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Rhetoric Newsletter

August 2022



Message from the Outgoing Chair, Sara Drury

The 2021-2022 academic year was a busy one for the Rhetoric Department. We welcomed new visiting colleagues into Rhetoric and the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse initiative. Our faculty offered four new courses this year: Rhetoric, Science, and Public Policy, Rhetoric of Sitcoms, Global Approaches to Rhetorical Criticism, and Exploring Hoosiers. We also offered Public Speaking, Argumentation & Debate, Persuasion, Deliberation & Democracy, Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Criticism, Classical Rhetoric, Rhetoric of the News Media, and Senior Seminar.



This year's senior major class was the largest in known history, with 26 Rhetoric majors. The seniors enjoyed a senior seminar co-taught by Professors Abbott, J. Drury, and S. Drury. Students wrote rhetorical analyses on topics as varied as social media, speeches by prominent political figures, popular film and television shows such as *Any Given Sunday*, *Black-ish*, and *Peaky Blinders*, the Sermon on the Mount, discourse from the COVID-19 pandemic, rap music, country music, sports advertisements, recent legal decisions, and more. As I am sure many of you recall from your own senior seminar, one of the best parts of the semester was listening to final presentations and engaging in discussion about the wide variety of rhetorical artifacts selected.

Rhetoric students earned a variety of academic accolades this year. You can read about Lambda Pi Eta on page 3 and the other awards on page 5.

In the spring semester, the Rhetoric Department partnered with the President's Distinguished Speakers Series to co-host Dr. Lisa A. Flores, Professor of Communication and Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Dr. Flores gave the 2022 Brigance Forum Lecture, which you can read more about on page 2. She also delivered "Towards a More Equitable, Inclusive, and Diverse Institution: Our Everyday Work," as the first in-person President's Distinguished Speakers Series event since 2020. Her two presentations demonstrate our continued commitment to bringing excellent rhetorical scholars to campus as well as contribute to on-going conversations at the College on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We are pleased to celebrate Professor Todd McDorman's appointment as Dean of the College. Professor McDorman has served as Acting Dean for the last two years, and began his tenure on July 1. This fall, Professor Jennifer Abbott will serve as Department Chair. In the spring semester, Professor Abbott will be on sabbatical leave, and Professor Jeff Drury will serve as Department Chair. Professor Sara Drury will be on leave next year as she brings her research and practice in deliberation to Unify America, a nonprofit organization focusing on scaling up deliberation into government. Visiting Professor Jordin Clark will return next year, offering exciting courses like her fall class in Rhetoric and Social Movements. Professor Chris Anderson and Professor James Proszek will also remain at Wabash next year, dividing their time between teaching in the department and working in Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse.

I invite you to read more about our activities this year in the newsletter, and am delighted to share our faculty and alumni updates. We are grateful for your engagement and support, and you are always welcome in the Fine Arts Center.

Cordially,
Professor Sara A. Mehlretter Drury

Brigance Forum Lecture



Dr. Flores talks with students in Dr. James Proszek's class, RHE 270: Global Approaches to Criticism

In March 2022, **Dr. Lisa Flores** visited campus to deliver two keynote addresses, including the Brigance Forum Lecture, and interact with multiple groups. Dr. Flores is Professor in the Department of Communication and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the College of Media, Communication, and Information at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

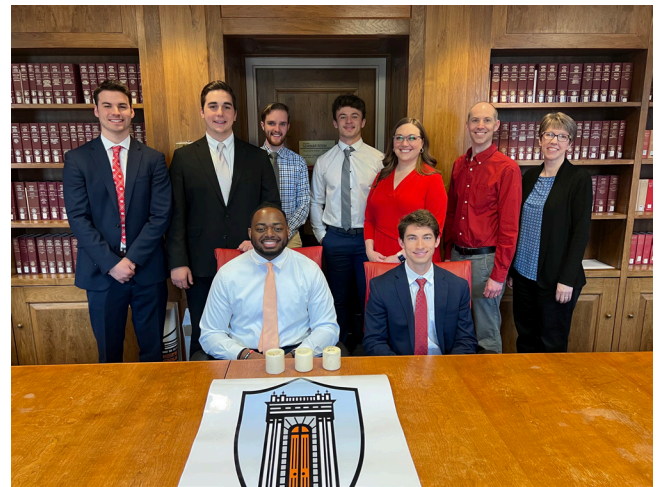
She first spoke as part of the President's Distinguished Speakers Series, delivering the lecture, "Toward a More Equitable, Inclusive, and Diverse Institution: Our Everyday Work." She followed up on themes of this lecture through visits with **Dean Todd McDorman** and Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **Jill Lamberton**; student members of *La Alianza*; and Rhetoric department faculty.

Dr. Flores also delivered the Brigance Forum Lecture, ["Crisis' at the U.S.-Mexico Border?: Towards a Racial Rhetorical Perspective."](#) The lecture was based in part on Dr. Flores' recent book, *Deportable and Disposable: Public Rhetoric and the Making of the Illegal Immigrant*, published in 2020 with Penn State University press. The book has won three major awards, including the 2021 Book Award from the Rhetoric Society of America.

In addition to giving public lectures, Dr. Flores met with three classes: **Prof. James Proszek's** RHE 270 Global Approaches to Criticism, **Prof. Jordin Clark's** RHE 370 Exploring Hoosiers, and History **Prof. Savitri Kunze's** HIS 200 Citizenship and Nationality. Dr. Flores also sat down with **Richard Paige** to record an episode of *Wabash On My Mind*. You can listen to episode #318 [here](#).

