

Contents

- 2 My Summer Internship
Lambda Pi Eta
Seidler '22 Publication
- 3 Moot Court
- 4 Rhetoric Student Awards
- 5 WDPD Update
- 6 Faculty Updates
Professor J. Abbott
Professor C. Anderson
Professor J. Drury
Professor T. McDorman
Professor J. Proszek
Professor J. Clark
Professor S. Drury
Professor D. DeVinney
Instructor B. Long
- 12 Day of Giving

Rhetoric Newsletter

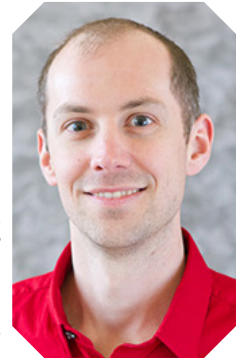
August 2023



Message from the Chair, Jeff Drury

Dear friends,

The Rhetoric Department had an exciting school year as Wabash College returned more to “normal” following the pandemic. **Professors Jennifer Abbott, Chris Anderson, Jordin Clark, James Proszek,** and I all taught in the department this year, enabling us to offer our core courses alongside some exciting electives, including topics such as deliberation and democracy, rhetoric of social movements, strategic communication, U.S. presidential rhetoric, and rhetoric in the field. Professor Abbott served as Department Chair in the fall and I took over in the spring semester when Professor Abbott went on her sabbatical leave. I am honored to continue as Department Chair for the next few years.



We had twelve students in Rhetoric senior seminar this year, studying diverse media such as films, documentaries, speeches, and books. As the sole instructor of the course, I was impressed with the energy the students brought to class and how they helped sharpen each other's projects through constructive feedback. The smaller class size compared to recent years allowed for more cohesiveness. The senior class also included some students who were recognized for outstanding academic success through various student awards (see page 4) and induction into Lambda Pi Eta (page 2).

We were excited to support **Dean Todd McDorman** in his first full year as Dean of the College, and **Professor Sara Drury**, who took a leave from Wabash to work for the nonprofit organization, Unify America. Both will continue in these roles next year. We also wish **Professor Jordin Clark** well as she starts a new tenure-track position at West Chester University this coming fall semester. **Professor Chris Anderson** and **Professor James Proszek** will remain at Wabash, dividing their time between teaching in the department and working in Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse.

The Rhetoric Department also welcomes two new visiting faculty next year. **Professor Daniel DeVinney**, who recently earned his PhD at the University of Illinois, will serve as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Rhetoric. **Professor Brian Long**, PhD candidate at the University of Oklahoma, will teach one course each semester in the Rhetoric Department alongside working with Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse.

Throughout the newsletter you can read more about our activities this past year as well as updates for each faculty member. Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Rhetoric Department. If you find yourself on campus in the future, please stop by the second floor of the Fine Arts Center to say hello!

Best wishes,
Professor Jeffrey P. Meltretter Drury

My Summer Internship

Jake Talbert '24



I was afforded a unique opportunity this summer to work with **Prof. Jennifer Abbott** in revising *Public Speaking and Democratic Participation*, the primary textbook currently used to instruct Wabash's RHE 101 Public Speaking course.

A main goal of my research was to find updated examples of public speaking that embodied core tenets of civic engagement. Because the textbook was originally published in 2015, Prof. Abbott and I sought to replace the more dated examples with instances that occurred within the last year or two. It was exciting for me to delve into the text in this sort of manner; I gained a new appreciation for how academic works are compiled and the strategies employed to make content more accessible. I was privileged to "pull back the curtain" and resituate myself with the mindset of a co-author rather than a student.

