

# 2025 Fulbright selection in limbo

ELIJAH GREENE '25  
PHOTO EDITOR

As the end of April approaches quickly, most graduating seniors at colleges across the country are applying for graduate school and interviewing for jobs. But nine Wabash seniors continue to wait in anxious anticipation, with their future plans held in limbo by the US State Department's Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

What's the holdup? The announcement of the 2025 Fulbright Scholarship finalists has been delayed for upwards of two months.

In a typical year, more than 95% of semifinalists would know their outcome [by now]," said Wabash Fellowship Advisor Susan Albrecht. "You would know if you were a recipient, if you were not selected or if you were an alternate. At this point in 2025 we are at 0%."

Historically a program receiving unswerving bipartisan support, the Fulbright initiative is a reciprocal program that provides adult U.S. citizens with the opportunity to travel abroad and pursue personal research projects, teach English or obtain a graduate degree through funding from the U.S. State Department.

As U.S. citizens leave the country, international citizens from other countries come to the U.S. to pursue their own projects and teach various languages. The program aims to strengthen international ties between nations through more anthropological means, rather than official political diplomacy. Fulbrighters (the colloquial term for people selected to the program) are seen as unofficial ambassadors from the U.S.,

tasked with representing and being good stewards of the United States' culture abroad.

"Fulbright is about building mutual understanding and understanding one another's cultures better," said Albrecht. "It also allows people to help represent the U.S. abroad, breaking down stereotypes and misperceptions about what our nation is and isn't."

But as of April 25, none of the thousands of Fulbright semifinalists know whether or not they will become stewards of the United States or not. The reasoning for

the lengthy delay is still shrouded in mystery, but many signs point towards the unusual changes to the Fulbright selection process that have been implemented by the Trump administration over the past four months.

One potential holdup seems to be coming from a single individual, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy Darren Beattie. Beattie allegedly wants to evaluate each individual applicant and eliminate projects that are perceived as being in violation of the Executive Orders that have been issued since January 20, accord-

ing to an email sent by Norwegian Fulbright Executive Director Curt Rice that was shared online via a Slack channel for Norwegian Fulbright applicants. The president has previously fired Beattie from his then-position of White House speechwriter during his first term in 2018 for speaking at the H.I. Mencken Club — a known gathering place for white nationalists — and his founding of the right-wing outlet Revolver News.

From that same email, Rice expressed that he and 22 other European Fulbright directors were dissatisfied with the current selec-

tion process and claimed that it is in violation of the treaties that created the Fulbright programs.

But, as of April 10, President Trump has put forth a new nominee to oversee the Fulbright program instead of Beattie — Sarah Rogers. Although not currently in office, Rogers claimed in her confirmation hearing on April 9 that "If confirmed, it will also be my honor to steward the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which includes the Fulbright, Gilman and other exchange programs, along with sports and music diplomacy and the shared safeguarding of antiquities and cultural heritage sites."

Fulbright selection commissions from various countries typically make their finalist selections and then submit their list of selectees to the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board at the State Department for a last-minute background check of the candidates' status as viable applicants. This seems to be the step that is holding selection information back from applicants, as most of the selection commissions put forward their choices weeks, or even months ago. The committees are frustrated that the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board has not allowed them to give any information about potential selection out to applicants, placing them effectively under a gag order.

"We at Commissions have made up our minds, often months ago, and are all waiting for the green light from the State Department to start processing the finalists," said Károly Jókay, the executive director of the Hungary Fulbright Commission.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash Fellowship Advisor Susan Albrecht stands above a Fulbright poster hanging in the Lilly Library on April 23, 2025.

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## Pickett '26 and Salpietra '27 to take Senate reins

After decisive victory, the duo plans to revitalize Student Senate

SAM BENEDICT '25  
SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Student Senate — the governing body of Wabash students — will see new faces very soon. Austin Pickett '26 and Ayden Salpietra '27 will be sworn in as the next president and vice-president of the student body on April 28 in the Lilly Library.

Pickett, a former Phi Delta Theta Student Senate Representative and member of the Student Supreme Court, and Salpietra, a former member of the Student Life Committee, are no strangers to the business that takes place in the Goodrich Room.

"I think the big thing that motivated me to run [for president] is I've been on Student Senate since my freshman year, and I've seen some very good Senates and some that have



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

Student Body President-Elect Austin Pickett '26 listens during the candidate forum on April 8, 2025, in Baxter Hall Room 101.

had some things to improve on," said Pickett. "This year, especially with a new Dean of Students coming in, it was very important for us to have solid students in it and somebody that's willing to take a lot of action and do some new things ... I want

to make an impact on the student body and give back to Wabash in a way that it's given to me throughout my entire life."

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## Wabash community prepares for 12th annual Day of Giving

JACKSON GOODYEAR '27  
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, April 30, Wabash will hold its annual Day of Giving event. Each year, the Day of Giving serves as a philanthropic opportunity for alumni and those associated with the Wabash community to give back to the school with this year marking Wabash's 12th rendition of the event.

The Day of Giving format started in 2014 — a more modern format of raising money that focused on not only raising money for the school, but also celebrating the history and philanthropy of the College as well.

"It really does make a difference in how we operate," said Associate Dean for College Advancement Joe Klen '97. "The more we raise, the more you can do and the better experiences you can provide. So it impacts the current year, and it impacts the next year."

The 2014 Day of Giving started off strong, raising half a million dollars from 2,200 unique donors. Throughout the years, alumni response has gotten stronger and the Day of Giving has become more significant.

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## 100 days in office: A review of Donald Trump's second term in office

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28  
STAFF WRITER

Any president's first 100 days are often considered among their most important. This is especially true for President Donald J. Trump. Over the course of the campaign trail, Trump made several promises about what his administration would do. His primary goal for the first 100 days of his second presidency is to implement his presidential campaign's Agenda 47 policy platform.

### Executive Orders

President Trump has signed 130 executive orders since taking office in January. Some of the major ones include "Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions," which repealed 79 Biden-era executive actions. Trump signed an executive order that rescinds all funding for DEI programs and withdrew the U.S. from the World Health Organization. He also signed an order that declared a state of emergency at the southern border. President Trump created DOGE with an executive order and withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accord.

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## Community Center construction: One year in review

JAMES WALLACE '26  
JUNIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Just over one year ago today, the Frank H. Sparks Center was scheduled for demolition — beginning in the summer of 2024. But as students are near to wrapping up the spring 2025 semester, the walls of the over 70-year old building are still standing.

The main culprit of the hold-up? A loan process through USDA Rural Development — a branch of USDA focused on rural areas, a classification that Crawfordsville, Indiana, qualifies for. The College began the process near the beginning of 2024, and is still working to finish the process in order to obtain funds for the Community Center.

"We've requested \$32 million for the Community Center and \$32 million for refinancing [existing debt]," said Wabash CFO Kendra Cooks. "The loan would be 40 years at a fixed rate, which has ranged between 3.5% to 4.2%."

The price tag of the Community Center and the existing debt refinanced would give the College the opportunity to put all of its current and near-future debt in one bucket — a bucket with a relatively low interest rate.

Two main reports that the College has been working on since the beginning of 2025 were the environmental report and preliminary architectural feasibility report — both of which had to be greenlit by USDA



COURTESY OF WABASH COLLEGE

Renderings of the planned Community Center show the pathway between Lilly Library and the Community Center, which is the site of most of the current construction on the Center.

Rural Development before the loan process could move on to the USDA national office.

"USDA Rural Development sent us a document back that says that we have fulfilled our

responsibilities for the environmental process," said Wabash CFO Kendra Cooks. "What you're seeing that's happening now is a combination of our infrastructure work."

Cooks is referencing the infrastructure project that began in the summer of 2024, in which crews performed a variety of work underground across campus to modernize Wabash's power system. The latest addition to this project was the separation of the Sparks Center and Lilly Library, whose power systems were previously connected underground.

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# Pickett '26 and Salpietra '27 to take Senate reins

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The duo won the election by a large margin, besting Derek McDonald '27 and Zeph Johnson '26 in the two-ticket race. The victory marks another year where the winning candidates are victorious by a large-margin — a trend that may indicate a decline in general student body interest when it comes to Student Senate. While many students believe that the Senate's job is purely to allocate finances for clubs and committees on campus, the Senate is intended to be much more than that.