Lambda Pi Eta

Lambda Pi Eta is the honor society of the National Communication Association. Rhetoric majors and minors are eligible for induction if they meet rigorous academic criteria within their Rhetoric courses and overall academic performance. Last spring, Wabash's Alpha Gamma Nu chapter inducted seven new students: **Jonathan "Kenny" Coleman '22**, **Reagan Perkins '22**, **Morgan Seagrave '22**, **Jackson Heldt '23**, **Collin Kinniry '23**, **Bryce McCullough '23**, and **Liam Thompson '23**. These students joined **Seth Gallman '22**, **Hunter Seidler '22**, and **Michael Dane Smith '22**.



Newly inducted members of Lambda Pi Eta celebrate with Profs. S. Drury, J. Drury, and Abbott



DR. LISA FLORES
University of Colorado

Lisa A. Flores is Professor in the Department of Communication and Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the College of Media, Communication, and Information at the University of Colorado. Her research and teaching interests lie in rhetoric, critical race studies, and gender/queer studies. Her current work explores the spatiotemporalities of rhetorical race making, asking how we consider the simultaneity of mobility, containment, space, and temporality.

PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKETS AT WWW.WABASH.EDU/BOOKOFFICE/

PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

MONDAY, MARCH 21
7:30PM
SALTER HALL, FINE ARTS CENTER

TOWARD A MORE EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND DIVERSE INSTITUTION: OUR EVERYDAY WORK

BRIGANCE FORUM LECTURE

TUESDAY, MARCH 22
12:10PM
BAXTER 101

"CRISIS" AT THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER?: TOWARD A RACIAL RHETORICAL PERSPECTIVE

2022 Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work



Hunter Seidler '22 presents his project at the 2022 Celebration of Student Research

Two students presented their RHE 497 senior projects at this year's Celebration on April 15, 2022. **Hunter Seidler '22** presented "Amateurism's Death in Chicago: The Supreme Court's Conservative Views of Antitrust in *NCAA v. Alston*." Hunter's project was sponsored by Prof. Jeff Drury. **Kenny Coleman '22** presented "When All Falls Down: When Talking About Race In Films Goes Wrong - An Analysis of the film *Any Given Sunday*." Kenny's project was sponsored by Prof. Jennifer Abbott. Both seniors later won awards, which you can read about in "Rhetoric Student Awards" on page 5.

Mark Magnon '23, Parker Gamble '23, and Devin Jimenez '24 – a group of students from Prof. Sara Drury's RHE 270 Rhetoric, Science, and Public Policy – presented a paper, "How Should Vaccines be Distributed Globally?"

CSCA Research Presentation

Seth Kirkpatrick '24

This last February I had the phenomenal opportunity to attend the Central States Communication Association conference in Madison, WI. At this conference I presented a paper I had written for RHE 350 the semester prior, entitled "A Rhetorical Criticism: Prager University's 'What is Critical Race Theory?'" This experience was made possible by Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse, as the initiative also presented one of its pieces, and offered transportation to the conference. I would like to give a special thanks to Professor Chris Anderson, Professor James Proszek, and Dr. Sara Drury for coordinating the trip and offering support to myself and other students.

This conference was beneficial for a variety of reasons. First, it gave me a better understanding of how to present your work, and what you should focus on when presenting. I learned that a large part of it was showing what techniques and theories you applied to your research and how they benefitted the overall paper. After I learned what to present, I was then able to understand what to look for when watching someone else's presentation. By understanding their techniques, and the theories they applied, the overall impact of their work on the greater rhetoric community became clearer.

Several Democracy Fellows presented work they produced through the WDPD. **Cole Bergman '24, Burkley McCarthy '24, and Clayton Allen '23** presented, "Deliberation with Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program." Prof. Sara Drury and Prof. James Proszek sponsored their project. **Morgan Seagrave '22, Andrew McCullough '23, and Jackson Grabill '24** presented work sponsored by Prof. Chris Anderson: "Predicting Deliberative Outcomes: The Factors that Determine Perceived Learning and Change of Opinion in Deliberation." Several Democracy Fellows offered a poster presentation of their WDPD work, which was sponsored by Prof. Chris Anderson and Prof. Sara Drury. **Abraham Wade '22, Noah Miller '22, Seth Kirkpatrick '24, Jacob Talbert '24, and Benjmin Mijangos Sampsell '24** presented, "Wabash History of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion."



Kenny Coleman '22 presents his project at the 2022 Celebration of Student Research

Through this experience, I have come to understand that there are two main ways that a rhetorician's piece is significant. The first is through social value, or the way it benefits the broader community, namely by being informative about a text and its purpose. The second is its significance to other rhetoricians and how they can mimic or build off of that piece's work to better their own. At CSCA, each presentation I attended not only showed me the distinctions between these two avenues of importance, but also demonstrated how they often overlap. A technique for criticism may be important for rhetoricians, but it also can be used by the general public to help them digest the endless stream of content they consume.

On a more personal level, this experience has made me question my future following Wabash College. Initially, I had plans to attend law school, but a post-graduate program in rhetorical studies now sits on my radar. For my last two years at Wabash, I aim to continuously harness my skills as a rhetoric student, and hopefully bring a better paper back to CSCA these next couple years. I may be shooting for the stars, but I hope to make a larger impact on other rhetoricians with my future work, and perhaps motivate them in their work as I was motivated at this year's conference.

Moot Court



Competitors and judges for the preliminary rounds of the 28th Moot Court Competition

Following a virtual competition in the 2020-2021 academic year, the 28th Moot Court competition returned in October 2021 to its traditional in-person format. The competition was sponsored by the Rhetoric Department in partnership with the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men and was organized by **Professor Jeff Drury**.