The aspect of this internship I personally found most fun and engaging was the hands-on revision of the text's language. Prof. Abbott and I agreed that when attempting to educate an audience, one should write in a way that makes the material intuitive and straightforward to grasp upon first reading. That said, our goal was not to "dumb it down" when it came to revising chapters, but rather to eliminate superfluous academic jargon. The bulk of my work for this internship involved meticulously scouring several key chapters for potential revision in the language that would result in a more personal and conversational tone, yet also aimed to capture a broader audience. The 2nd edition will be released as a free, open-access text that any aspiring public speaker can pick up and gain valuable insight from. So I remained cognizant of how we addressed the reader throughout my revision process.

I'd like to give my sincere thanks to Prof. Abbott for allowing me this opportunity to intern as a researcher for the Wabash College Rhetoric department. I did not begin my Wabash career with an appreciation for what "rhetoric" really was, let alone have the desire to major in the subject. Three years later, I consider myself extremely fortunate to have become involved with the study of rhetoric. I cherished the work I did this summer as a way for me to give back to the department in return for how much it has helped me grow as a person, both intellectually and socially.

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 five new students: **Cole Bergman '24, Jackson Grabill '24, Tommy Hansen '23, Seth Kirkpatrick '24, and Nicholas Logan '24**. These students joined last year's inductees **Jackson Heldt '23, Collin Kinniry '23, Bryce McCullough '23, and Liam Thompson '23**.



Newly inducted members of Lambda Pi Eta (L to R):
Nicholas Logan '24, Tommy Hansen '23, Cole Bergman '24,
and Seth Kirkpatrick '24

Seidler '22 Publishes Senior Project as a Scholarly Article



The Rhetoric department is excited to share that **Hunter Seidler '22** recently published his senior project as the lead essay in the [most recent issue of Communication Law Review](#). It is titled, "Amateurism's Death in Chicago: The Supreme Court's Conservative Views of Antitrust in *NCAA v. Alston*." Perhaps not surprisingly, Hunter's senior project won the Joseph O'Rourke Prize in Speech in 2022 as well as the Nicholas McCarty

Harrison Award in American Studies and the Phi Beta Kappa Prize. Hunter is currently a J.D. candidate at The University of Mississippi School of Law and spent the summer working as a Summer Law Clerk for Mayo Mallette PLLC.

Moot Court

Jake Weber '25



In its 29th year, the Wabash College Moot Court competition had an unprecedented split in the final decision. After a round of fierce competition, **Liam Buckley '23** and **Seth Kirkpatrick '24** shared the top prize at the end of an hour-long oral argument on October 26, 2022.

Buckley, a recently graduated political science major and Spanish minor from Hell's Kitchen, New York, is interested in a career in politics and law, with plans to serve as a public defender. Buckley is also an experienced political operative in New York campaigns. He is a member of Pre-Law Society, College Democrats, Glee Club, and Phi Gamma Delta.

Kirkpatrick, a rising senior rhetoric and political science double major and Spanish minor from South Bend, Indiana, hopes to compete in the finals again this fall before attending law school after graduation. Kirkpatrick plans to return to South Bend to focus on civic development and to confront brain drain in Indiana. He is active as president of the Pre-Law Society, member of La Alianza, a senior democracy fellow with WDPD, and chief justice of the Wabash College Student Body.

The Wabash College Moot Court is a partnership between the Rhetoric Department and the Wabash Club of Indianapolis. Each year student-advocates are chosen to represent either the petitioner or respondent to an adapted real-life case. Each advocate has 12 minutes to present their cases in front of a panel of judges while being interrupted and challenged with questions along the way.

This year's case centered on citizenship questions for the residents of the American Samoa, a U.S. territory. The material was inspired in part by a case which was filed with the Supreme Court, centering around three American Samoans who desired full birthright citizenship. The adapted case featured two key questions. First, does the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution automatically grant birthright citizenship to American Samoans? Second, if not, should Congress or the courts decide to extend citizenship to the territory? The inspiring case was denied a writ of certiorari just days before competition began, so the Wabash Moot Court participants were the sole litigants of the case.