"I think a big part that we forget about is that it is a Student Senate," said Pickett. "It's a place for people to voice their concerns, voice ideas and express to senators and the cabinet their concerns that they want presented to the President of the College, the Dean of Students and people that can really make these changes."

Salpietra brings with him experience as someone who has been involved with the planning and execution of various events on campus. The previous cabinet, led by Student Body President Anthony Donahue '25 and Student Body Vice President Jonah Billups '25, often called on committees like the Student Life committee, which Salpietra was a member of, to host events that would benefit all of campus. Donahue and his cabinet have admitted to placing trust in committee heads that have failed to do what they promised.

"If we could have leveraged the people who actually wanted to be

involved more, instead of those who just wanted to build their résumés, I think we could have had more productive events," said Donahue in the April 11, 2025 edition of *The Bachelor*.

Salpietra plans to continue leveraging clubs and committees as the mechanism for events to be hosted, like Donahue and Billups, but believes oversight and actively supporting the committees will avoid the problem that Donahue experienced throughout his tenure.

"I like getting out and doing stuff here on campus, and I think Student Senate is one of the main things that puts that on," said Salpietra. "Especially in the vice president role — overseeing all the committees — I want to increase the amount of events and student engagement on campus, and I really want to see the campus thrive through that."

As the year comes to a close, there will only be one opportunity for Pickett and Salpietra to meet officially during the 2024-25 school year, but they won't wait to get going until the fall.

"Right now, we're getting all the committee heads together and trying to get those in place so they can get sworn in with us," said Pickett. "Just to make sure that we're on the same page and that we can really begin planning events over the summer."

The newly elected cabinet will have much to sort out between now and next fall, but they are excited by the possibilities that this opportunity provides for the Wabash community and eager to get to work.



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

**Declan Chhay-Vickers '26 speaks at the candidate forum on April 8, 2025, in Baxter Hall Room 101. Chhay-Vickers ran as Student Body President-Elect Austin Pickett's '26 treasurer, but will have to be confirmed by Senate to secure his position.**

# 2025 Fulbright selection in limbo

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"However, the Institute of International Education has not yet notified the US finalist students and scholars, and we have been asked by the State Department not to process our visiting students and scholars since all selections are subject to 'further review' beyond the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board's decisions."

This gag order has been the focal point of frustration for students and fellowship advisors in the States, who have been kept in the dark about any decisions being made about when the information will be released.

"The United States federal government has a chokehold on releasing Fulbright results and I have no idea what is going on," said Connor Craig '25, a Wabash Fulbright semifinalist. "I check the Fulbright website every day for some scrap of an update and still absolutely nothing. It's really hard to keep waiting despite submitting my application in the beginning of October [2024]."

Hunting for either employment or graduate school placement is enough uncertainty to keep most students on their toes about what comes after graduation. Because of that, Fulbright typically gives applicants an answer before the strain of waiting causes them to take a different opportunity, regardless of whether they were selected as a Fulbright finalist or not.

"A lot of graduate and professional schools want to know from their accepted students if they'll be enrolling by April 15," said Albrecht. "That's a magic date. So, Fulbright has always encouraged foreign countries to make their selections [before then] to help students. Most of them have, and some of the foreign commissions have been very vocal about that fact."

It is frustrating, then, on both ends when Fulbright knows who their selected finalists are and applicants are ready to make a decision, but the State Department middleman is holding up the process. And, earning a Fulbright Scholarship is important and life-changing enough that most students are willing to stick it out, regardless of the consequences to their



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**The Fulbright Foreign Scholarship acts as an initiative that gives students the opportunity to go abroad and act as unofficial ambassadors from the US.**

future plans. This especially impacts students like Christian Gray '25, who intends to utilize his Fulbright scholarship to gain a graduate degree in the Netherlands.

"The research that I would be doing through my Fulbright is what I want to do, and the place where I would be living is where I want to live," said Gray. "I'm fine waiting. And it's worth it, because where else am I going to get my grad school paid for and a stipend to live in Europe? That's not happening through any other means, which is why I'm being really stubborn on it."

With over a year invested in the process, all that applicants and committees want to happen is for the decision to be released. Whether the answer is 'yes' or 'no,' closure on the issue is the

only remedy for the current conflict. Although, the hesitancy for the US government to show care and interest in the ambitions of young people to be ambassadors abroad will certainly stick with Gray for years to come.

"To think that this ambition that I have, this fire inside of me, this drive to do this thing and live this way is being put on pause because of some antics is frustrating," said Gray. "I don't want that ambition to go anywhere. I don't want it to die off. And it feels like I'm being asked to bottle it up and save it. It's ridiculous that the current administration is essentially telling young folks to do that. 'Keep ahold of your ambition, because you can't use it right now.'"

## 100 days in office

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### Immigration

Trump has promised to make cracking down on illegal immigration a top priority. Since then, Trump has attempted to end birthright citizenship. Trump revoked guidance from 2011 prohibiting illegal migrant arrests in areas such as courthouses, schools, churches and hospitals or during funerals and weddings. Trump signed an order to have Guantanamo Bay used as a migrant operations center. As of February, there have been 37,660 deportations.

### Economic Policy

Since becoming president, Trump has imposed tariffs on China and initially promised tariffs on Canada and Mexico before rescheduling the tariff dates. On April 2, Trump announced his "Liberation Day." Tariffs that imposed a baseline 10% universal tariff on all imported goods for 57 nations were put in effect, with China tariffs going as high as 245%. However, since then, Trump announced a 90-day hold on all tariffs except for the 10% baseline. Since January 20, the Dow Jones has fallen 10.1%, the S&P 500 has fallen 6.4% and the Nasdaq has fallen 11%.

### DEI

President Trump has signed several executive orders trying to roll back diversity, equity and inclusion policies, targeting transgender Americans. On January 20, Trump signed an executive order which required federal departments to recognize gender as male-female binary.

### Government Organization

On Trump's first day he signed an order that created the Department of Government Efficiency to reduce wasteful and fraudulent spending. Trump also put a freeze on new regulations and hiring for federal workers. DOGE abolished USAID, the Department of Education and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Trump also ordered the release of the remainder of the JFK files, RFK files and Martin Luther King Jr. files.

### Pardons

Trump issued a proclamation that granted clemency to roughly 1,500 people convicted of offenses related to the January 6 Capitol Riots. This includes many members of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers. President Trump pardoned Ross Ulbricht who ran the darknet drug market Silk Road.

### Foreign Policy

Since returning back to office, Trump has pushed a very strong hawkish policy. Trump has declared his intent for the U.S. to take ownership of the Gaza Strip. The plan would be to completely redevelop the strip and would require the removal of approximately 2 million Palestinians. President Trump has expressed a want to annex Canada and make it a state. Trump argues that annexation would eliminate trade barriers, streamline resource extraction and strengthen North American energy independence relative to the rest of the world.



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# Wabash community prepares for 12th Annual Day of Giving



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2024’s Day of Giving achieved over 7,000 gifts, raising \$1.65 million. Social media is now a major reason why the Day of Giving reaches the number of alumni it does. Most importantly, the Day of Giving’s success comes from the hard work and coordination of the Wabash College Advancement Team.

Much of the work the Advancement Team has been doing this semester has been dedicated to the Day of Giving. An enormous amount of preparation has gone into this year’s event, including planning for the activities on campus, creating a website and communicating with alumni.

“The joy of the day really is the Wabash community coming together,” said Director of Advancement Initiatives Susan Dyer. “Coming together on social media, coming together via email and coming together via phone calls.”

One of the most important reasons why this team has been so successful is the implication of affinity challenges on the Day of Giving. An affinity challenge is a pledge made by an individual or group on campus that challenges others whom they are associated with to make a gift. If this gift is made, the person who pledged will make a gift for the pledged amount. Alumni and people on campus are encouraged to make

an affinity challenge on the Day of Giving. Affinity challenges are popular among sports, majors and living units on campus.