The case was modeled on the appeal involving the Boston Marathon bombings, in which two brothers carried out a terrorist attack in 2013. This year's problem raised two questions of appeal: First, did the trial judge take sufficient steps to ensure that this pretrial publicity, some of which was inaccurate and inadmissible, did not prejudice the trial? Second, did the trial judge improperly exclude evidence that the older brother may have dominated the younger brother, and should the jury have heard that evidence

before it decided to sentence the younger brother to death? Thirty Wabash students participated in the competition and 12 advanced to the semi-finals round. The finalists were **Vasilios Antonopoulos '22**, **Jakob Goodwin '23**, **Andrew Hollingsworth '23**, and **Cooper Smith '23**. Smith, a third time finalist, earned his second Top Advocate award despite strong competitors.

The event would not be possible without the support of Professor Scott Himsel '85, Jon Pactor '71, Matt Griffith '89, Seamus Boyce '03, Julia Phipps, Amber King, Brandon Rash, and case writer Jane Ann Himsel. **Josh Kramer '23** also helped as a student assistant for the event.

You can read more about the competition on the College's [website](#) and watch the competition on [YouTube](#). Stay tuned for information about the 29th Moot Court competition in October 2022.



The student finalists of the 28th Moot Court Competition

Welcome Ryne Mills



Ryne Mills '22, is excited to be returning to Wabash for another year, transitioning from student to staff as he rejoins the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) as Program Assistant. Ryne, who graduated in May 2022, spent his past 4 years at Wabash studying Philosophy, while minoring in Rhetoric and served as a WDPD Fellow during both his junior and senior year. Ryne is excited at the opportunity to return to his alma mater and bring his experiences as a Fellow and student to his new role as a staff member. Ryne

hopes to build upon the work he did in his time as a Fellow, utilizing social media and an ever-increasing online presence to foster and build more widespread student participation in WDPD events.

As WDPD Program Assistant, Ryne will help cultivate new ideas,

drawing on his own experiences as a Wabash student, to help continue to grow the program and its outreach, both in the Wabash community and beyond. Ryne has a passion for engaging communities and truly believes in the work of deliberation and he cannot wait to continue to positively impact communities as he transitions to new responsibilities and a new role.

Rhetoric Student Awards

Joseph O'Rourke, Jr. Prize in Speech

The Joseph O'Rourke, Jr. Prize in Speech is given annually to the top senior project in Rhetoric, as determined by the faculty. This award is named in honor of legendary Professor of Speech, Joseph O'Rourke, who taught at Wabash from 1960 through 1997. The Rhetoric Department awarded the 2022 O'Rourke Prize to **Hunter Seidler '22** for his project, "Amateurism's Death in Chicago: The Supreme Court's Conservative Views of Antitrust in *NCAA v. Alston*." Seidler offers a careful and nuanced look at a recent Supreme Court ruling regarding student-athletes, drawing not only on rhetorical theory but on the underlying philosophical and legal context of the contemporary court. The ideological analysis revealed the ways that the Court's selective framing has ramifications for corporations, the economy, and U.S. capitalism.

Nicholas McCarty Harrison Award

The Nicholas McCarty Harrison Essay Award is awarded annually to the students who write the best essays in American studies. This year, two Rhetoric senior majors received this award for their senior projects in rhetorical studies:

- **Kenny Coleman '22** for his senior project, "When All Falls Down: When Talking About Race in Films Goes Wrong – An Analysis of the film *Any Given Sunday*."
- **Hunter Seidler '22** for his senior project, "Amateurism's Death in Chicago: The Supreme Court's Conservative Views of Antitrust in *NCAA v. Alston*."

Phi Beta Kappa Prize

The Phi Beta Kappa Prize is awarded annually to the student who is judged by the committee "to have produced the most original and meritorious piece of work, whether artistic or analytical." This year, three prizes were given, including two to Rhetoric and WDPD students:

- **Hunter Seidler '22** won for "Amateurism's Death in Chicago: The Supreme Court's Conservative Views of Antitrust in *NCAA v. Alston*."
- **Noah Miller '22, Abraham Wade '22, Benjamin Sampsell '24, Seth Kirkpatrick '24, and Jacob Talbert '24** won for their WDPD deliberation in October 2021 on the "Wabash History of Diversity and Inclusion."

Robert Wedgeworth Library Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Awards

The Wedgeworth Award recognizes students who effectively utilize library resources in the work they present at the annual Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work. **Kenny Coleman '22** won for "When All Falls Down: When Talking About Race in Films Goes Wrong – An Analysis of the film *Any Given Sunday*."

Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies Service Award

This award is presented to the outstanding senior who has demonstrated commitment and unwavering support of MXIBS programs. **Kenny Coleman '22** was honored with this award.

Athletic Academic Recognition

We celebrate our Rhetoric student-athletes who earned a spot on the North Coast Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll: **Cristian Aleman '22, Cole Bergman '24, Kenny Coleman '22, John Frey '22, Tommy Hansen '23, Ethan Pine '22, Dane Smith '22, Liam Thompson '23, and Abe Wade '22.**

We also recognize double major (Rhetoric and Biology) **Jack Heldt '23**, who won the NCAA's elite 90 award ([read more about Jack's award here](#)).

Distinction in Comprehensive Exams

The Rhetoric department honors **Hunter Seidler '22** for earning Distinction on his Comprehensive Exams. His accomplishment marks two years in a row for Rhetoric seniors earning distinction.