Thirty-five students competed in two rounds of preliminary competition on Saturday, October 22. The preliminary judges included a long list of Wabash alumni and friends. On the following Monday evening, 12 semifinalists advanced to an additional round. Late that night, four finalists were announced: **Liam Buckley '23**, **Seth Kirkpatrick '24**, **Jakob Goodwin '23** and **Jackson Grabill '24**, with **Liam Grennon '24** serving as alternate.

This year marked Goodwin's third straight moot court final. Grabill, a Sigma Chi soccer player, was the only active fraternity finalist. Grabill received the Floyd Artful Advocacy Prize, awarded for kind, tactful and principled advocacy. All four of the finalists hope to attend law school after Wabash.

Buckley and Goodwin represented the petitioners, three American Samoans suing to receive birthright citizenship with Buckley providing rebuttal for the petitioner. Kirkpatrick and Grabill represented the respondents, the U.S. government and the government of American Samoa.

As always, the four finalists faced a panel of judges with years of experience across law, history, and academia. The Chief Justice for the evening was District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana **James Patrick Hanlon**. The other real-world judge on the panel was the Honorable **Margret G. Robb**, the first woman elected to Chief Judge on the Indiana Court of Appeals. The panel of judges always includes an alumni lawyer; this year, this spot was filled by **A. Vincent Buzard '64**, an appellate lawyer in Rochester, New York who previously served as President of the New York State Bar Association. The faculty judge was **Prof. Sabrina Thomas**, chair of the Wabash history department who was concurrently teaching a course on politics, culture in the US territory of Puerto Rico and has conducted research parallel to the case material.

After an hour of back and forth with the students, the judges came to the consensus that two student-advocates rose to the top. For Buckley and Kirkpatrick, the competition represented a chance to capitalize on their rigorous Wabash education. Both advocates were commended by the judges for being stellar orators with polished argumentation for their respective positions, remarking at one point that they forgot they were dealing with undergraduate students and not seasoned appellate attorneys.

"You did an amazing job of being poised," said Hanlon, addressing the student-advocates. "You were not thrown off by the questioning. You answered in a responsive way and then turned right back to where you wanted to go."

"The competition began in September when students received access to this year's challenging legal problem," said Associate Professor of Rhetoric **Jeff Drury**, the organizer of the 29th Moot Court. "The students read the document thoroughly, learned the facts and legal basis behind the problem, developed a cogent case, and prepared oral arguments for delivery."

This upcoming fall, the Wabash College Rhetoric Department will be hosting the 30th annual moot court competition. "Wabash is one of the few schools in the country with an undergraduate moot court program," concluded Prof. Drury. "It's a wonderful opportunity for students to hone their advocacy skills and network with alumni."

Rhetoric Student Awards

O'Rourke Prize

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 2023 O'Rourke Prize to **Collin Thomas Kinniry '23** for his project, "Exploring Zelensky's Dramatic Tactics: Guilt-Purification-Redemption Analysis of Zelensky's Address to U.S. Congress." Kinniry offers an insightful analysis of the Russo-Ukrainian War and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's address to Congress through the rhetorical framework of Kenneth Burke's guilt-purification-redemption and identification methods. Kinniry's analysis provides an insightful reading of how rhetorical appeals impact U.S.-involvement in foreign conflicts now and in the future.

Other Notable Awards and Prizes

Several Rhetoric students earned awards across departments and activities this year, demonstrating strong interdisciplinary scholarship and extracurricular performance.

Cole Bergman '24, a Rhetoric and English double major, received the Ruth Margaret Farber Award in English in recognition of his scholarship in English or American Literature.

Jackson Heldt '23, a Rhetoric and Biology double major, received the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men Scholar-Athlete Award for wrestling, the Senior Award of Merit for outstanding achievement in scholarship, service, and extracurricular activities (an award selected solely by Heldt's peers), and the Peter Vaughan Outstanding Athlete Award presented to an outstanding Wabash Athlete by the National Association of Wabash Men.