“It’s a way of encouraging everybody to participate,” said Associate Director of Advancement Initiatives Hugh Vandivier ’91. “It also allows us to have our affinity challenges based on gifts, not on dollars. In effect the gifts drive the dollars.”

The Advancement Team is just as ambitious with their fundraising goal as last year. Much of their job throughout the year is raising money for Wabash’s annual fund, the fund used for most of its operations. The goal this year is to raise \$3.75 million for the annual fund after recently surpassing the \$2 million mark. The team would love to raise as close to the \$1.75 million more needed to reach their goals for the fund on the Day of Giving.

“The Annual Fund covers everything including scholarships for faculty and even salaries and paychecks for those that work here,” said Associate Director of Advancement Initiatives Emily Vetne.

The team has full confidence that they will be able to make an impact on this year’s Day of Giving. 10 alumni groups are hosting happy hours and get togethers across the country on the day. These get-togethers are hosted in bordering states like Ohio and

Illinois, and as far as New York and Arizona. Last year, alumni with a class year in the 2020s made up the majority of gifts that came in, and those with a class year in the 1990s were in second. The team is hopeful that these groups will make a similar performance this year.

The Advancement Team also works hard to create a theme for the event each year. This year’s theme will be “Sing Thy Praises” in honor of the 125th anniversary of “Old Wabash.” Previous themes include “Stand Tall,” “Celebrate Wabash,” and “Step Up for Wabash.” Each year’s theme is fun and makes the event more appealing to alumni.

A lot of the fundraising will be coming from alumni and friends off campus, but the Advancement Team has worked hard to organize a Day of Giving event on campus as well. There will be a Day of Giving luncheon catered by Bon Appetit in Chadwick Court. Additionally, there will be fun events including a ‘kazoo that tune’ game and a blindfolded dance off. Free t-shirts will also be available as well as a hat bar, where students can customize their own Wabash hat.

Students and faculty alike can embrace Wabash’s long standing tradition of philanthropy and giving back next Wednesday, April 30 during the 12th Annual Day of Giving.

# Community Center construction: One year in review

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So while the walls of the Sparks Center are still standing, work is still being done in preparation for demolition.

“March 11 through May 1 is ‘Sparks Demo – Make Ready, Work Site,’” said Cooks. “We are in the process of asbestos abatement, we’ve taken out specific things that people want, and plan on taking out the beams last.”

The current stage of the project brings with it more action and noise on campus, but Wabash leadership is working to mitigate the impacts of getting the work site ready for demolition later on.

“There will be disruptions,” said Wabash President Scott Feller. “We’ve tried to mitigate those disruptions. I’m glad with how Grub Hollow turned out and I’m happy we have more parking in.”

With preparations being made for the actual demolition of the building, some have voiced concerns that the disruptions caused would begin near finals week as the semester begins to wrap up. But disruptions are planned to be minimal and the heavy demolition is likely to happen

shortly after students move off of campus.

“Demolition, shoring and excavation is scheduled for May 2 to August 21,” said Cooks. “But we aren’t going to do it in the middle of finals.”

However, much of the time frame is still hinging on the USDA loan process being completed.

“What will be a significant milestone in this process is getting to funds obligation,” said Cooks. “Our understanding is that the D.C. person that is tasked with preparing and reviewing our package has ours as the next to review.”

Funds obligation puts the College in a position where the federal government will have set aside funds for the deal, making the College much more confident in the completion of the loan process.

With minor projects slowly moving towards bigger pieces of preservation, the Sparks Center is getting ready for demolition this summer — and the Wabash community can only wait and hope that the federal processes continue smoothly so the Center can be destroyed nearly a year after originally planned.

# 2025 WALLY WINNERS

- COACH OF THE YEAR: COACH BERHARDT, SWIM & DIVE
- YOUNG BUCK: RYAN KEATING, BASEBALL
- GLUE GUY: LUKA DIFILLIPO, LAX
- MOMENT OF THE YEAR: BRAYDEN CURNUTT, XC
- WACKY WALLY (TEAM CLASS CLOWN): SLY WILLIAMS, TRACK & FIELD
- UNITY AWARD: QUINN SHOLAR, FOOTBALL, TRACK & FIELD
- TARDY MAN (ALWAYS RUNNING LATE): CREW MORGAN, LAX
- MANAGER OF THE YEAR: JUSTIN BROWDER, FOOTBALL
- DJ DISASTER (SHOULD NEVER TOUCH AUX): SAM RINGER, FOOTBALL
- ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: ROB SORENSEN, BASKETBALL
- BEST BROMANCE: CAM FORD & GAVIN RUPPERT, FOOTBALL
- WABASH ALWAYS FIGHTS MENTALITY AWARD: ZEPH JOHNSON, FOOTBALL



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# This week at Wabash

**Friday, Apr. 25**

7:30 p.m. | Thin Walls @ Ball Theater

**Saturday, Apr. 26**

3:00 p.m. | Glee Club Spring Concer @ Salter Hall

**Sunday, Apr. 27**

7:30 p.m. | Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert @ Salter Hall

**Monday, Apr. 28**

7:30 p.m. | Benjamin Casica-Patton Senior Recital @ Salter Hall

**Tuesday, Apr. 29**

12:00 p.m. | Baseball vs. DePauw @ Goodrich Ballpark





# 'Sinners' Review: Thrilling and pitch-perfect

**BEN WALLACE '25**  
STAFF WRITER

Ryan Coogler cannot miss. In my opinion, he's one of the best up-and-coming filmmakers today. His range is impressive: he's tackled everything from a heartbreaking true story, to a legacy sequel, to a major superhero blockbuster. And he's nailed each one. But his latest film, "Sinners," is his magnum opus thus far.

The film is set in 1932 Mississippi and opens with twin brothers, both played by Michael B. Jordan, purchasing an old barn and some land from a suspected Klan member. We soon learn they've returned to their hometown from Chicago after striking it rich, and they plan to open a juke joint with their newfound wealth. They begin rounding up old friends around town to bring the vision to life.

On opening night, the juke joint becomes a vibrant gathering spot, a place where the black community can briefly escape the harsh realities of Jim Crow Mississippi. The music, the dancing and the joy are a celebration of culture and resilience. But everything changes when a group of three white people shows up, uninvited, and look to get in. From that point forward, the story takes a dark and violent turn.

This film plays like a tale of two halves. The first celebrates the power of blues music; its roots, its emotional weight and its lasting influence. The second dives head-first into a bloody, gripping thriller. I had seen the trailer, so I expected the tonal shift, but some of the people I saw it with were completely blindsided.

The second half of the film is where it truly takes off. In my opinion, it delivers everything you could want: brutal, bloody action mixed with powerful character moments. Just when I thought it was over, the ending came back with an even bigger

bang, perfectly tying the whole movie together. And don't leave too early because there's a post-credits scene that's absolutely worth staying for.

This movie doesn't hold back when it comes to its message. Coogler is a deliberate, thoughtful filmmaker, and it's clear he has something to say here, and I think it lands perfectly. The film explores themes of cultural identity, generational trauma and resistance, all wrapped in a story that feels both timely and timeless. What makes it so effective is how Coogler weaves these themes into the characters' actions and the setting, rather than relying on heavy-handed exposition.

The characters are written with precision, and those strong scripts are matched by equally powerful performances. I've rarely seen a cast this perfectly assembled. Every actor brings something essential, and there isn't a weak link among them. Michael B. Jordan doesn't stand out because everyone is excellent, but his dual role is especially impressive. Like we saw earlier this year with Robert Pattinson in "Mickey 17," Jordan takes on two distinct characters, but I think he pulls it off even better. He gives each twin a unique personality, and you can only tell them apart through subtle differences in his performances.

This movie is incredible, plain and simple. Every element is executed with perfection, from the music and costumes to the stunning cinematography. It's a film that sticks with you, and one I'd gladly watch again. I highly recommend seeing it in theaters: not just for the visual beauty, but for the powerful, immersive sound of the music. Whatever you do, see this as soon as you can. It's nothing short of immaculate.