WDPD Update

Professor Sara Drury, *WDPD Director*

Professor Chris Anderson, *WDPD Program Associate*

Professor James Proszek, *WDPD Program Associate*

The 2021-2022 academic year was a period of strong growth for Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) despite continuous challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Two new program associates, Professor Chris Anderson and Professor James Proszek joined WDPD Director Professor Sara Drury in the fall to guide WDPD's largest group of Democracy Fellows at 22 students in Fall and 20 students in Spring. WDPD facilitated 37 events that convened 1420 total participants, of which 1069 participated on campus and 351 participated off campus. The third cohort of WDPD Direct Admits (first year students) included 14 students who participated in leadership seminars, bi-weekly discussion groups, and attended a full-day immersion program in Indianapolis (our thanks to alumnus Adam Burtner '17 for guiding the group).

WDPD continues its commitment to free speech and the marketplace of ideas by promoting open discussion, debate, and speech on campus. WDPD hosted a successful Constitution Day event, held outside in the Caleb Mills courtyard. The deliberation for that event focused on safeguarding voting in upcoming elections. This paired nicely with the fall "Paths to Political Unity" deliberation, which saw a large cross section of community and campus members come together to discuss how to forge connections across partisan divides. Additionally, the WDPD Fellows hosted two Free Speech Discussion groups, with attendance of more than 50 community members at each event. The communication-focused methods of WDPD highlight the importance of every citizen taking part in vigorous discussion to uphold our democracy, offering arguments for public consideration so that together we can determine the best actions. WDPD also hosted a variety of classroom deliberations around relevant course topics, across the Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Political Science, and Rhetoric departments.

Throughout the fall and spring, WDPD partnered with several campus and community organizations to address a variety of topics centered around promoting equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging. These efforts were coordinated across multiple project teams and resulted in 8 on-campus events—including a 5-week spring 2022 campus assembly of students, alumni, faculty, and staff dedicated to writing a statement of values regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. One project team led by Noah Miller '22, Abraham Wade '22, Benjamin Mijangos Sampsell '24, and Jacob Talbert '24 transformed their research and findings from the "A History of DEI at Wabash" event into a scholarly presentation at the Central States Communication Association's 2022 Undergraduate Research Conference in Madison, Wisconsin and Wabash College's Celebration of Student Research. This team also received the Phi Beta Kappa prize in recognition of their outstanding research, which provided a richer understanding of how DEI has evolved at Wabash College. Building on successful past virtual events during the pandemic, WDPD partnered with the RAND Corporation's Center to Advance Racial Equity Policy to hold two online workshops and two online public deliberations focusing on the topics of safe and brave spaces and belonging.

WDPD continued its strong partnership with the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program (WPLP). In the fall, we traveled to Indianapolis for WPLP's alumni event, where Democracy Fellows engaged with over 40 pastors throughout Indiana to discuss the role of civic habits in building relationships between faith communities and

civic leaders in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The WPLP project team next worked with a single congregation, Downey Avenue Christian Church in Indianapolis in the spring. The event, "Awaken the Space," aimed to determine how the church should prioritize proposed renovations to its building to best serve the local community.

The local community also benefitted from the work of WDPD students with a new partnership with Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District (MCSWCD). Using WDPD facilitators, MCSWCD held its first of several public comment meetings this spring as a deliberation. Their goal is to understand how to best use a IDEM Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant fund to develop a watershed management plan for Sugar Creek including water quality testing, community engagement, and development along the river. This project will continue with enclave deliberations of specific interest groups such as landowners and Sugar Creek recreationalists. Cole Bergman '24 presented this work at the Great Lakes College Association Sustainable Communities Conference this summer.

WDPD even stays busy in the summer. In the summer of 2021, Prof. Sara Drury and Prof. Chris Anderson co-facilitated a "super module" on collaborative discussion and deliberation for the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program. This module met every week of the WLAIP program, and students engaged in a range of co-curricular activities to introduce communication, community engagement, and deliberation. Every student in the WLAIP program completed the required activities, reflective practice, and journals and therefore earned the Interactivity Foundation's Collaborative Discussion Certificate. This certificate is a professional development credential that WLAIP students can put on their resumes for future internships and opportunities. Three students had WDPD internships in the summer of 2022. Cole Bergman '24 and Nathan Felix '24 worked on the Wysocki-Drury NSF grant, and their work will contribute to on-going research and publications on deliberation in the sciences. Cory Taylor '24 completed a Civic Mapping Internship under the direction of WDPD Program Associate James Proszek and WPLP Director Libby Manning. The internship will produce a digital resource for mapping community assets and relationships among WPLP participants and their broader communities, opening up new possibilities for engagement. In addition, Professor Proszek and Cory Taylor presented their civic mapping tool as an activity in Wabash College's new "Pathways to Your Future" program for rising sophomores and juniors in high school.

Looking ahead to the 2022-2023 academic year, WDPD is excited to welcome 20 Democracy Fellows and will welcome a new staff member, Ryne Mills, as WDPD Program Assistant. Additionally, Professor Sara Drury will be on leave in 2022-2023. Professor Chris Anderson will become WDPD Director, and Professor James Proszek will continue as WDPD Program Associate.

Faculty Updates



Highlights of Prof. Jennifer Abbott's year included teaching experiences. In addition to offering RHE 370 Rhetoric of the News Media again and co-teaching Senior Seminar, she developed a new elective, RHE 270 Rhetoric of Sitcoms. It was a blast to teach! Students considered how the sitcom genre functions both progressively and conservatively in its representations of gender, class, race, and sexuality.

Given the class's focus, it's probably no surprise that it filled with seniors! We examined sitcoms from the 1950s (*Honeymooners*, *I Love Lucy*) through today (*Black-ish*, *Parks and Rec*, *Master of None*) after considering sitcoms' core narrative, visual, and audio components. Students ended the course by writing their own sitcom script—many of which were truly funny and insightful.