Collin Kinniry '23, a Rhetoric and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) double major, also received the James E. Bingham Award, which is given to a distinguished senior who will enroll in an A.B.A.-accredited law school for the next academic year, and the Irwin-Garrard Prize awarded to Wabash students who will attend the Indiana University-Bloomington School of Law.

Seth Kirkpatrick '24, a Rhetoric and Political Science double major, received the F. Michael Cassel Political Science Award for strong research in the field, the Joseph Johnston Daniels Award in Constitutional Law for best paper in constitutional law, the Dean Stephens Award to a student from the junior class who best reflects the broad intellectual and personal interests, the high moral courage, and the humane concerns of Dean Stephens himself, and the Waldo E. Stephens Scholarship awarded annually to a distinguished junior who plans a career in government service.



Rhetoric Senior Majors at the Senior Celebration (L to R):
**Matthew Troy '23, Jackson Heldt '23, Collin Kinniry '23,
Matthew Melcher '23, and Thomas Hansen '23**

WDPD Update

Professor Chris Anderson, *WDPD Director*

Professor James Proszek, *WDPD Program Associate*

Ryne Mills '22, *WDPD Program Associate*

Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) continued its mission to teach community engagement, stimulate public discourse, develop civic leaders, and promote free speech rights and responsibilities. This past year was exceptionally exciting as two events were brought to us by former Democracy Fellows who understand the value of public participation in deliberation. Overall for the year, WDPD hosted 22 events on and off campus. Fellows attended an online event hosted by the National Coalition for Deliberation and Dialogue designed to connect students who are doing the work of deliberation from institutions across the country. And students presented two papers and a poster at the



Sarvik Chaudhary '25, Bryce McCullough '23, and Adam Brookman '23 (L to R) engaged in planning the next Free Speech Event

Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago. Students were supported by an excellent staff of **Chris Anderson**, **James Proszek**, and **Ryne Mills '22** who joined us for the year. Ryne was a great addition to the staff this year, helping manage the social media outputs of WDPD including our wonderful holiday card and "family" letter. He helped students develop several on-campus events, particularly our Free Speech Discussion Series. The capstone of those events was a discussion panel about the meaning of free speech in the liberal arts from **Prof. Stephen Morillo**, **Prof. Dan Rogers**, **Prof. Derek Nelson**, and **Prof. Julian Whitney**. The conversation was inspiring as panelists talked



Senior Fellow **Corydon Taylor '24** teaches last summer's Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program students about community assets and civic mapping

about their personal histories and their connection to freedom of expression in and out of the classroom. This series remains the backbone of WDPD work on campus each year. Next year we hope to expand this series by including more speakers from across the state to guide our dialogues.

This year all four of our Senior Democracy Fellows graduated. **Clayton Allen '23**, **Bryce McCullough '23**, **Mark Magnon '23**, and **Adam Brookman '23** all had great first placements as they move on to the next stage of their careers. After graduating a semester early, Clayton is currently in Mongolia in the Peace Corp. Bryce had many options to choose from and ultimately chose to pursue law school. Adam also chose law school here in Indiana where we anticipate great things in the years to come. And Mark, recognizing the preparation needed, is taking the year to study up for graduate school entrance exams back in Texas. All of our graduating seniors were amazing this year in terms of their opportunities and accomplishments. It is an incredible experience to see the Fellows grow each year and springboard a career at Wabash College and WDPD.



Max Nguyen '15 shares how deliberation has moved his career forward during the Day of Giving Campaign wearing his WDPD polo

With the help of **Kyle Stucker '13**, we worked with the University of Louisville Medical School to facilitate a conversation about developing a better intake protocol in emergency medicine for individuals experiencing homelessness. This impactful deliberation involved doctors, nurses, community members, and non-profits coming together to address real community need in Louisville and across the country. While the initial goal was to develop an intake protocol, the conversation quickly shifted to a broader set of solutions that were not originally considered until a broader set of stakeholders were able to weigh in. One of the amazing outcomes of deliberation is when a diverse set of people get energized to participate and know that their feedback is being taken seriously to develop better comprehensive solutions.