**FINAL VERDICT:**  
**4.5/5 WALLYS**



## 'That's all, folks!'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

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- ACROSS**
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  - 7. Prints and such
  - 10. Pickle
  - 14. Maine attraction
  - 15. Thompson of "Back to the Future"
  - 16. World's fair, for short
  - 17. Of, by and for the people
  - 19. Canvas on a yacht
  - 20. Suffix with Sudan or Japan
  - 21. Canada hwy. distances
  - 22. Pipe fitting?
  - 24. Freudian error
  - 25. Avian Australian
  - 26. Count on both hands?
  - 27. Take place
  - 30. Artisan's forte
  - 32. Buffalo's lake
  - 33. Desert "monster"
  - 35. "Go get it!"
  - 39. Anchor's windup
  - 41. Gear trailed by a trawler
  - 42. Excited-sounding internet company
  - 43. Iraqi port
  - 44. Guitar ridge
  - 46. Throw
  - 47. Pursue, cat-style
  - 49. Worked the first shift
  - 51. One-\_\_\_\_
  - 54. Certain "House" set
  - 55. Feline "I feel fine"
  - 56. Rep
  - 58. It's mined and refined
  - 59. Got a blue ribbon
  - 62. Air freshener scent
  - 63. Get-up-and-go
  - 66. Sharp side
  - 67. Canadians' Thanksgiving mo.
  - 68. A real goal-getter
  - 69. What's left
  - 70. "Super" game console
  - 71. "That's all, folks!"

- DOWN**
- 1. Low taper \_\_\_\_
  - 2. Freezes
  - 3. May or June, but not July
  - 4. Altar response
  - 5. Hammer's old partner
  - 6. Polluting, for example
  - 7. Pilot's concern: Abbr.
  - 8. Hammer home
  - 9. Washington city that shares its name with a Toyota pickup
  - 10. Flat-top formation
  - 11. Right on the money
  - 12. 27-Down partner
  - 13. Athenian lawgiver who introduced trial by jury
  - 18. Agent of Cleopatra's demise
  - 23. Famed vampire slayer
  - 24. Asparagus units
  - 27. 12-Down partner
  - 28. Plot
  - 29. Insta posts
  - 30. Assist at a court
  - 31. Movie trailer, e.g.
  - 34. Pull the strings
  - 36. "If that's the case..."
  - 37. Old King \_\_\_\_
  - 38. Cause for a flag, maybe
  - 40. Summer party locale
  - 45. Camera-toting traveler, often
  - 48. Director's cry
  - 50. "Tell it like it is!"
  - 51. Kind of deck
  - 52. Joy's partner
  - 53. Numbers on Broadway
  - 55. "Crack" or "jack" follower
  - 57. Track contest
  - 59. Line with a plug
  - 60. Cause of the witch's demise in "Hansel and Gretel"
  - 61. One scoring 100% on Sporcle quizzes, say
  - 64. "Live from New York, \_\_\_\_ Saturday Night!"
  - 65. Baby's "piggy"



Scan for solution!

## Professor Frank Howland departs Wabash after 37 years



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

**Professor of Economics Frank Howland grins at his retirement celebration in Baxter Hall on April 23, 2025. Howland arrived at Wabash in 1988.**

**ELIJAH WETZEL '27**  
FEATURES EDITOR

After serving Wabash in various capacities for 37 years, most notably as a professor of economics, Frank Howland will retire at the end of the semester.

Howland originally sought a position in the economics department at Wabash because of a deep appreciation of the liberal arts instilled in him during his undergraduate years at Harvard University, a desire to do more teaching than research and to revive a happy family connection — two of his brothers-in-law attended Wabash. But it was the people he met at the College who made him stay.

"My colleagues have been great, and it's been a great place to work," said Howland. "The people are very friendly and supportive."

Howland thrived in multiple roles — some behind-the-scenes and some visible — during his nearly four decades in Crawfordsville. He helped cultivate Wabash's business curriculum and was the chair when business formally became a minor. He also served on the budget, retirement and strategy committees for the faculty as well as in other key leadership roles. The committees he served

on required steady and trusted hands, attributes Howland's colleagues knew he possessed. More recently, he has chaired the Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) major, guiding it in its early days and mentoring fellow professors along the way. Howland's dedication to the College and his clear embrace of wide-ranging learning and responsibility fit the spirit of the institution well.

"It is an uncommon commitment to devote one's career for that length of time and really become part of the place," said Dean of the College Todd McDorman. "Professor Howland has enriched Wabash greatly. His heart is in the liberal arts. I think that's part of what makes him a good match for Wabash, and probably why he stayed so long."

Nearly four decades after arriving in Crawfordsville, Howland and his wife will depart for Ann Arbor, Michigan to be closer to family. Retirement in Ann Arbor will mean access to more extensive nature trails, museums, theatrical and musical performances and time to continue with two research projects. But Howland has thoroughly enjoyed life at Wabash and in Crawfordsville, and will miss teaching students — especially in

senior colloquium — and learning about what his colleagues are studying at seminars and colloquiums. He'll also miss the people.

"I will miss my colleagues, especially here in Baxter Hall," said Howland. "Some of them are good friends. I'll miss being in an active place where people have the same goal and mission, where you can talk about teaching or students. I'm sort of a dyed-in-the-wool academic, so I will miss having the stimulation from talking about the very interesting times we live in."

A Wabash man by choice for 37 years, the community can learn a lot from Howland's example.

"He exemplifies being willing to learn new things and helping to lead the College in new and important directions," said McDorman. "We can learn a lot through the actions that he has taken here during his distinguished tenure. You don't replace people like Professor Howland. You hire other people into the department who will also be terrific, but you can't replicate someone like that."



# Senior spotlight: Ben Casica-Patton

*Inspiration and bond with instructor drive Casica-Patton's piano mastery*

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25  
MANAGING EDITOR

When Ben Casica-Patton '25 was five years old, his mother enrolled him in piano lessons. He wasn't having it.

"My mom just wanted me to learn an instrument, so I took piano," Casica-Patton said. "Like a lot of children, I wasn't really into it. She had to force me to practice, maybe 20 minutes a day, if even that."

Before long, the Crawfordsville native was taking his talents to the Indiana State Fair, where he frequently found success performing jazz and blues music in piano competition. Motivated in part by such regional accolades, Casica-Patton kept at it, under the instruction of Wabash Glee Club's own accompanist, Cheryl Everett. It wasn't until he enrolled at Wabash that his aspirations skyrocketed.

In June 2022, another young pianist made headlines, when at age 18, South Korea's Yunchan Lim became the youngest person ever to win the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

"I liked the way he played, and it really inspired me to keep practicing and to pursue that level of excellence in music," said Casica-Patton.

His next three years at Wabash, Casica-Patton devoted himself to his craft, continuing to take lessons from Everett,

his first (and only) piano teacher. At Wabash, he served as section accompanist to the Glee Club, played in the pit orchestra for "Something Rotten!" and performed in multiple solo and group recitals. He even spent a semester studying at NYU Paris, taking music history and theory classes and absorbing the city where many of his favorite classical composers lived and worked.

"My rehearsal room was on the eighth floor," Casica-Patton said. "You could see the Eiffel Tower, you could see Notre Dame, you could see the Arc de Triomphe. You could see everything from there."

Now back on American soil for his final term, Casica-Patton is turning his sights to his final senior recital — an ambitious seven-piece program that includes Beethoven's complete "Appassionata Sonata," which Casica-Patton will perform (from memory) in its 24-minute entirety. The recital will also function as Casica-Patton's audition video for a number of graduate programs.

Another highlight of the recital will be Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto on two pianos — Casica-Patton on the Bösendorfer and Everett on the Steinway.

"It's a really technically difficult piece," Casica-Patton said. "Trying to line up every single moment with another piano who's also playing really diffi-



COURTESY OF DONITA MURPHY-SIMS

**Ben Casica-Patton '25 sits in Salter Hall with the Bösendorfer he will play at his senior recital on April 28. The program begins at 7:30 and includes Beethoven's complete "Appassionata Sonata" and Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, performed on two pianos.**

cult music is really challenging."