Outside of teaching, Prof. Abbott remained busy with the Gender Issues Committee, which sponsored a Queer + Christian panel discussion, a PrEP Talk on sexual health, and developed Safe Space training. (Shout-out to **Prof. EJ Pavlinich**, who superbly chaired the committee!) She also really enjoyed mentoring **Prof. Jordin Clark**, who joined the Rhetoric faculty for the 21-22 academic year and has agreed to stay for a second year! Finally, Prof. Abbott coordinated the campus visit of **Dr. Lisa Flores**—a highly acclaimed rhetorical scholar, activist, and college administrator Prof. Abbott has admired and wanted to meet for some time. Dr. Flores did not disappoint. Please read

more about Dr. Flores' visit in the "Brigance Forum Lecture" article on page 2.

Outside of Wabash, Prof. Abbott stayed active as a board member and Secretary of Humans United for Equality (HUE), a nonprofit organization devoted to celebrating and promoting diversity in Montgomery County, Indiana. After a two-year hiatus, HUE held its annual Celebration of Unity event in April, 2022, which brought the MoCo community together through fun activities, performers, educational booths, and great food. Prof. Abbott ran a revamped version of the Game of Life—a game that invites participants to "walk in the shoes" of a fellow MoCo resident—based on feedback and ideas from **Prof. Michael Abbott's** Spring 2021 Game Design students.

Prof. Abbott also enjoyed time with family this past year. Her parents flew from California to spend Christmas in Indiana, which was a rare treat. It's hard to get people from San Diego to leave in the winter! They had a lovely time together, though it was tempered by the illness, and eventual loss, of Prof. Abbott's mother-in-law, Janice May. Janice defied all the stereotypes about mothers-in-law. She was generous, non-judgmental, and loving. She's deeply missed.

Finally, Prof. Abbott spent the summer relaxing and working. In May, she, Michael, and Zoe enjoyed a vacation in Hawaii. They shopped, sat on the beach and at the pool, hiked Diamondhead, and ate tasty food and drinks. This past July, Prof. Abbott taught a section of RHE 101 for the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program (WLAIP). The program helps incoming freshmen who have been historically under-served by higher education (men of color, first generation college students, and low-income families). Prof. Abbott taught in the program in 2019 and loved it; she was glad to return.



Jennifer, Michael, and Zoe enjoy beach time at Kaapalani Beach, Maui



Prof. Abbott and her RHE 101 students during the WLAIP 2022 Summer Institute

Faculty Updates



Wabash College was an exciting place for the 2021-2022 academic year. Professor Chris Anderson focused on Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) with special attention on the Lilly Foundation Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust grant and a project team collecting public comment for an Indiana Department of Environmental Management Clean Water Grant for the Sugar Creek Watershed. Both projects created spinoffs because of the hard work of WDPD and the larger impacts achieved for

community and campus. The growth of WDPD, its students, and staff in the blink of an academic year has been wonderful.

A flurry of articles also made it to publication this year focusing on deliberation and environmental concerns. One of the most interesting was an invited publication in *Digital Government: Research and Practice* that focuses on an experimental deliberative body of citizens making recommendations to the Oregon State Legislature about how to use COVID-19 recovery funds. While the body was active, the participants called into Zoom once a week for 7 weeks. It was inspiring seeing a group of citizens trying to navigate the low information environment of COVID-19 during the summer of 2020 and make tough decisions about how to best ease the impacts of the pandemic for the entire state. If you want to learn more about Professor Anderson's work published this academic year [click this link](#).

Experiencing Wabash College this first year provided Professor Anderson with strong appreciation for liberal arts education. Students in RHE-101 Public Speaking provided a memorable experience for the first class Professor Anderson taught at Wabash



Professor Anderson at Tonbridge Castle celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with friends after visiting ICA in Paris

this fall. His students, like many Wabash men, were driven, curious, and unafraid of sharing their opinions. This meant more time refining the presentation of information and less time getting over the fear of public speaking. Smaller class sizes compared to his state school experiences and the one on one time with students made teaching even more meaningful. Instructors at Wabash are entrusted with a special kind of mentoring that helps change the lives of these young men.



Sam Miller '24 facilitating for the IDEM Sugar Creek Watershed Deliberation

Those one-on-one mentoring sessions extended to working with WDPD Fellows and Senior Fellows as well. Highlights included working with **Noah Miller '22** to design and execute a campus assembly to make policy recommendations to the college administration. Noah learned to facilitate a deliberation as a lead in a much larger room and helped his team make connection to the broader campus through this project. Working with Senior Fellow **Morgan Seagrave '22** was also spectacular as he impressed representatives from county government, national non-profit organizations, and community members while designing, facilitating, and reporting to the governing board of the \$3 million-dollar IDEM grant. His professionalism and composure are skills that will serve him well as he starts law school this fall. More details about these projects can be found in the WDPD update section of this newsletter on page 6.

This summer Professor Anderson attended the International Communication Conference in Paris, France. This was an amazing opportunity to reengage with the discipline after nearly two years of missing conferences due to COVID and other obligations. Meeting with colleagues and seeing new research is always reinvigorating. This experience should help inspire new work with students here at Wabash to help them reach their post-graduation goals!

Faculty Updates



Teaching at Wabash College for her first year (2021-22 academic year) was an enriching experience for Professor Jordin Clark. As a Visiting Assistant Professor, Clark began the year by teaching Public Speaking and Persuasion. Throughout the year, Public Speaking students tackled difficult conversations as they sharpened their organization and delivery skills to create well-informed and engaging speeches. In Persuasion, students capped off discussion around why we persuade, how are we

persuaded, and how to persuade with a tournament-style persuasion competition. Engaging prompts like “All Wabash students should take public speaking” (this was not chosen by Professor Clark although it was one of her favorites) or “A hot dog is a sandwich” students demonstrated their persuasion prowess as they competed for the final glory of Persuasion Madness champion. The winner of this competition was none other than Rhetoric major and newly-graduated Casey Crozier '21.

