Lora Hess, and Dean Feller.**

Wabash On My Mind



In 2014, the College began an episodic podcast called [Wabash on My Mind](#). In these podcasts, **Richard Paige** (Communications and Marketing) interviews Wabash community members—faculty, staff, alumni, students and visitors—about their Wabash experiences and more. Check out the podcasts featuring Rhetoric faculty members **Todd McDorman** and **Sara Drury**, Brigance Forum lecturer **J. Michael Hogan**, WDPD Keynote speaker **David Kendall '66** and the Audio Rhetoric class taught by **Jill Lamberton** and cross-listed with English and Rhetoric.

The below podcasts may also be found through iTunes.

Sara Drury: [Episode 55](#)

J. Michael Hogan: [Episode 44](#)

David Kendall: [Episode 30](#)

Jill Lamberton: [Episode 53](#)

Todd McDorman: [Episode 26](#)



WABASH COLLEGE

Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse Initiative

WDPD Finishes First Year

In last year's Rhetoric Department newsletter, we shared information about several of the department's civic engagement activities, including the February 2014 Brigrance Colloquy on Civic Engagement and Public Discourse, the November 2013 Community Conversation on Substance Abuse, and the December 2013 Campus Dialogue on Mental Health. The success of these events led the College to consider expanding these efforts to a college-wide, interdisciplinary initiative: the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) initiative, which began its work in fall 2014.

WDPD is one of the College's four Liberal Arts Plus initiatives, which are interdisciplinary efforts to engage Wabash men in applied learning and research activities (Wabash Liberal Arts Plus). Founded on the belief that the core of democracy is the right of free expression, the WDPD initiative advances the kinds of deliberation, discussion, debate, and advocacy that cultivate democracy. The WDPD initiative is rooted in the traditions of Wabash College and builds on the philosophy of **W. Norwood Brigrance**, a member of the Department of Speech at Wabash College from 1922-1960, who advocated for the role of speech in students' preparation as democratic citizens and civic leaders.

Assistant Professor of Rhetoric **Sara Drury** is serving as Director of WDPD, which includes advising the Wabash Democracy Fellows student program and teaching a spring elective course on deliberation. During the 2014-2015 school year, the eight Wabash Democracy Fellows worked with Professor Drury to research and run two community deliberations, one in Urbana, Illinois on sustainability and a second in Montgomery County, Indiana on quality of place. The results from the community deliberation on quality of place have been used by **Mayor Todd Barton '00** as he leads our local community in applying for grant funding. The student fellows also ran six public discourse events on campus, focusing on topics such

as foreign policy, social media and free speech, and race. WDPD is looking at an exciting second year, with the student fellows program growing from 8 to 13 students, and joining with the other Liberal Arts Plus initiatives for a Leadership Summit during 2015 Homecoming Week.



Students in the Wabash Democracy Fellows program meet with the WDPD Advisory Council, October 2014.



WDPD facilitates "The Next Montgomery County" at the 4H Building.

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[WDPD Website](#)

Rhetoric Faculty & Students Offer Module During WLAIP by Connor Rice '17



Wabash College has a new program to enhance the incoming freshman experience. 2015 marked the inaugural year of the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program, a program to aid thirty freshmen into the Wabash way through mentoring and scholastic activities ([WLAIP Website](#)). The thirty freshmen come from