This next year we are focusing on continuing our work building opportunities for the Democracy Fellows to have the most impact they can in communities. We hope to utilize the wonderful support from the WDPD affinity challenge from the Giant Steps campaign to continue the work of democratic participation and free speech through deliberation and dialogue.

Faculty Updates



Prof. Abbott spent the past year reinvigorating her teaching. In the fall, she began her year as an Equity & Inclusion Pedagogy Fellow. That designation reflected her commitment to making RHE 101 Public Speaking more equitable for, and inclusive of, diverse student needs and talents. The fellowship's course release gave her time to collaborate with colleagues, review best practices, and

begin revising the syllabus, lesson plans, and assignments. She's very grateful to fellow department members **Prof. Jordin Clark** and **Prof. James Proszek** for spending hours brainstorming and experimenting with her. Prof. Abbott is excited to teach the revised course this fall (2023). It will acknowledge multiple forms of public speaking excellence and encourage students to reflect on relationships between power, identity, and speech.

In addition to a revised course, Prof. Abbott's attention to RHE 101 also resulted in a conference presentation (with Prof. Clark last May), an upcoming conference presentation at a national convention (with Profs. Clark and Proszek), and a co-authored article (in progress with Profs. Clark and Proszek). In addition, it prompted her to apply for a PALNI textbook creation grant to revise the public speaking textbook she published in 2015 with **Dean Todd McDorman**, **Prof. Jill Lamberton**, and (former Wabash Prof.) **David Timmerman**. They earned the grant and

have begun revisions. The final, revised book will be offered as an open educational resource that all students and faculty can freely access online.

Prof. Abbott continued to reinvigorate her teaching in the spring during her sabbatical. She turned her attention to updating RHE 350 Contemporary Rhetorical Theory and Criticism. Once again, she enjoyed time to review best practices, connect and collaborate with faculty who teach similar courses at other GLCA colleges, and revise the syllabus, lesson plans, and assignments. The revised class will expose students to more rhetorical methodologies while also spending more time instructing them in core components of criticism. She looks forward to teaching the revised class this fall.

During the spring, Prof. Abbott celebrated her 50th birthday (and **Michael Abbott**'s 60th birthday) at a casino-themed party with friends. Fifty feels good!

Prof. Abbott kickstarted her summer by working with her summer intern, **Jake Talbert '24**, on textbook revisions. Jake helped her prepare the original book for revision, find contemporary examples of rhetorical principles, and revise and edit several chapters. Make sure to read about his experience on p. 2.

Prof. Abbott spent the rest of her summer relaxing with family. She, Michael Abbott '85, and Zoe Abbott spent a wonderful week in New York City, where they did some sightseeing and shopping, visited friends, and watched two musicals. In July, she helped take care of her 10-month-old granddaughter, Vivian, while her stepson and his spouse travelled. She loves being a grandma and goes by Gigi!



Prof. Abbott wins at blackjack during her 50th birthday party while her daughter and **Prof. Sara Drury** root her on



The Abbotts look forward to watching *Funny Girl* on Broadway

Faculty Updates



Professor Chris Anderson completed his second year here at Wabash College and his first as the director of Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse. The year flashed by starting with him participating in the dunk tank at the Back to 'Bash welcome event and wrapping up with the first-ever deliberation hosted entirely in Spanish. As he has settled into Wabash College he has attended more events including football games, plays and concerts in the Fine Arts Center, and the various lectures and speakers hosted

by the college and student groups.



Professor Anderson and wife Mellissa at their first Broadway musical

The only course Professor Anderson taught this year was RHE 280 Deliberation and Democracy. The course was built around hosting two events examining the history and use of the Oral History Archives in the Lilly Library. Students explored the archives to develop interesting deliberation guides based on community and campus differences. This course also is the training students need to become a Democracy Fellow, where many of the students were inspired by the material applied and are joining WDPD this fall. For Professor Anderson, it was a banner year in the classroom with student interest and engagement in the material.