In the Spring, Professor Clark developed her own class called Exploring the Hoosier as a Regional Rhetoric. One of the highlights of the class was their field trip to Indianapolis where they explored Fountain Square and took a walking tour of Ransom Place with



Professor Clark at the Ancient Theatre of Epidauros

Through2Eyes founder Sampson Levingston. Levingston also joined the class for a discussion on how public memory shapes our regional identities. Working with him, students developed their own walking tour stops for locations across Indiana. In their final project, students also conducted interviews, with people from the Wabash community to better understand what makes Wabash meaningful? Many of these interviews will soon be a part of Wabash’s archival collections. Coming from Colorado, Professor Clark learned a lot about what it means to be a Hoosier and enjoyed watching students discover more about the places they had lived nearly all their life or critically explore new spaces.

Outside of the classroom, Professor Clark worked on her own research resulting in two new publications. In the book, *Embodied Activism Performative Expressions of Political and Social Action*, she authored a chapter about the use of popular culture references and the body in protest. Additionally, a new journal article in *Social and Cultural Geography* will hit the presses soon that analyzes a neighborhood’s use of community strategies and adaptations to survive during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Professor Clark was also able to join the Wabash’ DEI campus assembly run by our very own WDPD program. These conversations showcased the thoughtfulness and care that runs through the Wabash community to continue working towards a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive campus.

Putting research and teaching aside for a little bit, Professor Clark had a wonderful summer break with plenty of travel. Visiting the East coast twice, she embarked on a wonderfully nerdy book tour road trip that followed American novelists like Herman Melville, Henry David Thoreau, and Edith Wharton. To continue the educational travel, she also spent 12 days in Greece and saw many of the ancient ruins that stood alongside famous Greek mythologies. Of course, the trip was a wonderful moment to reflect on Greece as the birthplace of Western rhetoric. After all of the travel, she is ready and excited to get back into the classroom at Wabash!



RHE370: Exploring the Hoosier class showing what it means to be a Hoosier as they help someone whose car broke down on our walking tour of Ransom Place

Faculty Updates



Professor Jeff Drury had an exciting year at Wabash. Although he didn't teach any new courses this year, he did revisit a number of classes he had taught in the past and revised some of them to their pre-covid form. For example, he implemented in RHE 201: Reasoning and Advocacy a group project collaboration with admissions similar to one he had used in prior years and, in RHE 140: Argumentation and Debate,

brought the Indiana Court of Appeals back to campus for the first time since March 2020.

He also taught RHE 370: What is "Rhetoric"? for the second time, having piloted this elective course in Spring 2017. The course explores contemporary theories of rhetoric and myriad ways rhetoric functions in society. The students in the course engaged a variety of topics in their final topics, from exploring feminism as a theoretical framework to the epistemological functions of rhetoric to contemporary scholarship on spheres of argumentation.

Throughout the academic year, Professor Drury served as First Year Experience Co-Chair (along with **Professor Colin McKinney** in Math), in which he coordinated freshman advising and the first-year course sequence, FRT 101: Freshman Tutorial and FRC 101: Enduring Questions (EQ). As part of this role, Professor Drury also returned to the EQ classroom for the first time since 2019. He enjoys teaching EQ because it encourages students to think and talk about how they understand their relationships to their identities and their communities. It also helps students find their voice by honing their writing and discussion skills.



Professor Drury introduces the 28th Moot Court Finals round on October 27, 2021

Beyond First Year Experience, Professor Drury continued in his service roles as Faculty Parliamentarian, as a member of the Lilly Scholarship Committee, and as campus organizer of the 28th Moot Court competition.



Professor Drury uses Robert F. Kennedy's eulogy of Martin Luther King Jr. on May 4, 1968, as an example of speech and resilience in the summer 2022 "Pathway to Your Future" program.

On the research side, Professor Drury attended his first academic conference since 2019 and he is excited to get back into some research projects during summer 2022 focusing on argumentation through social media. He recently published a book chapter exploring whether cogent arguments are possible through social media. His thesis in the chapter is that it is possible but requires the audience to do more work in tracking down supporting materials and following hyperlinked content. He hopes to build on this work going forward in future research on disinformation.

Finally, Professor Drury enjoyed a return to on campus events and to travel this year. He especially appreciated being able to attend public lectures, athletic events, and fraternity dinners in person. Professor Drury was thrilled to be inducted (along with Professor **Sara Drury**) as an honorary member of the Sphinx Club and looks forward to carrying on the valuable traditions of Wabash College into the future.

Faculty Updates



Professor Sara Drury began the fall semester welcoming new colleagues to Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse—Chris Anderson and James Proszek—and to the Rhetoric Department—Jordin Clark. This fall, Professor Drury enjoyed teaching RHE 270 Rhetoric, Science, and Public Policy for the first time. The course attracted students in rhetoric, biology, chemistry, and global health, and featured robust discussions about health, the environment, genetic

engineering, and more. She particularly appreciated the students' keen reflections about equity in science throughout the semester and their final projects on a communication challenge in science and proposed rhetorical action. She also taught senior seminar in the fall semester, and Deliberation & Democracy in the spring.