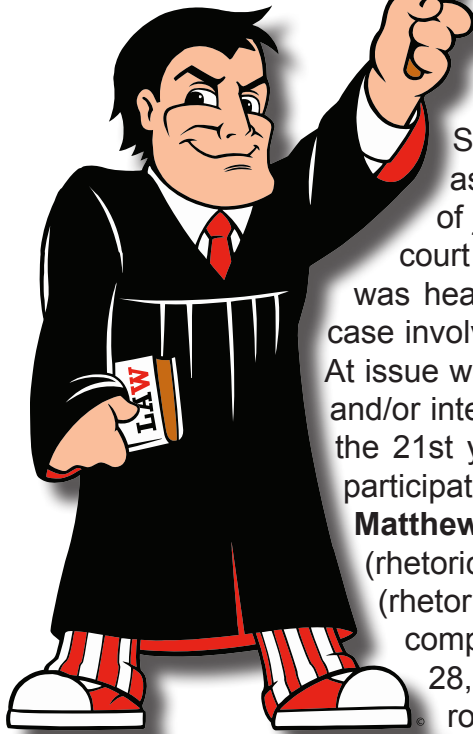
around the United States, and arrived on campus in early July. They took English composition during the summer, and experienced three Liberal Arts Learning modules designed to introduce them to disciplines across the liberal arts.

As a part of my Rhetoric research internship this summer, I, along with four other students (**Kyle Stucker '17, Anthony Douglas '17, Mac Norton '17, and Jack Kellerman '18**) worked with **Professor Sara Drury** to organize and run the "Rhetoric and Civic Engagement" module. In this module, the WLAIP students took part in several activities including a one-day introduction to public speaking, visiting several local leaders in Montgomery County, discussions about the importance of productive public discourse for positive social change, and a deliberation. With the help of Professor Sara Drury, we were able to introduce the practices of rhetoric and how they can be applied to improving our local community in Montgomery County and the overall Wabash experience. Our final activity in the module was a deliberation around the question "How can our community best help Wabash freshmen to have a successful college experience?" The WLAIP students were the participants in the deliberation, and the student assistants and Professor Sara Drury served as facilitators.

I found that giving these students the opportunity to experience an environment where they engaged with one another about issues that were relevant to them amplified the quality of the discussion. The students did a fantastic job of participating in the deliberation as well as being courteous of others' statements and beliefs. The students felt that by practicing deliberation, they can improve not only Wabash and the Montgomery County community, but the communities where they are from as well. Throughout my time with the students, I was constantly receiving positive feedback. One student told me that he had never experienced an activity like deliberation, and that if classes at Wabash were similar to the module, it made him feel more confident in his choice of Wabash for college.

My experience with the Rhetoric Department's WLAIP module was rewarding. Outside of the module's Rhetoric content sessions, I took my role as a student assistant as an opportunity to provide insight into the scholastic side of Wabash, the student social side, and to fulfill the role of a mentor so that they can always have someone when and if they need it. These students opened my eyes and showed me how learning about rhetoric can have a positive impact on learning and on communities. The WLAIP students displayed an eagerness to serve and learn, which is something most incoming freshman do not showcase. I have no doubt in my mind that these men will live up to their expectations and truly exemplify what it means to be a Wabash Man. I am excited to see what they can accomplish in their time at Wabash and where life will take them post-college. The Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program is a tremendous opportunity for incoming freshmen to be a part of, and I am thrilled that Wabash College and the Rhetoric Department are working to develop students into future leaders of tomorrow.

Moot Court



Each October, **Professor Todd McDorman** coordinates the Wabash College Moot Court competition. In this competition, pairs of students argue a legal dispute adapted from an actual case pending before the United States Supreme Court. Competition comes from fellow students who are assigned the opposing argument, and the arguments are presented to panels of judges consisting of alumni attorneys and Wabash faculty. The 2014 moot court problem involved a variation on the case *Elonis vs. United States*, which was heard by the Supreme Court on December 1, 2014. This First Amendment case involved the conviction of an individual for what he said on his Facebook page. At issue was whether a threatening statement has to be made with some knowledge and/or intention of wrongdoing in order for the behavior to be considered criminal. In the 21st year of the competition 30 students participated in the preliminary rounds, and **Matthew Binder '16**, **Jacob Burnett '15** (rhetoric minor), **Andrew Dettmer '15** (rhetoric minor), and **Daniel Thompson '17** competed in the final round on October 28, 2014. Competing in his third final round in four years, Dettmer took home the Top Advocate Award.



