



# **Greek Life at Wabash College**

*a guide for students and parents*

Welcome,

On behalf of Wabash faculty, staff, and students, I am happy to welcome you to Honor Scholarship Weekend. This weekend gives you a great opportunity to get to know the College. I am sure you will find in Wabash a community dedicated to helping you make the most out of your time here.

As you ponder your college choice and think hard about Wabash, you will consider many questions, including, “What will it be like to live here?” As a freshman at Wabash, you will spend much time in classes, studying in the library, and you will be engaged in sports, the arts, and various organizations. But you will also spend a lot of time in what we call your “living unit” — studying, talking about everything under the sun, and just hanging out with guys who may become the best friends of your life. As you think about this, consider the broad options of fraternity life or independent living, and the many variations among each of these choices.

I invite you to take a good look at Greek life at Wabash. I think you will find that fraternities at Wabash are far better than the stereotype you may have gathered from other colleges. Each fraternity at Wabash is a distinct community where men take seriously the highest ideals of their traditions. Certainly, all Wabash men bond together as “loyal sons” of Wabash, but the smaller community within each fraternity offers you a great sense of connection, family, and brotherhood.

Wabash fraternities are committed to the academic success of their members, and each year fraternity men rank among the highest achievers and strongest leaders on campus. Fraternities encourage excellence in all their members, supporting time management, hard work, and cooperation. Opportunities for leadership, networking with alumni, and engagement in community service offer experiences that will enhance your learning and shape your life.

Wabash has invested over \$30 million to renovate and build new fraternity living spaces. These houses provide an excellent physical environment in which the fraternal ideals of community and brotherhood are played out. All at Wabash are committed to engaging students and raising gentlemen who will think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely. The fraternities of Wabash are proud partners in this vital mission. I wish you the best in your college search and I look forward to “ringing you in” as a proud member of the Wabash class of 2012.

Sincerely yours in Wabash,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "P" and "W".

Pat White  
President

# Why Rush?

Choosing Greek life at Wabash is an important decision that should not be taken lightly. Alumni look back on their decision to join a fraternity as one of the most defining moments of their collegiate career, regardless of when they graduated.

While it is difficult to describe all of the reasons that make choosing Greek life so special, it can be said that there are four “pillars” of Greek life which explain that decision fairly well.

The first pillar of Wabash Greek life is **LEADERSHIP**. Greeks at Wabash are more often than not the most involved on campus, routinely holding the top positions in campus clubs. Also, Greek life provides the opportunity to hold a position inside one’s house. This is an invaluable experience that teaches good leadership skills for “the real world.”

The second pillar is **SCHOLARSHIP**. Each house on campus takes pride in its participants’ grades, and because of that many Greeks consistently show GPA’s that are around or higher than the all-campus average. Also, living in a house of 20 or more other students in various majors provides the support often needed for incoming freshmen in what could otherwise be an overwhelming first semester.

The third pillar is **SERVICE**. Community projects and philanthropy are a staple of Greek life at Wabash. Projects range from Big Brother mentoring to roadside cleanups, Greeks are routinely at the forefront of the Wabash community service effort.

The fourth pillar is **BROTHERHOOD**. This is considered by many to be the most visible and most powerful asset gained from Greek life. Greek life at Wabash is not like that at other schools and promotes lifelong friendships.

# Leadership

Fraternity life provides numerous opportunities to grow and develop as a leader on campus. First of all, being in a fraternity aids you in gaining officer positions in clubs on campus because many of your brothers will be in the same club and will be able to vouch for your abilities. Fraternity men consistently hold top leadership positions in many campus-wide organizations.

The fraternity itself acts as a great place to develop leadership skills. Each fraternity on campus has a number of elected positions. Whether serving as chapter president, scholarship chair, or house manager, there are a number of positions which allow members, freshmen to seniors, to use their talents to develop leadership skills in a helpful, supportive environment.