Not only will the duet be an impressive display of talent from both artists, it also represents the culmination of the relationship between them, 16 years in the making.

"I'm really looking forward to the beautiful sound that he and I can make together," said Everett. "Neither one of us can really do this piece alone. It takes both parts. To me, that's the culmination of how Ben's developed as a musician."

A far cry from those days of being forced to practice for 20 minutes, Casica-Patton is putting everything he can into preparing for his final Wabash performance. Since the beginning of the spring semester, he's spent nearly every day hunkered down in the rehearsal spaces of the Fine Arts Center, coffee and snacks strewn about, losing himself in the music.

"I try not to keep track of how long I practice per day and just focus on if I achieved anything," Casica-Patton said. "During my last senior recital, I was keeping track of how many hours I was practicing, and it was frustrating sometimes when I felt like I got nothing done. I've been trying to focus more on actually accomplishing things — practicing, listening to other people play the pieces and trying to develop my own interpretation of the pieces."

Aside from her daily practice to perform in the piano duet, Everett also has a role to play in preparing Casica-Patton for his performance by building on the skills she has developed in him for the last 16 years.

"We're no longer developing the skills, so we come to a point where we focus on performance," Everett said. "There's a tremendous amount of pressure when you're carrying the whole program by memory, and I feel like my obligation as a teacher is to have dialog with Ben about staying physically well the week of the performance and about the mental stress that may set in."

On Monday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m., all of Casica-Patton's hard work and dedication will be freely on display in Salter Hall, the conclusion decades in the making.

"He started as a little kid who didn't say much, and he's grown into a true musician with his own voice," Everett said. "As an adult now, he's able to communicate emotions and feelings over the stage lights that he couldn't do when he was little. It's very gratifying to me to watch a student stay with their lessons long enough to develop that depth that comes with wisdom."

"It's a teacher's dream to have a student like Ben."



COURTESY OF MARYMAR CASICA

**Cheryl Everett sits with Ben Casica-Patton '25 after one of his piano recitals on March 26, 2010. Everett has been Casica-Patton's piano teacher since he was five years old.**

# Student-devised play prepares for Scotland theater festival



PHOTO BY PRESTON REYNOLDS '25

**Students in THE-303 class wrote, acted and composed original music for their production, 'Thin Walls.' Brody Frey '26 (seated) and Dane Market '26 (standing) interact on set during a Tuesday performance for EQ students on April 22, 2025.**

PRESTON REYNOLDS '25  
OPINION EDITOR

"What does healthy masculinity look like?" That is the question posed by THE-303's production for their class, "Wabash on the Fringe."

"Thin Walls: (Men)tal Health" is Wabash's very own piece of devised theater, chosen, written and performed by the student troupe, including Alejandro Cruz '27, Alex Schmidt '27, Broderick Frey '26, Carson Wirtz, '26 Dane Market '26, Eamon Colglazier '28, Gabriel Smith '27, Preston Parker '26, Sean Bledsoe '26 and Tyler Horton '27.

"Devised theater means to start without having a script," said Associate Professor of Theater Heidi Winters Vogel. "It uses a process that isn't just built through text, but through company collaboration."

The process began last semester with interviews and tryouts.

"She [Winters Vogel] asked what we wanted to create, and the majority of us wanted to do something on men's mental health," said Bledsoe '26.

From there, the cast got to know each other.

"Personal connection is key to devised theater, we have to be vulnerable to produce art," said Bledsoe.

Armed with a thematic aspiration and a solid foundation of teamwork, the team built the story from the ground up.

In "Thin Walls," Ben (Bledsoe), Rick (Frey) and Daniel (Schmidt), act as three siblings, coping with the recent loss of their father in individual, often violent, ways. In one scene, Daniel goes into a rage kicking cans and screaming as the theme of Seth Macfarlane's "Family Guy" plays in the background. In another, Rick is haunted by his father Richard (Market) while a belt rhythmically snaps behind him.

Market and Smith were responsible for the sound design and musical performance. Bailey Rosa and Brandon Thompson worked to perfect the set. Every performer had a hand in crafting the script, lending their own voices to the story and honing their playwriting chops.

"Having the ability to explore social stereotypes and issues gave me a quality experience," Schmidt said. "[The whole cast] worked their butts off and always gave 100 % since day one."

On the other hand, working to create a play from scratch comes with its own challenges.

"There were a lot of people who weren't involved in theater previously," said Colglazier, who plays the functionally alcoholic frat boy, Gray. "Sometimes our passion for individual ideas was overwhelming."

While all Wabash theater productions request feedback, "Thin Walls" has more pressure to revise than usual. THE-303 will be delivering their production from August 1 to August 9 at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival alongside thousands of other troupes.

Edinburgh Fringe, first opened in 1947 with eight theater troupes, now hosts millions of watchers every year.

"This has been in the works for a while," said Winters Vogel. "Before I was even hired Dr. [Jim] Cherry was working to organize this opportunity."

"It's cool to bring a piece of our campus to somewhere that knows nothing about that world, letting them understand our experiences as American college students," said Bledsoe.

"They're trusting their own creativity, the power of their own stories, recognizing that what they can bring to a piece of theater is valid, and it doesn't depend on some other person having written a script and bringing it to them," said Winters Vogel.

Bledsoe felt quite the same: "The stories and emotions that I've shared and the acting out of things that are similar to my own experience, have been extremely rewarding."



# What's better than one year? Try six

*Greg Redding '88 plans to step down as Dean of Students, a role he never aspired to*

ELIJAH WETZEL '27  
FEATURES EDITOR

Greg Redding '88 never planned on being the Dean of Students at Wabash College. But, a combination of events has kept him in the role for the past six years after accepting the

responsibility in 2019. Redding is finally stepping down after the semester ends, and will take a one-year sabbatical before returning to his pre-dean role as a professor of German. Redding's first stay at Wabash was as a student. He was a brother of Lambda Chi Alpha, a



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Dean of Students Greg Redding '88 affixes LGBTQ pride flags to ground stakes on October 21, 2024. Redding helped organize the restaking of the flags on the mall after a group of students vandalised the original arrangement.

student-athlete on the cross country team and graduated with a degree in German. Redding returned to campus in 2002 as a professor of German. And, on top of his teaching duties, he served as a fraternity advisor, coordinated study abroad and led students on international travel.

Though he didn't aspire to become an administrator, when former Dean of Students Mike Raters '85 announced he was stepping down in the summer of 2019, former president Greg Hess and current president Scott Feller — who was serving as Dean of the College at the time — took notice of his experience.

"I told President Hess that Dean Redding — Professor Redding at the time — might be an interesting candidate," said Feller. "He'd taken a lot of students on immersion trips. At his previous institution, Washington & Jefferson College, he was a cross-country coach. And at Wabash he'd done a lot of work as a fraternity advisor. So he seemed like someone who had the skills to do the job."

Initially, the plan was for Redding to serve as dean for one year. But after the COVID-19 pandemic swept through campus and the world in March 2020, a search for a new dean of students dropped off the priority list.

"President Hess said, 'Hey, this seems to be working, so how about you just stay on for another year? We'll get through this pandemic and figure it out,'" said Redding.

So, one year turned into two. The next spring, Hess stepped down as president, leaving Feller as acting president. Fresh out of the pandemic and with a thousand tasks on the College's plate, Feller and Redding agreed to a five-year contract, with Redding's two years as interim dean included in the five. Then in spring 2024, Redding agreed to a final, sixth year to ease the transition of a new head counselor and new college physicians.

"There's never a great time to step away. You're always in the middle of something," said Redding. "But this year is as good as any. We feel like we're in a good spot with most of our operational areas, so I can hand it off to [incoming] Dean Scott Brown."

At times rewarding and at times arduous, the dean of students role allowed Redding to

gain deeper insight into students' lives than he had as a professor. One of the ways he tried to leverage this insight was by expanding the mental health and wellness resources available to students.

"I quickly came to realize just how common and widespread mental health challenges are for students," said Redding. "That's been hard. We get a lot of good outcomes with those because we have a team approach to it. But you don't win every one. It's an emotionally taxing job a lot of times, because students really matter to you and you're invested in them. When things happen to them it's crushing. It affects us all."