Moot Court 2014 winner (and Rhetoric minor) **Andrew Dettmer '15** poses with the judges after the final round of competition.

[View the final round here.](#)

[View full Moot Court news story and picture gallery!](#)

Baldwin Oratorical Contest

The Rhetoric department organized the 141st annual Baldwin Oratorical Contest in April, 2015. Students addressed the theme, "Practicing Civic Engagement," by advocating for a specific public action to address a community issue. The four finalists tackled the problems of misperceptions about Muslim majority countries, unhealthy food served by campus fraternities, low voter turnout among youth, and the poor use of National Act funding. The three guest judges—alumni **Davey Neal '01** and **Ethan Flater '12** and Wabash Dean for College Advancement **Michelle Janssen**—awarded **Michael Krutz '18** first place for his speech about improving the nutrition at fraternities. Based on his advocacy, we are hopeful his speech will help lead to healthier meal options for our students!

141st Baldwin Oratorical Contest Finalists & Judges



(Left to right) **Michelle Janssen**, **Faez Mahdi '18** (2nd place), **Sean McGrath '16** (3rd place), **Michael Krutz '18** (1st place), **Mason Zurek '16** (4th place), **Davey Neal '01**, and **Ethan Flater '12**

[View a news story \(pg.3\) and picture about the contest here.](#)

[View the contest here.](#)

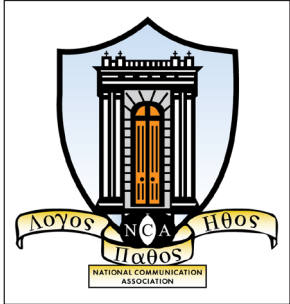


Mason Hooper '18 and Jacob Roehm '18 with their semifinal trophies at the University of Kentucky.

Parliamentary Union had a productive year. The group attended multiple tournaments in the Midwest, including trips to Purdue University and the University of Kentucky. We also saw the influx of some dedicated freshmen who will carry the club into the future. Recognition is especially in order for **Mason Hooper '18** and **Jacob Roehm '18**, who reached the final four in the Novice Division at the Bluegrass Invitational Debate Tournament hosted by the University of Kentucky. This feat is even more impressive given that this was the first parliamentary debate tournament for both students and they beat an undefeated team from Grove City College in the quarterfinal round.

In May, two of the club's senior leaders, **Fritz Coutchie '15** and **Nick Freeman '15**, graduated from Wabash. Each of them had served as club president and was an ambassador for the organization across campus. To honor their dedication to Parliamentary Union, team members unanimously selected them to represent Wabash against DePauw University in the annual Monon Bell Debate. Wabash hosted the debate this year, opposing the resolution that "universities should pay college athletes." There was a solid turnout and productive discussion afterwards about the benefits and drawbacks to the resolution. It probably goes without saying that Wabash won the debate.

This fall, Parliamentary Union will become more student-directed by installing two Debate Captains who will arrange and implement tournament travel as well as on-campus events. We anticipate that these positions will ensure the continued energy and success of the organization for years to come!



On April 26, 2015, the Rhetoric faculty inducted five students into Lambda Pi Eta, the academic honor society of the National Communication Association. Students **Derek Andre '16**, **Craig Brainard '16**, **Andrew Dettmer '15**, **Daniel Purvlicis '16**, and **Mason Zurek '16** joined the society's ranks.

Five Students Inducted into Lambda Pi Eta



2015 Lambda Pi Eta Induction Ceremony
(Left to right) **Mason Zurek**, **Grant Klembara**, **Derek Andre**, **Jacob Burnett**, **Zachary Mahone**, **Andrew Dettmer**, **Daniel Purvlicis**, and **Craig Brainard**



The current membership, which included 2014 inductees **Jacob Burnett '15**, **Grant Klembara '15**, **Zachary Mahone '15**, and **Tanner Watson '15**, voted **Mason Zurek** as the 2015-2016 Lambda Pi Eta President and **Craig Brainard** as Secretary/Treasurer. Lambda Pi Eta recognizes, fosters, and rewards outstanding scholastic achievement while stimulating interest in the communication discipline.