This year included lots of travel to meet with project partners, family, and friends. Chris spent the holidays with family on the west coast enjoying unseasonal sunshine and seafood. There was plenty of time spent on beaches tide pooling, swimming, and generally just getting outside. Chris is also excited to have moved into the former Manker House and out of the Armory for WDPD. The new gorgeous space includes conference rooms, offices, and student workspace that will help serve the needs of the WDPD into the future. While it has been

a long road into the new space, it is nice to see all of that work come together into a wonderful new space.



Professor Anderson getting ready to go for a dip in the Back to 'Bash dunk tank

This year Chris attended the National Communication Association in New Orleans. He presented two papers about local news at the conference, one of which received a top paper award in its division. On top of that work, he published a paper with colleagues at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Charleston about varying approaches to deliberation and crisis. This summer he has been productive writing time for other projects including reworking a student paper about politics in deliberation, deliberation being presented on television, and some early stages of work on pilots' last words. This has been sprinkled in between some travel to the Pacific Northwest to attend a 1920s-themed wedding and a writing retreat with some other scholars. Next year promises to be a great year to publish new work, contribute to a textbook on interpersonal communication and conflict, and work with students interested in exploring academic questions.



Honorary Fellow Myah wearing a pot during a Friday office dogs visit in the Armory

Faculty Updates



Professor Jeff Drury had a full year of teaching, service, and scholarship. He continued as Co-Chair of Wabash's First Year Experience, in which he organized programming around freshman advising, Freshmen Tutorial, and Freshmen Colloquium. He was especially proud of the work he and **Neil Schmizter-Torbert** (co-chair, Dept. of Psychology) did to revise the common syllabus in EQ with material about how students should live in

the world in relation to a global society and media technology. As Rhetoric Department Chair in Spring 2023, he worked to maintain department programming. Beyond these chair roles, Professor Drury continued as Faculty Parliamentarian, as a member of the Lilly Scholarship Committee, and as campus organizer of the 29th Moot Court competition.

Professor Drury appreciated teaching RHE 497: Senior Seminar as the sole instructor because he was able to work with all 12 students on their projects and see their development. This made the presentations at the end of the semester even more meaningful. Beyond 497, he also taught RHE 140: Argumentation and Debate, RHE 201: Reasoning and Advocacy, RHE 270: Strategic Communication, RHE 370: U.S. Presidential Rhetoric, and FRC 101: Enduring Questions. Teaching courses at all levels in the department, working with Rhetoric majors and non-majors alike, provided some welcome variety and allowed him to meet students from all across the College.



Professor Drury with RHE 270 students at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis, September 2022

Professor Drury also helped the students engage with practitioners in both RHE 140 and RHE 270. For RHE 140, the Indiana Court of Appeals returned to campus to conduct a live oral argument, enabling students in the course to debate an appellate case and then observe the actual lawyers argue it. In RHE 270, Professor Drury incorporated numerous alumni guest lecturers, including a field trip to Indianapolis, to learn about different careers and best practices of strategic communication. Thanks to **Patrick Blair '90**, **Steve Campbell '92**, **Sam Hanes '16**, **Matthew Kraft '10**, **Marcus Manges '10**, **Isaac Myers '21**, **Richard Paige**, and **Nick Prihoda '99** for coordinating visits with the class.



Professor Drury presents his research at the ISSA conference, July 2023

Professor Drury presented his research at two conferences this past year: the National Communication Association convention in New Orleans in November 2022, and the International Society for the Study of Argumentation (ISSA) conference in Leiden, the Netherlands, in July 2023. He appreciated the opportunity to network with other scholars, hear about their research, and receive valuable feedback on his.