A dean's work on the behalf of their students — not just in students' wellness and happiness, but also as a manner of first responder for those who are struggling academically, with family or finances — is the most important work that they will do. This is where Redding's impact was most felt according to Feller.

"Ultimately, that's what I hope people will remember Dean Redding's legacy as at Wabash, and that they remember that the Dean of Students Office is the place you go for help," said Feller.

As he prepares for a sabbatical year that will include international travel to Germany, reviving his involvement in organizations focused on German-American studies and time preparing his courses for the fall of 2026, Redding is grateful for the chance to serve his alma mater.

"It is an incredible privilege to be the dean of students at Wabash College," said Redding. "We're lucky that we have the kind of student culture that we do. We know it's not perfect every day, but students here get it right more often than not, and I'm aware of that every time I go and meet with my dean counterparts at other institutions and hear about what they deal with day-to-day. It just makes me grateful every day that I get to work at Wabash with Wabash students. Being Dean of Students has been one of the great privileges of my life, and that's no exaggeration."

## And may it please the court

*Indiana Court of Appeals to hear oral arguments in Salter Hall on April 29*



COURTESY OF IN.GOV

The Indiana Court of Appeals consists of 15 judges hailing in trios from each one of Indiana's five judicial districts. Three judges will be on campus to adjudicate the case: Melissa May, Elizabeth Tavitas and Paul Felix.

OWEN VERMEULEN '28  
STAFF WRITER

When most people imagine legal opportunities coming to Wabash, they probably imagine them coming from the Pre-Law Society. However, the rhetoric department is responsible for Wabash's latest legal event coming to campus. The Indiana Court of Appeals does a program in which they travel around the state hearing oral arguments from authentic cases arising out of the Indiana court system. Wabash has been chosen as one of this year's locations with the help of Professor Jeff Drury in the rhetoric department.

"The Court of Appeals does what they call Appeals on Wheels, where they travel around the state to hold oral arguments," said Drury. "They go to a lot of high schools and college campuses, and every year I contact the court and tell them about my Argumentations and Debate class, and tell them that we'd like them to come as a part of the class."

In the case that will be heard, Netflix and other streaming services are being sued by four Indiana cities (Fishers, Indianapolis, Valparaiso and Evansville) that claim the streaming companies violated the Indiana Video Service Franchise Act by not obtaining proper

franchises. The state legislature amended the Act to exempt the streaming services, causing the streaming services to file a motion to dismiss, which was granted. But the cities appealed, and are arguing that the Act's amendment is unconstitutional.

This event is part of the Rhetoric 140 class taught by Drury that focuses on argumentation and debate. This presentation will act as a practical application of what the class has been learning about over the course of the semester. Jackson Goodyear '27 is a student in Rhetoric 140 and talked about some of the material in the course.

"The unit we're on is moot court debate, which is just constitutional debate," said Goodyear. "That's what they are doing in this case, so Professor Drury said, 'Why don't we argue the case that we're going to be watching,' and that's what led to us doing it in Rhetoric 140."

Professor Drury is ready to share this event with his students and is excited to see their reactions to it.

"My hope is that the students in the class especially will get to compare their performance with how actual lawyers do it," said Drury. "One of the things I've appreciated is that the students realize that they actually have a sense of efficacy in the work they're doing if they put in the time and energy to the class. I think it's bringing it full circle with the oral argument."

Of course this wouldn't be a Wabash event if it didn't offer the opportunity for students to network with alumni. Drury is excited for the opportunity that this event offers for students not just in the class but outside of it as well.

"It's a great opportunity for the students to network with judges and lawyers," said Drury. "The firm representing Netflix in the appeal is owned by a Wabash College trustee. I know representatives of this company will be there and it's a really good opportunity to network and meet people and explore opportunities for potential legal careers."

But this event is not only for students who are curious about the law and rhetoric. It's a rare experience for everyone to get an up-close look at a key cog in American government. Depending on the case's outcome, monthly bills for Netflix and the other streaming services could go up.

"I think this event is a cool opportunity for people to see a real life court case take place," said Goodyear. "Personally, I don't have much interest in going into the law, but to be able to see such a high profile case dealing with companies most of us have experiences with is a really cool opportunity. This is an important court case and the arguments that are going to be given have real ramifications."

This is an unusual event that Wabash is fortunate enough to host. Drury and the students in the Rhetoric 140 class are eager to see the case play out in real life, but they are just as eager to share it with their fellow Wabash brothers and campus guests.

"I know it primarily caters to students who might be interested in law school or a career in law, but it's also something that shows what are rights and responsibilities as citizens of our state," said Drury. "Anyone is welcome to attend, and I think it's a great opportunity to experience the legal process in action."

## IM basketball champions crowned



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

The champions pose as a unit following their 48-43 victory over Lambda Chi Alpha's 515 team in overtime. From left: Grant Roberts '26, Kayden Beatty '25, Bruno Zamora '25 (crouched), Robert Durham '25, Javon Garry '27, Daniel Streeter '27, Sly Williams '26 (crouched), Anthony Donahue '25, Brennan Beausir '25 and Jonah Billups '25.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Kayden Beatty '25 surveys the court during the IM basketball championship Tuesday night on Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Viral sensation 'Ref Rob' was in the house Tuesday night to referee the championship contest.





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The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas.

Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. The *Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 800 words.

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# Staff editorial: Senior farewell

Dear members of the Wabash community,

As this is the last ever issue from the class of 2025, we wanted to take the opportunity to express our gratitude for your readership, enthusiasm and participation in making *The Bachelor* the best Division III paper in the state of Indiana for the past three years. Almost all of us have been on staff since our sophomore year, and have had the privilege of helping mold and craft the paper into what it is today.

But none of it could have happened without you. Your contributions — whether by sitting for an interview, writing for us, designing cartoons or simply generating newsworthy content by kicking ass at whatever it is you do — gave us the chance to show Wabash off to the world. For a school with no journalism major, you've certainly given us plenty to write about.

We sincerely love what we do and your stories continue to enamor us like nothing else. It has been a true pleasure to work with you and provide accurate, timely and ever-green news, delivered fresh to your front door each and every Friday. It is with content and hopeful hearts

that we finally step away from our editing desks and pass the proverbial torch to the next generation of Wabash men eager to continue the over 100-year tradition of student journalism on campus.

We only ask that — as a vital part of that tradition — you continue your readership of, enthusiasm for and participation in the *Student Voice* of Wabash College. In an era when more and more news is moving online, hidden behind a paywall, don't take for granted the beauty of having a tangible, slightly-damp-with-ink stack of newspapers in your living units and academic buildings on Friday mornings. Grab a coffee from *The Brew* and see what's new on campus. Educate yourself on a new topic. Solve the crossword. Hype up your brothers' opinions — even if they're about why pineapple belongs on pizza. It's your paper, so own it.

Ever your Student Voice,

### The Bachelor's Class of 2025

Sam Benedict

Elijah Greene

Preston Reynolds

Ethan Wallace

Logan Weilbaker

## HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### HOLY SMOKE

*Hi-five to the Greek Churches who launched fireworks across the city at each other in their annual Easter tradition. New rhyme task, anyone?*

### "Black stripe, yellow paint"

*Lo-five to the freshmen of Kappa Sigma for painting the bench black and gold. Yes, they are still a house.*

### SIR, A SECOND CHAT HAS HIT SIGNAL

*Lo-five to Pete Hegseth for adding civilians to top-secret military discussions in a Signal group chat... again. In his defense, it's hard to see your contacts list when everything is a little blurry.*

### SHOOTERS GONE MISSING

*Hi-five to the Grizzlies for taking a 51-point loss to the Thunder in their first round of the playoffs. Maybe Ja Morant should focus more on shooting actual hoops instead of blasting finger guns into the crowd.*

### Good luck Jimbo!

*Hi-five to the next staff of The Bachelor... whomever that may be!*



# The Bachelor

## Request for opinions

We will be running the last issue of *the Bachelor* next week!