Student Research & Learning



Jennifer Abbott awards **Grant Klembara '15** the Joseph O'Rourke Speech Prize during the Awards Chapel.

Grant Klembara '15 was the 2015 winner of the O'Rourke Prize, named after longtime Speech faculty member **Joseph O'Rourke**, for best Rhetoric Senior Project. Grant's project was entitled "Metaphors and Storytelling in Economic Discourse: Exploring the Implications of Warren Buffett's Inventive Rhetoric during the Great Recession." In his essay Grant examined the relationship of rhetoric and economics through analysis of Buffett's annual letters to investors. Klembara argued that through his use of metaphor Buffett was able to create a strong, future-focused narrative for his audience to cling to amidst the developing financial crisis. The metaphors helped Buffett reduce complex economic activity to simple terms, directed attention to his agrarian understanding of the economy, and emphasized his main goal of making secure investments, all while forging a connection with his audience. Grant presented his work at the Wabash Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work and was recognized with a Nicholas Harrison Essay Award, given to the three students who write the best essays in American studies. This all-college award has been given to a rhetoric senior for six consecutive years!



Six Wabash students presented their research at the Central States Communication Association (CSCA) Convention in Madison, Wisconsin, in April 2015. **Terry Majors '15** and **Adam Burtner '17** presented the paper

"Spheres of Argument in Undergraduate Biology Classroom Climate Change Deliberations," that they co-authored with **Professor Sara Drury** as part of their 2014 summer internship. Their paper received the Top Paper Award for the Argumentation and Forensics Division of CSCA.

Additionally, four students presented work in rhetorical criticism and deliberation as part of the CSCA's Undergraduate Honors Research Conference. The papers were competitively selected and presented in panels, roundtables, or poster format. Wabash papers included "The Stories and Messages of the Library of Congress," by **Kyle Stucker '17**; "Community or Catholicism: Georgetown's Response to the Contraception Controversy," by **Mason Zurek '16**; "The Election of 1896: Bryan's Whistlestop and McKinley's Front Porch," by **Patrick Bryant '16**; and "Planning and Analyzing a Public Deliberation Event," by **Burtner** and **Macallister Norton '17**.

[View a news story about CSCA here.](#)



Majors, Burtner, and Drury receive their Top Paper award and present at CSCA.



Justin Green '16 discusses the Montgomery County Tea Party at the 2015 Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, & Creative Work.



Mason Zurek '16 presents the results of his independent study at the 2015 Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work

Social Movements & Engaged Learning

During the fall semester, **Professors Jeff Drury** and **Shamira Gelbman (PSC)** jointly taught a course about the rhetoric and politics of social movements. One of the projects for this class partnered student groups with seven local social movement organizations, such as the FAITH Alliance, Sustainable Initiatives, and the Crawfordsville chapter of the Indiana Federation of Business and Professional Women. Each group's goal was to consult with their assigned organization and write a memo containing analysis and recommendations. The groups that worked with Friends of Sugar Creek and with the Montgomery County Tea Party both presented their findings at the Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work in January 2015. Overall, students reported the project to be a learning experience that helped them apply the lessons from class. **Justin Green '16**, a rhetoric major, explained some of the takeaway lessons:

"This project changed the outlook I have when it comes to social movements. To be honest, a lot of the social movements I had seen were the ones that took place in Oakland which most focused on anti-police protest. Being able to look at another movement and group and see the struggles has changed my view on movements and their production. For example, after the interview I was able to see how difficult it can be for a group to get out and do events for their movement. The Montgomery County Tea Party struggles to promote their cause largely because so many of their participants are older and work during the day. So looking at the Tea Party opened my eyes to see that it's not always that easy. I also learned that having a good website, Facebook page, and twitter page can really be productive to the group. Seeing this compared to the anti-cop movements is easy because a lot of their communication and message comes through social media."