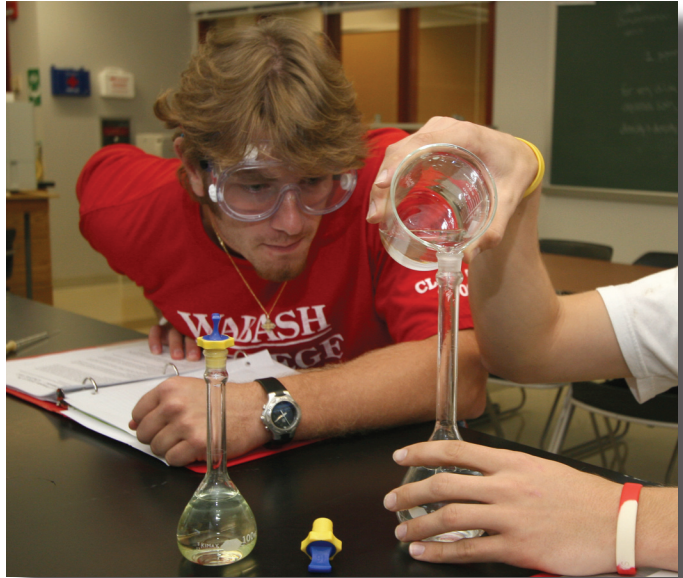
*"Leading effectively is part of the Wabash tradition. It is about interacting with people and learning to express yourself in such a way that those you are leading will be inspired to work alongside you. Even as freshmen, Greek students are encouraged to grow as leaders both in their house and on campus – to become Rush Chairs, Intramural Managers, IFC Representatives, and club officers, just to name a few. Personally, I have learned many valuable life skills which have greatly helped me in the positions that I have been afforded today and will continue to help me in the future."*

Jim Leuck '09, President, Inter-Fraternity Council

# Scholarship

Unlike the stereotypical view of fraternities, Greek life at Wabash benefits one's grades. They are of the utmost importance to chapters.

Joining a fraternity plugs students into a supportive academic network. As a fraternity member, you have access to a number of brothers in different majors who can give advice and aid in coursework. Also important, the very environment promoted at fraternities gives you a solid support system, always pushing you to do your very best.



Scholarship chairs coordinate study tables for freshmen during pledgeship. Study tables are designated times each evening, generally Sunday through Thursday, that freshmen are expected to be at the library studying. Brothers escort the freshmen to the library and work alongside them, helping them with troubles they may have. Study tables also help freshmen balance an otherwise hectic first semester, making sure they have time for their studies.

## Combined Average Fraternity Grade Point Averages

Fall '05	Spring '06	Fall '06	Spring '07	Fall '07
3.03	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.02

# A Tradition of Service

Philanthropy is an integral part of Greek life at Wabash. Each semester, fraternity members devote hundreds of hours out of their already hectic schedules to complete local community service projects. Listed below are but a few of the various philanthropy projects of Greeks at Wabash.

- American Cancer Society Relay for Life (raised over \$5,000)
- Poker Tournament for Breast Cancer Research (raised over \$2,000)
- Crawfordsville Alliance of Churches
- FISH Food Pantry Volunteers
- College Mentors for Kids
- Tutoring at Crawfordsville High School
- Boys & Girls Club Coaches
- Crawfordsville Jewish Awareness League
- Habitat for Humanity
- Montgomery County Animal Shelter
- Highway Cleanup and Adopt-a-Highway
- Montgomery County Family Crisis Shelter (annually raise \$3,000)
- Numerous campus-wide blood drives



*"Our freshmen come from all across the country and from different financial, educational, and cultural backgrounds. Really, there are more factors that work against a pledge class than for it. What better way to help these guys unite than to have them combine their efforts in community service activities? We've discovered that our freshmen are able to help others, and at the same time bond as a class."*

— Daniel King '10, Beta Theta Pi



# Brotherhood

The most visible and arguably the most valuable aspect of fraternity life is brotherhood. Many alumni will attest to how the relationships they formed in their houses at Wabash are still ones they cherish to this day.

