June 1, 2008

Dear incoming student and parent(s):

Welcome from the staff of the Wabash Student Health Center! We sincerely hope your Wabash experience will be a healthy one. We offer health services to the student body in our clinic on campus. We also offer sports medicine services.

In order to provide the best possible medical care to Wabash men, it is essential that we receive complete and accurate health information from each student. We have enclosed a Student Health Record, which you will need to fill out completely. While we do not require that you have a physical examination prior to coming to Wabash, it is recommended for your overall health. We require that your immunizations be up to date and verified by either a physician or licensed nurse. You will NOT be allowed to register for classes this fall if we do not have a completed immunization record. We have also included information on the meningococcal meningitis vaccine.

If you are planning to participate in intercollegiate athletics at the varsity level you must sign the athletic release at the bottom of the Student Health Record. All varsity athletes will be required to have a physical examination performed by the college physicians or the sports medicine fellow before participating in practice or competition. Your coach or the college trainer will inform you of the date of the physical for your sport.

If you take prescription medication please have your personal physician write you a prescription with enough refills to get you through the school year. If you are taking medications such as Ritalin, Concerta, Adderall, Focalin etc., we prefer that your personal physician write your prescription. We will not refill controlled substances without a signed authorization from your physician. If you wear contacts, we strongly recommend you have a backup pair of glasses in case you develop an eye infection, which may not allow the use of contact lenses for a period of time.

If you have a history of mental illness or are taking psychiatric medications we request that you contact the college nurse at 765-361-6265 or email her at <lambc@wabash.edu> well in advance of coming to school in the fall. This will allow us to determine possible at-risk students and what type of local psychiatric care you may require. The college physicians do treat mild cases of depression and there is a counseling service available on campus. The curriculum and extra-curricular activities at Wabash can be extremely demanding and can be a strain on young men with a history of mental illness.

If you do not plan on participating in the college-sponsored student health plan and have private health insurance, please be aware it may have a limited network of doctors
or other restrictions that may not provide coverage in Crawfordsville. It is also imperative that if you are covered by your family health insurance that you have a copy of your insurance card with you at school (please attach a photocopy to your health record if possible). Our school nurse also handles all of the student health insurance issues in addition to her nursing duties.

The Student Health Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday when classes are in session. The physicians see students from 11:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. We ask that the students contact the health center prior to coming in to be seen. This allows us to provide enough time for the student’s needs and to minimize time away from studies. We recommend that you call ahead for an appointment. Students are seen in the Health Center without charge regardless of insurance status. Laboratory tests, X–rays and any other ancillary procedures will be billed to the student’s private or student health insurance.

After hours care is available on the weekends at the Athens Weekend Clinic, 1660 Lafayette Road, 359-2088. Hours of the Clinic are Saturday & Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is closed on major holidays. The Weekend Clinic is to be used only for semi-emergencies that cannot wait until Student Health Center opens on Monday. Problems outside office hours can also be directed to the private office of Drs. Douglas and Roberts at 765-362-5789 For emergencies, students may go to the St. Clare Medical Center Emergency Room, 362-2800. If a student requires admission to the hospital, Drs. Douglas and Roberts or one of their associates will provide their inpatient care.

Regarding privacy: if you are age 18 or older, the care you receive while at Wabash is protected by federal law. Parents will be informed only when authorized by the student or in emergency situations. Parents may also be informed if a student has a health problem where he could present a danger to himself, other students or the college staff.

If you have any questions regarding the Student Health Center, feel free to stop in, call, or email us. Have a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Scott K. Douglas, M.D. ’84
John R. Roberts, M.D. ’83
Carol Lamb, R.N.