Professor Drury returned to teaching Classical Rhetoric this spring, and implemented a new learning activity in that course. After studying the texts of the Sophists, Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero, students took several class sessions to roleplay "The Crisis of Catiline," functioning as a mock Roman Senate. Set in Rome during 63 BCE, the Crisis of Catiline was a real world historical situation with election instability, political unrest, and sensational trials. The crisis centered around the historical figures of Cicero (then serving as consul) and Catiline, a social reformer or enemy of the state, depending on who you ask! Students in Classical Rhetoric each took on a role of a historical figure. They completed research paper assignments, applied rhetorical theory, and read historical Roman Senate speeches. This all came together during several class sessions, when students crafted their own speeches and roleplayed debates over political amnesty, debt forgiveness, and the Senatus Consultum Ultimum (a state of emergency that would strip Romans of rights under the auspices of restoring order). Success in the "game" depended not only on completing readings and giving speeches during the Senate debates, but also political maneuvering and strategy inside and outside of class. And of course, there was a healthy amount of fortuna at play that could work in favor or against



Hunter Seidler '22 (Cicero) and Horacio Garcias-Rojas '23 (Catiline) debate during Classical Rhetoric's Roman Senate exercise



The Professors Drury before their session in the summer 2022 "Pathways to Your Future" program

senators' goals for the session. The students embraced the challenge of research, writing, and orating. The Senate roleplay sessions were held in the Goodrich Room of Lilly Library, and one debate became so loud that we were politely asked by the library staff to hold the enthusiasm to a softer level. All of this to say, the spring semester in Classical Rhetoric was an exciting one.

Outside of teaching, Professor Drury continued her work on the National Science Foundation grant with Professor Laura Wysocki, and gave workshops for several colleges and universities on deliberation. Professor Drury published an article in the *Journal of Public Deliberation* on expertise and deliberative quality, a forum essay in *Communication Education* about the need for communication studies to offer education for democracy, and a book chapter offering a rhetorical analysis of Pope Francis's 2015 visit to the United States.

This spring, Professor Drury got to stretch her rhetorical skills by serving as the first Wabash College Volleyball broadcast announcer! While a loyal fan to all Wabash Athletics, volleyball is her favorite sport and it's been exciting to watch our new team. As mentioned in the Chair's Letter, Professor Drury will take a leave of absence this upcoming academic year to join Unify America, a civic nonprofit focusing on promoting deliberation across the United States.



Professor Sara Drury prepares for the broadcast in Chadwick Court

Faculty Updates



Although it was another year with pandemic-inspired uncertainty, Professor McDorman's second year as Acting Dean of the College was marked by more signs of normalcy: in-person classes were the norm, campus events returned, and in the latter portion of the year masks were largely optional.

Beyond continuing to contribute to the work of the Healthy Campus Task Force, Dean McDorman worked with departments to complete three tenure-track hires, organized Wabash's second set of online summer credit recovery courses, and worked with faculty on implementing the safe resumption of immersion learning. He also delivered the Dean's Senior Breakfast address for the first time, following in the footsteps of several previous Deans, including Department of Speech legend **Vic Powell**.

Following a national search, in March Professor McDorman was honored to be selected as the continuing Dean of the College. In supporting Wabash's continued excellence his initial goals include additional improvements in student success, helping make Wabash a more diverse and welcoming community, building new and more attractive student experiences, expanding faculty and staff support, and continued operational improvements.

This summer Dean McDorman has enjoyed visiting with alumni in Michigan and Washington, DC as well as attending the Annapolis Group's annual meeting of Presidents and Deans of top liberal arts colleges. The meeting included an opportunity to catchup with former Wabash rhetoric colleague **David Timmerman** who now serves as the Chief Academic Officer at Carthage College. Dean McDorman also returned



Dean McDorman and David Timmerman at a White Sox game in Chicago

to the Baseball Hall of Fame for the 33rd Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, presenting "The Most Interesting Man in Baseball? Joey Votto, Hegemonic Masculinity, and Baseball's New Statistics." It was a fun project that he would like to find time to develop for potential publication. This year also has seen a publication with Wabash alumnus **Donovan Bisbee '12**, who recently earned his PhD from the University of Illinois. Their essay "Nobody's Perfect: Armando Galarraga's (Im)Perfect Game and Instant Replay" was published as the opening chapter in *The Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture, 2019 and 2021*.

Finally, at home the exciting news is that our daughter Lily will enroll this fall in the Raabe College of Pharmacy at Ohio Northern University. Of course, the family took in a baseball game in Cincinnati this summer. And there was another summer trip with Carter (now 12), this year to Washington DC to take in monuments, memorials, and museums (unfortunately our baseball game at Nationals Park was rained out).



Todd and Carter visiting Washington, DC



The McDormans at a Reds game in June 2022

Faculty Updates



Prof. James Proszek's first year at Wabash was as exciting as it was busy. In his position as a Program Associate for Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) and Visiting Instructor of Rhetoric, he worked with students, scholars, alumni, and community members in a variety of impactful settings. It is hard to believe that so many wonderful experiences can take place in just one year and even

harder to capture their essence in a few hundred words! Three major highlights of Prof. Proszek's 2021-2022 academic year were the Direct Admit program, teaching, and research.

In the Fall semester, Prof. Proszek administered WDPD's Direct Admit program, a competitively-selected co-curricular opportunity for first-year students to learn foundational principles of civic engagement, public leadership, free speech, and professional development. He greatly enjoyed working with the 14 students who participated in the program this past year—leading them through dynamic virtual modules, in-person discussions, and an immersion trip to Indianapolis. Many Direct Admits stated that the Indianapolis trip was a very impactful part of their first-year experience, as they were able to witness entrepreneurship and civic leadership in action and connect with several Wabash alumni who live and work in the area.