The bonding that takes place during pledgship with both your pledge brothers and the active brothers in your house is the basis for many lifelong friendships. It is the uniqueness of fraternity life at Wabash that lends itself to this phenomenon. Since freshmen live in their house their first semester they form much closer bonds with their pledge brothers, and others in the house, than do those at other schools with second-semester rush and where most members don't spend their full four years living in the house.



*“The fraternity system at Wabash is remarkably rewarding. Though all Wabash students have places to congregate, eat, and study, being a Greek man means something more. Our fraternity system helps build lifelong friendships, provides its members networking opportunities with alumni, encourages the development of leadership skills, and teaches the value of service. Most of all though, it gives its members a home here on campus, in which they can grow and develop together.”*

— Grant Gussman '09, Theta Delta Chi

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How expensive is pledging a fraternity?

Unlike most schools, living in a fraternity is actually less expensive than living in a dorm. All freshmen are charged the same price for their freshmen year, but after that the savings range from \$600 to \$1,600 per year. In addition to the savings, the houses are much larger than dorms with spacious common areas, an open kitchen, and a house chef to prepare your meals during the week.

## What is pledgeship like?

Each house has its own traditions and so pledgeship is different for each fraternity. However, what is the same is the bonding and lifelong friendships that develop. Fraternity pledgeships take place during the first semester. During pledgeship you learn a lot about your pledge brothers and come to rely on them, forming the special friendships that are at the heart of the fraternity experience. Also, most pledgeships require that freshmen maintain good grades to be initiated and each house has “study tables” where freshmen gather as a pledge class and study in the library for a few hours each night. Every fraternity requires freshmen to help keep the house clean either as a pledge class or along with the other brothers. This exercise is designed to teach responsibility and to aid freshmen in learning to balance their time, an invaluable life lesson. We encourage prospective students to ask each house about their particular pledgeship program. Parents are also encouraged to call rush chairs or IFC officers if they have questions.



*“Greek life at Wabash brings together people from all realms of life and unites them in one common life-style. You become best friends with people you would have otherwise never interacted with.”*

Adi Pynenberg '08  
Lambda Chi Alpha  
3-Time All-American Football Player  
Dean's List Student

## **Are there any benefits beyond college?**

It is a well-known fact that the Wabash alumni are loyal to their fraternity brothers. They feel connected to the current student body and often go out of their way to help provide internships, references, and other aid to current students. Being from the same fraternity of a certain alumnus provides an even stronger reason for him to give you a hand. It is very common for alumni from your fraternity to be your biggest assets in your career aspirations.

## **What kind of social life do fraternities offer?**

The social scene at Wabash is fueled in large part by the fraternities. TGIF's are hosted each Friday by the Sphinx Club and are typically held at fraternities. These relaxed events allow students to mingle with guys from all over campus, and professors as well, fostering the sort of campus unity Wabash is proud to claim.

Faculty dinners are an opportunity for fraternities to further interact in a relaxed setting with their professors and administrators. Each house holds at least one faculty dinner each semester. They invite professors, staff, deans, coaches, and even the college president over to dinner for an evening of great conversation.

Fraternity formals are functions each fraternity has at least one of each year. Usually held out of town in Indianapolis or Chicago, brothers bring dates and dress up for an evening of dinner and dancing.

## **How do I find out more about rushing?**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the IFC Officers listed on the back page of this booklet. Additionally, during Honor Scholar Weekend, we would encourage you to visit each house and to talk to the brothers. A tour of every house is offered during the weekend and will help you to find where you best fit. Each house will also host rush parties in the summer to provide another opportunity to meet the brothers and ask questions about the fraternity experience. During orientation in August, there is still time to rush until houses close their pledge classes. The decision to pledge lies solely in your hands, but we encourage you to take a look at our unique, beneficial system. We remain committed to the idea that there is a house where every student will feel at home.

# Greek Rush Terms

**RUSH** is the period of time in which fraternities may pursue prospective students. All rush rules apply during rush functions during this period. Rush begins at Wabash on Friday of Honor Scholarship Weekend, continues through the summer at rush parties and concludes by Wednesday of Freshmen Orientation Week in August.

**BID:** A formal invitation to a prospective student to join a fraternity. Once given a bid, the student had three options: accept, hold, or decline.