In his leisure time, Professor Drury enjoyed traveling to visit family in Arizona, California, Massachusetts, and New York; to learn about Presidents Johnson, Truman, and Eisenhower at their libraries in Texas, Missouri, and Kansas; to hike in Colorado and Utah; and to explore historic sites in England and Germany alongside his conference in the Netherlands. He also attended numerous campus events, including lectures, athletic competitions, and fraternity dinners.

Faculty Updates



This past year was Dean McDorman's first as continuing Dean of the College, and his third full year in the role. The year saw the establishment of a new normal at Wabash, one that shares strong similarities with the past but also reflects experiences of the pandemic and influences of generational change.

The year included completion of Wabash's ten-year reaccreditation review with the

Higher Learning Commission, five successful tenure track hires and four successful tenure reviews, and more normal activities such as the Dean's Senior Breakfast address and Commencement. Dean McDorman particularly enjoyed visiting with alums (including several rhetoric majors and minors) during Big Bash, attending the rhetoric senior celebration, and a couple of guest classroom visits for a Philosophy of Sport course and a freshman tutorial. Another highlight of the year was going on a World War II themed immersion course experience to France, which also included Rhetoric/French double major **Jake Weber '25**. The responsibilities of being Dean don't leave much time for scholarship, but Dean McDorman did attend the 34th Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture at the Baseball Hall of Fame and is looking forward to assisting **Professor Abbott** as she leads development of a second edition of *Public Speaking and Democratic Participation*.



Todd and Carter at the Eiffel Tower

summer also has featured attending five Reds games, including one at Fenway Park in Boston and another in which rookie Elly De La Cruz hit for the cycle, and a return to Navarre Beach, Florida at the end of July. Lily had a successful first year at the Raabe College of Pharmacy at Ohio Northern University and Carter is now 13 and heading into 8th grade while playing on the tennis team and participating in various service activities.

If you find yourself on campus, drop by Center Hall 115 or send an email saying hello to mcdormat@wabash.edu.



Todd, Kelly, and Carter in France in March 2023

It has been a busy summer which has included various College projects, Wabash 101 events for incoming students, and participating in the new summer high school camp Liberal Arts at Play: Sports, Society, and Careers. The latter included introducing high school students to Wabash and the liberal arts and leading a session on image repair in sports. The



The McDormans at a Reds game in June 2023

Faculty Updates



In his second year with the department, Prof. James Proszek embarked on new teaching, mentorship, and community engagement opportunities in his dual role as a Visiting Instructor of Rhetoric and Program Associate with Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD). During the fall semester Prof Proszek enjoyed teaching RHE 101 Public Speaking where he challenged students to think

about speaking as a form of advocacy and a critical/cultural practice in which students use speech to transform their home and campus communities. He also had the opportunity to work with a group of 10 first-year students as part of WDPD's Direct Admit Program. Throughout the semester, Prof Proszek worked with this bright group of students to unpack the principles of public leadership, civic engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion through small group discussions and immersion trips. Several of the Direct Admit students have accepted positions as Democracy Fellows with WDPD for the coming year.

In the spring Prof Proszek taught his first RHE 320 Classical Rhetoric course, where his students studied texts from Greek and Roman philosophers and rhetoricians as a lens for analyzing contemporary features and challenges of our democracy. The course culminated with each student developing an original research paper that compared ideas from Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and others to answer the provocative question, "How do we define 'Classical Rhetoric'?" Prof Proszek also taught Public Speaking in the Spring and began to develop a publication with fellow Rhetoric faculty about the importance of teaching

advocacy in Public Speaking courses. He hopes that this research will be published shortly and can offer new directions for Public Speaking.

Outside of the classroom, Prof. Proszek worked with the Montgomery County Health Department to create a mental health "Youth Summit" for local middle and high school students to discuss mental health practices and challenges they face in school, at home, and within the community. The high school and middle school events took place in October, 2022 and March 2023, respectively; the Middle School Youth Summit was the first mental health conversation explicitly geared toward middle schoolers, who represent an important demographic when it comes to mental health and wellness interventions. The results of these two deliberative conversations will be used to help Montgomery County design future programming and tools to support youth mental health.