This is just one example of how the rhetoric department has continued to integrate civic engagement into the curriculum.

Researching Greek (Life) Tragedies **by Mason Zurek '16**

This past fall I elected to take an Independent Study course with **Professor Jeff Drury**. I had been discussing it for a while with Professor Drury, but the actual experience of the independent study was truly a challenge. The process is a test of individual will power and work ethic while simultaneously being a fantastic learning experience for research and self-motivation. Setting my own time table (of which I may have been a little more lax than I should have been) forced me to be responsible for my own work without the prompting of peers and a concrete syllabus. Dr. Drury's guidance was invaluable in helping me work through the challenges and rising above the difficulties.

My paper was a rhetorical criticism of news media coverage of alcohol-related incidents in fraternities. In other words, I looked at how journalists wrote about college students messing up because they got too drunk. The specific incidents were an alcohol enema at the University of Tennessee, a fall which led to brain damage at the University of Iowa, and death by alcohol poisoning at Wabash College. I noticed a trend amongst the coverage: the more severe the injury, the less likely it was to be written as schoolyard antics and the folly of youth. The coverage of the death was particularly harsh as the journalists seemed to be biased against the Greek students immediately.

After the paper was written I presented it at the Celebration of Student Research in January. Overall, the independent study was a unique, challenging educational experience. I am incredibly glad I opted to do one. There were many times I felt a bit overwhelmed, but researching and analyzing a topic I am passionate about was wonderful.

Faculty Updates



Professor **Jennifer Abbott** enjoyed a productive year at Wabash. She chaired the department for a sixth year, and this year was a particularly busy one. She led the department through its external review—a process that occurs about every 7 years and involves developing an extensive internal review document, organizing an on-campus visit for three external reviewers, and writing a follow-up action plan. She's grateful to her department colleagues who closely collaborated with her on the review. Professor Abbott, along with **Todd McDorman** and **Dwight Watson** (Theater), also conducted **Sara Drury** and **Jeff Drury's** fourth year reviews. Such work is time-consuming but very rewarding when reflecting on the work of such excellent faculty members.

Professor Abbott focused much of her teaching efforts on revising her Public Speaking class last year. She “flipped” the class by assigning basic content as homework and using class time to help students apply, workshop, and question that content. Doing so helped her focus more time on students' ability to effectively utilize—rather than simply understand—the concepts covered in the class, which resulted in stronger student speeches. Professor Abbott also taught Contemporary American Public Address in the spring. In that class she introduced students to several great speeches but also to three different orientations for determining greatness: Eurocentric, Afrocentric, and feminist. By studying more than one set of standards, students were encouraged to reflect upon their own expectations and assumptions about public address. Finally, Professor Abbott also oversaw an independent study with Rhetoric senior **Grant Klembara '15**, who combined what he learned in her Rhetoric of the News Media class with an externship at the local newspaper, *Journal Review*. Grant's experiences of shadowing the lead reporter as he developed stories, being part of the news room, and even publishing his own story and joining a live radio show on behalf of the newspaper deeply enriched his understanding of, and appreciation for, journalism.

Professor Abbott and her colleagues **Todd McDorman**, **Jill Lamberton**, and **David Timmerman** made great progress on the public speaking textbook they have been working on. Oxford University Press will publish the book, *Public Speaking and Democratic Participation: Speech, Deliberation, and Analysis in the Civic Realm*, in October along with a corresponding Instructor's Manual.

This upcoming year, Professor Abbott will pursue other research projects as she steps down for one year as chair and enjoys a sabbatical in the spring. She earned a grant from the Kettering Foundation to examine what has been called public or civic journalism—a form of journalism that empowers citizens to identify and engage the civic issues journalists cover. She also plans to complete a project about depictions of masculinity on popular television shows with Rhetoric major alumnus **Justin Killian '03**.