**ACCEPT:** A binding decision to join that house upon matriculation to Wabash. An accept is a promise by a student that should he come to Wabash, he will join that fraternity. A student may only accept one bid and therefore should be sure of his decision before accepting.

**HOLD:** A decision by the student to take some time to consider the offer to join. Prospective students may hold from the moment they receive the bid until the fraternity closes its pledge class. Once the class is closed, however, any outstanding bids become void. Should a student decide to take some time and hold a bid, he should stay in contact with the Rush Chair(s) for that house.

**DECLINE:** A binding decision to reject the bid from a fraternity. Once a prospective student declines a bid, it becomes void.

**CLOSED PLEDGE CLASS:** A declaration by a fraternity chapter that its rush period is over and that no more bids will be extended.

**DRY RUSH:** During rush, certain weekends (like Honor Scholarship Weekend) are designated “dry” by the College and by the IFC. All functions during the period of Rush must be completely alcohol-free and all participants – brothers and prospective students – must comply.

**DIRTY RUSH:** A member of a fraternity, or a fraternity in general, speaking badly of another house or making actions that disparage another fraternity in the presence of a prospective student. Dirty rushing is prohibited by the IFC.

# Here's What Parents Think



*"When you send your kids to college, you don't expect perfection. You just want them to be happy. Our son found the perfect fit with Wabash, and he couldn't be happier. With the encouragement of his brothers in the Beta house, our son has become involved in more activities than anyone will want to read. And, it's not just that they pushed him to participate. His brothers pushed him to excel — on the field, in the classroom, and in life. They're the kind of brothers every kid should be so lucky to have."*

Steve Egan, Sr. — Father of Steve Egan, Beta Theta Pi

*"Lifelong friendships and brotherhood bonds aren't just clichés of fraternity life at Wabash — they are a reality! Leadership, support, accountability, pride and tradition have been passed down to my son. I'm proud to know that he will continue to pass these values and qualities onto future fraternity men at Wabash College."*

Julie Graham

Mother of Brent Graham, Lambda Chi Alpha



*"Similar to other parents, I had some preconceived ideas about fraternity life. Animal House of course came to mind. I never joined a fraternity in college so I certainly missed out on that experience. Now I'm very happy and proud that we let Jim make the decision to join a fraternity. Jim's growth and maturity has been inspirational and amazing. There have been great relationships developed and extremely helpful life experiences learned through fraternity life, such as teamwork and responsibility of holding various office positions. One of the most impressive things I've seen develop is the problem solving skills that will be invaluable in any future endeavor. If your son is looking for challenges and opportunities,*

*knock on the doors to the Greek system at Wabash and the doors of opportunity will swing wide open."*

Gene Leuck, Father of Jim Leuck, Theta Delta Chi

# Facts About Greek Life

- 85% of the *Fortune 500* executives are members of Greek organizations.
- 25 United States presidents have belonged to Greek-letter organizations and 63% of the U.S. President's cabinet since 1900 have been fraternity men.
- Greek organization members have a higher graduation rate: 71% of Greek students graduate, while just over 50% of their non-Greek counterparts do so.
- A study by the Center for the Study of College Fraternities found that fraternity and sorority members were significantly more satisfied with their college experience than non-members.
- 77% of "Who's Who in America" were in fraternities in college.

---

## Contact

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the following Inter-Fraternity Council Officers or go to **[www.wabash.edu/fraternity](http://www.wabash.edu/fraternity)**

Jim Leuck '09  
President  
765-427-2252  
[leuckj@wabash.edu](mailto:leuckj@wabash.edu)

Richard Hogue '09  
Vice President  
715-492-0297  
[hoguer@wabash.edu](mailto:hoguer@wabash.edu)

Jay Horrey '09  
Treasurer  
502-645-3651  
[horreyj@wabash.edu](mailto:horreyj@wabash.edu)

Tim Kraft '11  
Secretary  
765-586-3048  
[kraftt@wabash.edu](mailto:kraftt@wabash.edu)

**WABASH**  
**COLLEGE**