

Wabash College

Class of 2013 Update

Winter 2021 - Healthcare

Dear Class of 2013,

Wabash resumed in-person classes for the spring semester on January 25, 2021. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, many colleges and universities either forwent in-person instruction completely or suspended it during the year. Thanks to the hard work of staff, students, and faculty, the college did not have to suspend classes during the fall semester. Everyone at the college is working diligently to replicate the success of the fall semester during the spring.

Because of the omnipresence of news about Covid-19, we wanted to take the opportunity to highlight members of the Class of 2013 who work in the healthcare field. Also, this letter includes a brief list of upcoming events on campus.

THY LOYAL SONS

A Letter from Jordan Hoerr

I finished residency in 2020 and am now practicing as a pediatrician in an outpatient clinic, more than 90% of whose patients live on Medicaid. I wouldn't call it this, but I feel closer to a sense of survivor's guilt than I've ever been before. Despite being a healthcare professional, I have not been working long hours (if anything, patient volumes have dropped to a record low); in fact, having just finished residency, I now have weekends all to myself. I have not been face-to-face with morbidity and death on a daily basis. I have not even had to worry about isolating myself from loved ones when I return home. While burnout rates in medicine have often been high, they are reaching their own epidemic proportions these days. Some of that has spilled over into outright PTSD, if it hasn't yet already. And yet, somehow, I was one of the first to receive a lifeline in the form of a vaccine. It is a strange feeling.

The common perception of COVID is that, thankfully, it seems to at least spare the young and healthy. The opposite is true. Children are often strapped home and have no option but to try learning curricula on tablets or Chromebooks. Grades often suffer; in the past week alone, I've had to listen to parents lament that their A/B students are now getting D's and F's. Adaptation has forged organizational skills some families

never knew they had. Intersectionality has pushed those without internet access even further down the educational ladder. Teachers themselves have had to navigate all kinds of obstacles and to juggle creativity with burnout; in many ways I feel that with some of the (deserved) spotlight most healthcare workers are getting, their plight has been left to the shadows.

Child abuse rates are rising--or at least, those we're detecting that are even leaving the house these days. Opioid and other drug overdose deaths have peaked in young adults and older adults alike. With social media usage surging, adolescents have had to reconcile their newly

evolving identities against an even more artificial projection of their peers. Work closure due to social distancing has taken its own public health toll; families may struggle to buy enough food... or all the funds get channeled into junk food as planning goes out the window.

I recognize that no one wants to read something like that, but the truth is, I don't suffer from burnout or PTSD, and in most respects, I am living better than I have after years of intensive schooling and training. So I can't help but feel a bit guilty when the spotlight is thrust on me, and I'm asked to share my perspective. I hope that others who contribute to this letter are able to balance what feels to me like a very skewed healthcare perspective. And if any of you have children and have something you'd like from your local pediatrician, please let me know how I can do more to help--well, if not you specifically, at least others as we all walk through this season together.

A Letter from Daniel Allen

While at Wabash I had the opportunity to travel to several countries for service trips including Botswana, Nicaragua, Peru, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic where I worked with local healthcare providers to promote the importance of oral and overall health. This ultimately led me to decide on a career in dentistry, which took my wife and I to Boston as I was accepted to Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.



Jordan Hoerr and colleagues

While at Tufts, I was fortunate to be selected as an admissions committee ambassador, a clinic liaison, and a founding member of the health and wellness committee where I worked to integrate health and wellness into the curriculum and clinics. I was also selected to participate in the Tufts Oral Health Project, an Inter-professional Collaborative Experience with the Tufts Pediatric Medical Residents. I participated in additional clubs and activities including Give Kids a Smile Day, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity, and was elected as Vice President of the Practice Management Club. Most importantly, during my time in Boston my wife and I, Adara, had a beautiful daughter, Austen Elizabeth, who is now 2 years old.



Daniel and family



Daniel in the workplace

After graduating in the top 15% of my class of 200 at Tufts, my family and I moved home to Indianapolis where I was accepted into the Pediatric Dental Residency Program at Riley Children's Hospital. I will graduate in June this year. During the two-year residency program I have honed in on my skills as a provider and gained a deeper knowledge into child psychology as well as providing dental care to children and medically complex kiddos both in clinic and the operating room. As COVID had major impacts on all aspects of life, it also impacted the residency program. Rather than a major, negative impact, it actually caused our clinic to become busier. As the hospital never shut down, we ended up seeing many patients from outside offices and had to find a way to manage those patients as well as our own. The clinic was and remains extremely busy as we are now seeing the negative oral impacts of COVID in what we have deemed "COVID Mouth." Kid's who have been at home doing e-learning have all-day access to snacks and sweets and since they are not on a normal schedule, many don't engage in the same bodily care as they would if they were going to school. As a result we are seeing rampant decay in children's mouths and are scheduling an extraordinary amount of sedation and general anesthesia cases to manage the problems. All of this has allowed me to improve my clinical skills! I am currently working on my Master's thesis, which if statistically significant, will provide valuable information to the field of restorative dentistry for pediatric patients.

When I complete my degree and residency program at Riley I will be working in Crawfordsville at The Kids Dentist with Dr. Terri Winn. I am extremely excited to be able to come full circle and offer dental care to

the children of Crawfordsville, where I ultimately decided to become a dentist.

CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

The NCAC resumed athletic events. Swimming, basketball, track, and volleyball are in full swing.

As part of the college's efforts to mitigate the risks posed by Covid-19, seniors took the oral portion of their comprehensive exams virtually.

Wabash continues the long tradition of Chapel Talks on Thursdays. Socially distanced of course.

Wabash Theater will perform *The 39 Steps* this April. If you can, make sure to see this classic mystery.

Alumni Group

Becoming part of your local Wabash Alumni organization is a great way to stay connected. Make sure to join a Wabash Alumni organization: https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/regional_groups

Student Referrals

Interested in helping Wabash recruit the next generation of Wabash men? Referring prospective high school students is a great way to help. Follow the link below to refer a student
<https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/student/refer>

Annual Campaign

Make sure to continue donating to the Wabash College Annual Fund. Wabash gave us a wonderful education and it's important to pay it forward to future generations of Wabash men. <https://wabash.edu/give>

Interested in announcing an engagement, marriage, or event?
Put it in the next letter! Please forward your request to Rudy
or me.

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