Professor Abbott and her husband, **Michael Abbott** (Theater), and their 7-year-old daughter, Zoe, are enjoying the summer. They traveled to Estes Park, Colorado where they vacationed with Jennifer's parents and hiked in the mountains (see right photo). They are relaxing at home and already planning ways they can revisit Rocky Mountain National Park!



Professor Jeffrey P. Mehlretter Drury, having wrapped up his third year at Wabash, feels better integrated into the Wabash community and the liberal arts environment. Becoming an academic advisor to a group of freshmen in 2014 certainly helped with this and offered a crash course in the curriculum!

Over the past year, Professor Drury taught core courses in argumentation and debate but also offered electives tied to his research interests, including Social Movements in the United States (Fall 2014) and U.S. Presidential Rhetoric (Spring 2015). You can read more about the social movements class and his mentorship of an independent study project elsewhere in this newsletter. Professor Drury has also continued his work with the Parliamentary Union. See the update for the exciting changes coming to that program next year.

Professor Drury has also sustained his research program in political argumentation. In addition to presenting his work at regional and national conferences, he published an article in the *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric* about Chris Christie's "rogue ethos" in his management of Hurricane Sandy relief and the more recent George Washington bridge scandal. The article is available here if you're interested in reading it: [The Rhetoric of Rogue Ethos: Chris Christie's Swing from "Boss" to "Bully."](#)



And Professor Drury has been busy around campus, attending numerous events, serving on the Academic Policy and Pre-Law Committees, and teaching Enduring Questions. He was also invited to give his first chapel talk, entitled "the Privilege of Privilege," in October 2014. The experience was both exciting and nerve-wracking, even for a rhetoric professor (and, yes, he did go to speech tutoring the night before he delivered it)! [You can watch his chapel talk here.](#)

Outside of Wabash, Professor Drury has enjoyed settling into his home with fellow Rhetoric Professor, **Sara Drury**, and continues to attend various Wabash and Big Ten athletic events. Professor Drury was excited to cheer on his Wisconsin Badgers in person at Lucas Oil during the Final Four and the National Championship games. That was a once in a lifetime opportunity, seeing as the Badgers last made the national championship game in 1941 (see bottom photo).



Professor Drury is currently Department Chair for the 2015-2016 academic year and he looks forward to serving the students, department, and college in this capacity.



This academic year brought excitement for **Professor Sara A. Mehlretter Drury**, as the Director of Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) initiative (see the story on page 3). This new role, combined with her continued position as an Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, enabled Professor Drury to continue deepening her commitments to teaching and research public deliberation and rhetoric.

Professor Drury has spent time this past year on several public deliberation research projects. She was the deliberation process moderator on a research team in Brookings, South Dakota, for a November 2013 public deliberation on supporting breastfeeding and infant health in that community. The research team continues to work through the material generated during that event; an initial article, “Policies Aren’t Enough: The Importance of Communicating about Workplace Breastfeeding Support” appeared in *Journal of Human Lactation* in January 2015. Professor Drury also received a grant from Indiana Humanities to run a public deliberation on quality of place in Montgomery County, Indiana. She worked with WDPD students to analyze democracy fellows to analyze the subsequent community conversations on “The Next Montgomery County” and created a final report of public opinion, available to view [here](#). Finally, Professor Drury has been working on deliberation in science classrooms, research that partners rhetoric students with Biology

and Chemistry faculty, and is supported by a joint learning agreement from the Kettering Foundation.

This year also saw the publication of Professor Drury’s book chapter, “Responses to Rhetoric’s Invitation: An Analysis of the Bush Presidency, the Immigration Debate, and Rhetoric’s Effects” in the edited volume *Rhetoric and the Rhetoric of Effects: Past, Present, Future*. This chapter examines George W. Bush’s immigration reform rhetoric during his second term, and argues that despite the failure in policy changes, Bush’s rhetoric serves as an important example of why political rhetoric scholars should pay attention to failures in public discourse as well as more successful discourses of political change.