During the Spring semester, Prof. Proszek was thrilled to teach his first course at Wabash. In his RHE270 class, entitled "Global Approaches to Rhetorical Criticism," students developed a broad, critical understanding of "rhetoric" and rhetorical practices from a variety of geographic, cultural, and historical settings. One of the high points of the class was a visit from Dr. Lisa Flores, Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Professor in the Department of Communication at The University of Colorado, Boulder, who served as the 2022 Brigrance Forum Lecturer. Dr. Flores sat down with Prof. Proszek's class to talk about her work and reflect upon what it means to do research and criticism as a rhetorician. It was a tremendous scholarly opportunity for the students!

Speaking of scholarship, Prof. Proszek was also thrilled to see several WDPD Democracy Fellows engage in undergraduate research this past year. In April, He took a group of four Fellows to present their paper on the history of DEI at Wabash at the Central States Communication Association's annual Undergraduate Honors Research Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. While there, they engaged with undergraduates from other institutions and learned how to present their work with broader academic

communities. This past summer Prof. Proszek has also had the opportunity to develop his own research on civic mapping as community engagement. He worked with a WDPD intern, **Corydon Taylor '24**, to create a digital illustration of healthcare and education resources in Montgomery County with several opportunities for future applications. He really enjoyed working with Corydon to develop a practical resource for community engagement right here in Indiana!

This year, Prof. Proszek will continue as WDPD Program Associate and Visiting Instructor of Rhetoric, and anticipates even more opportunities for mentorship, teaching, and research. This Fall, you can find him teach RHE-101 Public Speaking in Fine Arts or at one of WDPD's many exciting events!



Prof. Proszek gives an overview of civic habits for the Wabash Pastoral Leadership alumni gathering in downtown Indianapolis.

Alumni Updates

Richard Ice '83 The third edition of our book, *Rhetoric in Civic Life*, was published this year. My understanding and foundation for this scholarly work comes from my time at Wabash, studying with Joe O'Rourke, Lee McGaan, and Vic Powell. I am continuing in my eighth year as provost and 33rd year at College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University.

Michael D. Cummings Jr. '86 In June 2022, celebrated 33 years of marriage with Theresa. Also, retired from Procter & Gamble after 24 years of service. Then, accepted offer from Amazon as Site Employee Health and Safety Manager.

Charles A. Montgomery, Jr. '86 I'm thrilled to share that come October, this ol' fella will return to his acting roots! A Hulu-produced, horror, short film will be released on the streamer with yours truly as the titular character: *Mr. Crocket*. I portray a deranged "Mr. Rogers"-type. The film is a part of Hulu's "Bite Size Halloween" series.

Nicholas Bourff '04 I work at the Schiller Law Office in Carmel, Indiana, as the managing attorney of our litigation department. We focus exclusively on personal injury and workers compensation claims.

Matt Page '13 got married to Kara Scannell on December 18th, 2021 and they are expecting their first child in December of 2022!

Connor Rice '17 2021 and 2022 has been an exciting two years for our family. We welcomed our first baby girl, Nora in September of 2021. She has been an absolute blessing. Earlier this year I took a chance to leave my company I started with out of Wabash to become the Director of Training and Enablement for a large global tech company, Genesys.

Jordan Smith '17 After working a little less than two years at OneCause, I was promoted to Account Executive. I have been enjoying the role since January of 2022. I have also relaunch my podcast The Runnin Gamer after a year off. I currently reside on the East side of Indianapolis, Indiana. More specifically, the Irvington area.

Kyle McAtee '19 I'm currently still working in supply chain with Target distribution. I recently moved into a project management role with the company. I'm getting married this fall to the love of my life and building a house as well (great timing, right?). WAF

Brenton Strahla '21 Since graduation in May 2021, I've entered the world of software sales as an Engineer at UKG! The cool part is that I use my rhetoric degree every day. I partner with our sales team, build out demo flows and present to clients in the SMB space. From sign posts to Aristotle's Artistic Proofs, my degree acts as a guiding beacon for the sales process. I've also been able to continue my rhetoric, and Wabash, education by undergoing presales training. What used to be the primary texts of Quintilian has turned into training books on demo composition and Ted talks on audience attention during famous speeches like MLK's "I Have a Dream." In other news, I'm well on my way to a professional fútbol career (or the hospital) after joining a community soccer league. Swimming did not prepare me for that much running.

Nick Winter '21 saw Rammer get married! Finished grad school. Started my career in sales at Nikon Instruments. Hope everyone is well!

Morgan Seagrave '22 After graduating this past May, I will be attending law school at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Abe Wade '22 After graduating from Wabash in May, I will be moving down to Orlando, FL in August to begin my Master's program at the University of Central Florida (UCF). I will be a student in the DeVos Sport Business Management program.



William Norwood Brigance
Professor of Speech
1922-1960

ALUMNI: YOU'RE WANTED!

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

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

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

Rhetoric Department

Professor Jennifer Abbott
(Chair, Fall 2022)

Professor Chris Anderson
(WDPD Director)

Professor Jordin Clark

Professor Jeff Drury
(Chair, Spring 2023)

Professor Sara Drury

Professor Todd McDorman
(Dean of the College)

Professor James Proszek

Wabash.

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN
47933-0352

Thank you to those alumni, families, and friends who provided #GiantShoulders on our ninth Day of Giving. For the sixth straight year, Wabash raised more than \$1 million in a single day for the benefit of the talented young men enrolled here. We raised \$1,405,956 from 3,055 alumni, families, faculty, staff, students, and friends. Best yet, Wabash Nation helped us raise more than \$1,744 per Wabash student! A special thanks to those of you who supported the WDPD affinity challenge.

WDPD Affinity Challenge

Number of gifts: 93

Number of unique donors: 87

Amount raised: \$6,531.71

Thank you to all who so generously supported the College through the Day of Giving.