Prof. Proszek is also proud to support student development on campus this year by taking a group of undergraduate students to the Midwest Political Science Association's annual conference (April 2023) to present posters and papers they developed through their work with WDPD. During the summer, he helped lead a group of 31 high school sophomores and juniors from Texas, Indianapolis, Illinois and Arizona to learn about community assets and college preparedness through the Pathway to Your Future program. This weeklong immersive experience demonstrated the importance of belonging and community engagement for a bright group of young men whom we might one day see on Wabash's campus as students.



Prof. Proszek presents during Pathways to Your Future



Profs. Proszek and Elrod with WDPD Direct Admit students on a resource mapping adventure in the Memorial Forest

Faculty Updates



After two years at Wabash College, **Professor Jordin Clark** was hired as an Assistant Professor of Communication at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. We wish her all the best in her new tenure-track position!



Professor Sara Drury spent the 2022-2023 academic year on leave, working as the head of deliberation for Unify America, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization. She will continue working with them in 2023-2024.



Professor Daniel DeVinney received his PhD from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His scholarship focuses on visual rhetoric, race, and politics. He is primarily interested in how visual culture shapes collective imagination and how we can learn to see more ethically across difference. He has examined these topics in photography, political posters, graphic design, and print media. His dissertation examined the visual logics of the post-racial imaginary and explicated how visual culture shaped ideas about race during the Obama and Trump eras. He argues that post-racial visuals laid the rhetorical grounds for new forms of racism, bolstered white supremacy, and disempowered people of color. He argues that these visual logics ask us to look some places and not others, to see some features and ignore others, to recognize some bodies and disregard others. He brings these ideas into the classroom to encourage students to adopt richer, more ethical ways of seeing their surroundings. He is excited about joining the Wabash faculty and getting the chance to teach Public Speaking and Persuasion to Wabash students.



Professor Brian A. Long joins Wabash College from the University of Oklahoma. He studies forgiveness, specifically the messages used by individuals when asking for forgiveness, and examining forgiveness as a mechanism for addressing interpersonal conflict. Another recent project concerns how public discourse shapes conceptions of accountability and forgiveness following an incident of police violence. Prof. Long completed his undergraduate education at the University of Kansas, and earned graduate degrees from Saint Louis University and the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. Like many communication instructors, he seeks to connect the lived experience of his students to the many communication concepts his students learn in the courses he teaches. During his off time, Prof. Long likes to partake in his love of railroad history through reading, visiting historic sites, and volunteering for museums. He also enjoys science fiction, partaking in gaming, comics, and conventions from time to time. Regardless of the context, he can be found waxing philosophically about communication and the nature of reality.



William Norwood Brigrance
Professor of Speech
1922-1960

Rhetoric Department

Professor Jennifer Abbott
Professor Chris Anderson
(WDPD Director)
Professor Daniel DeVinney
Professor Jeff Drury
(Chair)
Professor Sara Drury
Professor Brian A. Long
Professor Todd McDorman
(Dean of the College)
Professor James Proszek

Thank you to the alumni, families, and friends and for showing the world the difference Wabash makes then, now, and always on our 10th Day of Giving on April 19, 2023. In staggering, record-smashing fashion, Wabash raised more than \$1.679 million from 3,573 alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends. Best yet, together we raised more than \$2,107 per Wabash student! Over all 10 Days of Giving, we have raised more than \$10.3 million.

A special thanks to those of you who supported the WDPD affinity challenge!

WDPD Affinity Challenge
Number of gifts: 50
Number of unique donors: 49
Amount raised: \$9,809.19

July 1 marked the end of the Giant Steps Campaign.
You are invited to join us on campus on Saturday, October 7, to celebrate the historic strides made for Wabash.

Wabash.

301 W WABASH AVENUE
CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN
47933-0352