If interested, contact pcreynol25@wabash.edu

## Remember the privilege



Seth Acero '25

Reply to this opinion at  
sacero25@wabash.edu

As the end of my senior year approaches, I am permitted to reflect on the memories given to me from Wabash College—memories of fraternity brothers, challenging classes, and moments when our campus truly became a brotherhood. With all these memories considered, I have one important message to share: remember the privilege.

As many of you know, we have been afforded a great opportunity to make ourselves better men and citizens to go out into the world. When we step inside a classroom, we can learn something new about the world, something that might make us uncomfortable or uneasy but will inevitably leave us with a spark that will enlighten us on what to do next. We are also permitted to enjoy ourselves on the weekend, relax, have a beer, watch a movie, or play a sport. These are all wonderful things we have been given, but we often overlook the true value of what it means to have the opportunities, which is what I

mean by having the privilege.

Sadly, most of our experiences here are not commonly shared in the United States, as they are often restricted to those who will never see an opportunity to go to college, have a beer on the weekend, or even enlighten themselves even further. This is attributed to various factors; some fail because a school never receives proper teaching resources. Others might have been born into a serious social predicament, where the family has no choice but to ask their children to work to help pay bills or groceries. Some have failed by their government, who have continuously forgotten to create an accessible pathway for them to go to college or have cut pathways down to make it even worse. These barriers exist, and without any deliberate effort and thoughtful policy from the Indiana and Federal governments, I can only assume that the barrier will become even higher and higher, narrowing the opportunities for many.

This is not to say that everyone at Wabash has come from a wealthy or privileged background. On the contrary, we are unique because our alums actively expand opportunities to get a red W painted on their shirts or take comprehensive exams for young men in areas where college is not considered feasible. Many of us are on scholarships provided by alums. Many of us get internships or jobs through

alums. We are granted these privileges because our alums have realized that the education received at Wabash should not be gatekept or hidden; it should be open to all who wish to obtain it. They understood the responsibility that entailed with being in the NAWM and accepted it without any second thought. This is what I mean by remembering the privilege: understand how you got here, and remember the responsibility placed towards you when you walk with that red “W” on your chest.

As we walk these famed red bricks, passing to the side of the arch or into the glorious wooden floors of the Chapel, we ought to remember what we have been given to be here. The privilege afforded to us to be here was not something that came out of the blue; it was the work of Wabash men who understood what it meant to be a Wabash man, to walk in the streets of whatever hometown one is from and to understand that their education and the people that supported it afforded them the ability to change the world. I advocate that all those who read this should take their classes more seriously, write more pages on that essay, and get out of their rooms and talk to more people, Wabash or not. It is why I ran an entire campaign in my junior year on responsibility: sooner or later, we will bear the title of Wabash alumnus and be forced to reconcile with all

of our actions, good or bad. I believe wholeheartedly that everyone should maximize their Wabash experience and take advantage of every opportunity.

It is also why I am advocating that you remember your privilege of being here. Sooner or later, you all will be faced with the responsibility of carrying out the Wabash tradition of being the famed “Wabash Mafia” and responsible citizen. You can extend the accessibility of attending Wabash by creating a scholarship to help a young man become the best version of himself. Do it. You will be allowed to build a home with Habitat for Humanity or volunteer at a food bank for people who haven't had the same privilege as you. Take it. You might even be presented with the chance to make America what it should be: an open, inclusive society with the freedom to pursue any opportunity for Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness without dictation. Do it. Remember what you were given and extend the privilege to others. It is your duty as a responsible citizen and Wabash man.

Knowing our student body, I suspect that all of you will take this message seriously and begin thinking critically about how you got here while assessing what lies ahead for you. When doing so, you think about how the opportunities you can create will help Wabash and the world become better.



# Significantly Disappointed



David Leal '26  
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djleal26@wabash.edu

At Wabash, we pride ourselves on having just one rule: the Gentleman's Rule. But since Fraternity Day, I've been asking myself. What does it mean to "act like a gentleman" when hate goes unchecked and is praised instead?

I'm writing to you not only as the president of 'shOUT, but also as a Wabash man who deeply values this institution and the community we strive to build here. I want to be completely honest: When I first came to Wabash, I never expected to join a fraternity. As a gay and Hispanic man, both Wabash and its fraternity culture initially felt deeply unwelcoming. And unfortunately, some of those feelings have not changed.

Fraternity spaces have historically not been welcoming for LGBTQ+ students. Many members of 'shOUT have chosen not to join fraternities for this reason, while others who are in fraternities often do not feel safe coming out during their time here. The recent Fraternity Day awards have had

a significant emotional impact on our community — particularly Sigma Chi, receiving both "President of the Year" and "Freshman Class of the Year."

For many in our community, this felt like a slap in the face. It sends the message that those who create unsafe environments for LGBTQ+ students are not only unpunished but are praised.

Let me be specific. In October, members of the Sigma Chi fraternity committed an act of hate against 'shOUT. They ripped down and discarded our Pride flags — symbols of our identity, joy and resilience. This act was more than vandalism; it was a significant message of exclusion and hostility, not just to 'shOUT members but to faculty, staff and students across campus who identify with or support our community.

Sigma Chi's selection to be awarded both "Freshman Class of the Year" and "President of the Year" was both hurtful and undeserving given the hate crime that occurred last semester. These awards are meant to represent "positive impact," "leadership," "moral values" and adherence to the Gentleman's Rule. However, they were awarded to a chapter and a leader under whose leadership an act of hatred took place. This should have quickly disqualified them from any awards that praise "positive impact", "leadership," and adherence to the Gentlemen's Rule. A true leader confronts the failings of their community

and works to heal the damage. Silence is not leadership. Ignoring harm is not growth. And a lack of accountability does not align with the Gentleman's Rule.

I am significantly disappointed with the Fraternity Day Award Selection Committee. I can't understand how this incident wasn't factored into your decisions. At best, this was a gross oversight. At worst, it was a decision that told the Wabash queer community that our pain isn't important. That we aren't important. And that our exclusion will be rewarded.

However, I want to be clear: I am not a member of this house and do not know how its culture may have changed since this incident. But I believe in the possibility of growth — all fraternities can become more inclusive and safer for LGBTQ+ students. Here are a few suggestions that might help us move forward:

1. Acknowledge your mistakes. After you've done the work to change. True accountability means owning your history, not ignoring it.
2. Be present in brave spaces. Step into conversations that may feel uncomfortable but are necessary for growth. Listen to LGBTQ+ voices, ask questions and seek productive conversations.
3. Commit to being better. One easy way to start is by getting Safe Space Training certification — and encouraging your whole house to do the same.

Show that your brotherhood protects all Wabash students.

I'm not here to shame anyone. If anything, I'm extending an invitation — to grow, to reflect and to rise to what Wabash claims to be: a brotherhood that welcomes everyone, even those who haven't always welcomed us.

I do not know the full process behind how these awards are determined. But from where I stand — and where many 'shOUT members stand — this decision sends a clear message: Those who harm us will be uplifted, not held accountable. It sends a message that their version of "leadership" and "gentlemanly behavior" is what Wabash values. And it tells us, once again, that we are not welcome — not in fraternities, not in leadership spaces, and not on this campus.

Please understand the significant impact this has had on our community. Many of us are still healing. And healing becomes even harder when the harm is not only ignored but rewarded. We want to believe that Wabash can do better — that it can live up to the values it so proudly claims. We are asking for transparency, accountability and acknowledgment. Not just for us, but for the future students who deserve to feel like Wabash belongs to them, too.



Sam Bennedict '25  
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As my time at Wabash comes to a close, I've spent the past few weeks reflecting on my journey from freshman year to now. Like other students here, I'm not the first in my family to attend the College. My father graduated in 1998 and I grew up watching Monon Bell games, participating in service projects during the Day of Giving and meeting numerous members of the Wabash "mafia." It wasn't until I embarked on this journey myself that I truly appreciated the transformational experience so many others had expressed.

Prior to beginning freshman year, I rushed FIJI and entered college with two main communities — FIJI and the baseball team. I spent hours on the diamond or in the weight room working to improve my game as well as countless hours with my fraternity brothers.