This summer, Professor Drury has kept busy with two Wabash experiences, each exciting in its own way. She joined five other Wabash faculty—including her husband, **Professor Jeff Drury**—and visited Xi’an, Luoyang, Dengfeng, and Beijing, China (see bottom photo). This trip was sponsored by an **Andrew W. Mellon** grant, “Asian Studies and the Liberal Arts: A Wabash College and DePauw University Collaboration” that has sent Wabash and DePauw faculty to the East-West Center and to destinations across Asia to promote intercultural, interdisciplinary learning in Asian Studies. Professor Drury teaches a module on Chinese language as part of RHE320 Classical Rhetoric. She was thrilled to visit the Stele Forest in Xi’an and the Songyang Academy in Dengfeng, as both sites represent locations of centuries of Chinese learning and history. When she returned from China, she supervised three summer research students, **Kyle Stucker ’17**, **Connor Rice ’17**, and **Jack Kellerman ’18**, on projects relating to rhetoric and deliberation. Professor Drury finds that working collaboratively on research with undergraduate students is a rewarding process, and appreciates the support from Wabash College’s Division II Summer Research fund and the Kettering Foundation that enables summer research internships for Wabash students. You can read about some of these student research experiences, as well as other summer internship experiences, at the Wabash College Summer Internships blog: [Connor’s reflections](#) and [Jack’s reflections](#).

[Link for Connor](#)

[Link for Jack](#)



The Professors Drury at the Longmen Grottoes, Luoyang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site recognized as the largest collection of Chinese art of the Northern Wei and Tang Dynasties (316-907 CE).

Professor Todd McDorman recently completed his 17th year at Wabash. Professor McDorman's research has examined the rhetoric of law and, more recently, the rhetoric of sport. Extending from this work he has three times offered an elective course in Rhetoric of Sport and in 2015 will repeat his Freshman Tutorial on Baseball and American Identity, which includes an immersion experience at the Baseball Hall of Fame. As part of his scholarship, he has four times had the opportunity to present elements of his Pete Rose work at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum as part of the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture.



On July 1, 2014 Professor McDorman became Senior Associate Dean of the College, a newly created position. In this role Professor McDorman teaches half-time (three courses per year) and provides support to the Dean of the College. In his administrative capacity his duties include the hiring and review of visiting faculty; the hiring, review, and professional development of academic staff; and overseeing program reviews. He is also serving as the administrator of two new grants received by the college from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U).

This past year Professor McDorman again taught the Rhetoric Senior Seminar as well as two sections of Public Speaking. This year also has seen publication of Professor McDorman's essay "One for the Books': (Re)Constructing Baseball History, Memory, and Community" in *The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, 2013-2014*. The essay, which provides an analysis of an exhibit at the Baseball Hall of Fame that considers the meaning of baseball records in the steroids era, is based on his 2013 LaFollette lecture ([Link for the LaFollette Lecture](#)). And in October, Oxford University Press will publish the public speaking textbook *Rhetoric and Democratic Participation: Speech, Deliberation, and Analysis in the Civic Realm*. The book, co-authored with rhetoric colleague **Jennifer Abbott**, former Wabash rhetoric professor **David Timmerman**, and professor of English **Jill Lamberton**, is reflective of work in the rhetoric department over the past decade with its increased emphasis on the relationship of rhetoric and democracy, deliberation, and civic engagement.

Professor McDorman, his wife (**Kelly**—Assistant Director of Wabash's Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts), and his three children (Dana--17, Lily--11, and Carter--5) live close to campus and attend many campus events. The summer has seen visits to Cincinnati to visit the MLB all-star game Fanfest (see below photo), Kings Island, Great Wolf Lodge, and the Cincinnati Museum Center--and to watch the Cincinnati Reds.



Alumni Updates



Kyle Grand '11 is still serving as the associate director of communication for Beta Theta Pi, handling the organization's social media and writing its quarterly magazine. Outside of his full-time job, Grand works part-time for Pacers Sports and Entertainment helping the marketing department during two to three Indiana Pacers/Indiana Fever games per month. Finally, he manages "Hoosier State of Mind," an Indiana University sports blog that is part of the FanSided network.



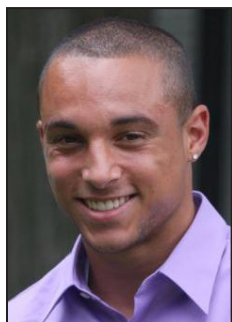
Kenny Farris '12: Farris graduated from Saint Louis University School of Law in May 2015, focusing on health law issues. He recently accepted employment at Health Capital Consultants, a St. Louis-based valuation firm that provides appraisal and litigation support services on various health law topics, including physician compensation and certificate of need regulation. In addition, Farris is also the coordinator for Wabash alumni activities in the St. Louis area.



Donovan Bisbee '12: Bisbee is now entering his last year of course work for his PhD in rhetorical studies. He earned his M.A. in 2014, and stayed on at the University of Illinois for doctoral work with advisor, John Murphy. His research focuses on the interbranch rhetoric of struggles over interpretive authority regarding the U.S. Constitution. Bisbee is currently developing a manuscript on FDR's Judiciary Fireside Chat and is looking forward to teaching a class in Visual Politics and TAing for a large course on American Public Address this fall. He has also been running half marathons, homebrewing, and volunteering at the local humane society.



Colten Craigin, '13 has taken a promotion as a Sales Associate for Stryker Endoscopy in the Greater Detroit Area. He recently made his first home purchase in Royal Oak, MI, where he spent most of his summer renovating his house. He spent last year as the Chapter Counselor for Purdue's Beta Theta Pi chapter.



Wesley Chamblee '12: After two years as an admissions counselor at Wabash, Chamblee was named a 2015 ICLEO (Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity) Fellow. He is entering his first year at the University of Notre Dame Law School. Orientation begins August 19th.

Visiting Professor



Professor Jessica L. Kuperavage will join the Rhetoric Department for 2015-16 as a Visiting Professor. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from Penn State's Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, where she was affiliated with the Center for Democratic Deliberation. Prior to that, she earned her B.A. in Communication Studies with minors in Political Science and Leadership from Christopher Newport University.

Professor Kuperavage is an avid reader, and likes to use a narrative approach and case studies to teach theoretical concepts in the classroom. She is excited to join the Wabash faculty this year as a Visiting Assistant Professor teaching courses on public speaking, persuasion, and rhetoric of science/medicine.

Her research program focuses on persuasive appeals in health campaigns and health social movements. She is particularly interested in how we can use concepts and approaches from rhetorical studies to better promote preventive health measures. She has published research on drug control and infant mortality prevention. In addition to her research, Professor Kuperavage volunteers with Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, a national evidence-based program for reducing infant mortality in communities across the United States.

In her spare time, Professor Kuperavage enjoys traveling, watching college football, and running. A native of Delaware, she finds that the Crawfordsville area feels a lot like home – just without the seagulls.

Celebrating Wabash College's Day of Giving, 4.22.15

We would like to thank the many of you who contributed to the college's last Day of Giving on 4.22. During that day, the college received more than 2,700 gifts and raised over \$500,000. Of the many Affinity Challenges offered that day (these are fundraising challenges issued by one or more people to a targeted group of people who all share an affinity), two were especially meaningful to us: the Rhetoric/Brigance Affinity Challenge and the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse Affinity Challenge. Nearly \$6500 in gifts given on the Day of Giving were associated with these two Challenges. Here are the numbers:

	Rhetoric/Brigance	WDPD
Number of gifts:	38	22
Amount raised:	\$3350	\$3115

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

ALUMNI: YOU'RE WANTED!

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

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

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