## Wabash is What You Make of It

After freshman year, I was content knowing that I had two groups where I belonged.

Since high school, my identity was, in large part, defined by baseball. I played year-round, had the strongest relationships through baseball and eventually went to college to play baseball. My journey isn't unique for most students at Wabash considering that almost half of us are involved in a varsity sport. However, my journey shifted when I decided to stop playing baseball after sophomore year.

Weeks prior to the end of the season, I had contemplated what next year would entail. I thought to myself how could I give up something that had been a constant in my life since I was young? Furthermore, I knew plenty of high school athletes that would have loved to play for another four years — did I need to remember how lucky I am? On the flip side, I had lost my love for the sport and would dread practices and distant away games. After weeks of sit-

ting with the question, I realized why I was still so hesitant: quitting my sport felt like losing my identity.

Again, I suspect that my journey is not unique.

I struggled to let go of my sport because without it, I didn't know who I was. In the end, letting go of who I thought I was allowed me to become the man I know I am.

When I stopped playing baseball, I became engrossed with The Bachelor and Student Senate — two groups that I would have never expected to work with when I first came to Wabash. Through these groups I have forged relationships that will last a lifetime, been put into situations that have challenged me for the better and left Wabash with no regrets. My experience at Wabash didn't follow the roadmap I had planned when I first arrived. Without the unexpected twists, I don't believe I would be the person I am today.

I share my story because I don't believe I am alone. Oftentimes, quitting

something like a sport can be daunting because of the uncertainty it creates. If you take anything from my journey, I hope it's that Wabash is what you make of it. Taking risks, experiencing failure, sitting with difficult decisions — it's all part of the process. Don't be afraid to change and don't assume that you know everything there is to know about yourself — I promise you that you are stronger than you think and more resilient than you know.

## Finding Familiarity in the Unfamiliar: The Wabash Way



Julio Cobos '27  
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Departing from home is always difficult. The change can be particularly unsettling for students arriving at Wabash College from distant locations—such as the southern border city of Edinburg, Texas. Variations in climate, culture, and community can cause even the most self-assured student to feel disconnected. The difficulty arises not only in achieving academic success but also in discovering a sense of belonging within an environment that feels entirely unfamiliar.

Upon their arrival in Crawfordsville, Indiana, Wabash students from various areas and backgrounds frequently encounter a culture shock. Individuals coming from mainly marginalized communities may find that in this new setting, their cultural norms and traditions do not dominate. The winters are chillier, the social cues are different, and the warmth of family and community is distant.

This is why it is essential for Wabash to keep developing and fostering an inclusive atmosphere that enables students to feel recognized, supported, and appreciated. Belonging isn't automatic; it's nurtured. Wabash possesses a unique opportunity to foster a sense of belonging.

A key strength of Wabash lies in its dedication to brotherhood. Although the expression may initially appear as a marketing catchphrase, those who feel it understand that it's beyond mere language. Brotherhood signifies responsibility,

compassion, and shared development. It refers to assisting one another with difficult tasks, providing encouragement when someone feels uncomfortable, and celebrating one another's achievements. In this exclusively male setting, students are encouraged to develop professionally and evolve as individuals.

Wabash should keep offering, and seek to create more, areas where students can engage with one another through common interests like sports, music, gaming, or cultural organizations. These common interests frequently serve as the basis for friendships and support networks. When students are unable to locate these spaces, Wabash should seek to motivate and enable them to create their own communities, providing them with the necessary tools and assistance.

The college's demanding curriculum encourages students to venture beyond their academic comfort zones. That same drive should also broaden socially and culturally. Inspiring students to move beyond their comfort zones—by learning from each other, listening, and collaborating—will help those arriving from distant places and enhance the Wabash community.

The reality is that leaving your comfort zone transforms you. It can be challenging at times, yet it is worthwhile. Students who abandon all that is familiar to attend Wabash frequently undergo the deepest personal development. They grow to be more flexible, more self-assured, and more empathetic. That change is something Wabash should honor and support at all levels.

In the end, fostering a sense of belonging is not solely the duty of those who feel disconnected. It's a collaborative effort that Wabash is capable of directing and will lead to developing better, stronger men for years ahead.

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# The Forum Food Finale



**Jackson Leeper '25**  
Reply to this opinion at [jcleeper25@wabash.edu](mailto:jcleeper25@wabash.edu)

What up, bozos? It’s your favorite gluttonous creature, Jackson Leeper, with another , and FINAL, edition of Leeper’s Lunch. Before I say the restaurant, let me give some back story.

In the beginning, I was a freshman with no brain cells. As I continued to hang out with my pledge brothers, I got close with two idiots named Preston Reynolds and Richard Ballentine.

As we continued to hang out together on weekends, we noticed that we usually got brunch together pretty regularly. We decided that this was going to be a Sunday tradition called Fatasses, where we go get brunch and shoot the shit. After months of going to Jimmy Johns or other fast food places, I wanted some variety. I kept seeing one restaurant as I exited out

of Crawfordsville. I pitched the idea to my big-back brothers and they were sold. We went one day, and since then it has been our favorite brunch spot.

The restaurant that I’m talking about, and reviewing this week, is The Forum Family Restaurant. This place is hard to miss as it is right in Darlington Avenue with a big sign that says “Forum”. The type of food is cheap, greasy, American diner food. A great pick-me-up after a long night of tomfoolery! The breakfast menu is great with omelettes, skilletts, pancakes and other classic breakfast items. Most of their stuff is between \$8-\$17 and you will feel full too. You need to come before church as the locals will pack the place. However, I did not come to review the all-day breakfast for the 100th time. I decided to give their dinner menu a shot. I had some comrades, Richard Ballentine and Jake Weber, help me give a good rating (I brought them so I could try their food). With that, let’s begin the review.

We looked at the menu, and we were extra hungry and decided to get some appetizers. We got the combo platter, which comes with jalapeño poppers, onion rings, fried mushrooms and mozzarella sticks. It didn’t take long for the apps to come

out and they came out hot. The rings were crunchy and fresh, jalapeños poppers were okay and the sticks were melted and crunchy. I didn’t try the mushrooms because I hate them, but Ricky said thawt they were good. So far, so good.

Soon after, we placed our orders. Weber got the western chicken sandwich, which came with cheese and bacon and some fries. Ricky got chicken alfredo, and I got the fried chicken dinner with broccoli and fries. I asked about the cake as they have fridge full of cakes and pies ,but before I could finish my sentence the server said “Don’t get it, not worth it”. So I didn’t get dessert which was disappointing because I was eyeing that fridge for freaking years. After a little bit, we got our food. Unfortunately, it didn’t live up to their breakfast food at all.

The chicken was juicy but tasted burnt, like it was fried in bad oil, which was weird because the fries and the apps tasted completely fine. There was no seasoning at all but there was some crunch. Weber and Ricky didn’t find their food not appealing as well. It was just mid to them, which was a shocker to me. I tried Ricky’s food, and it was very bland. After a very shocking and sad performance, I thought very differently of Forum. I was planning to give one last

good review but it turned out to be a bad one.

However, after thinking of all the fun memories at brunch there and realizing there was no one at the restaurant during dinner time, I realized that it is only liked for its breakfast. With that, I give Forum a 7.6/10 burbers (knowers will know). I suggest y’all try the breakfast items as it is worth the praise that I have been giving it but maybe skip on everything else. Thank goodness it’s all day breakfast though.

With the review concluded, I just want to say thank you to Preston Reynolds, who gave me my own opinion section and created this idea of Leeper’s Lunch. I also want to say thank you to the Bachelor’s Office who had to put up with my heinous and inappropriate jokes and edit them (not sorry for the jokes, they were funny).

Lastly, I want to say thank you to the students, faculty, and staff of Wabash. Your support and suggestions while walking to class brightens up my day and makes me glad that I did something like this. I hope someone can take my place and keep doing reviews but they got some shoes (and clothes) to fill. With that, continue to explore the food scene in the Athens of Indiana! Goodbye, you bozos!

# From the Finish Line



**Ethan Wallace '25**  
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Sitting down to write my last thoughts as a part of The Bachelor, there are so many things I could say. I could express how grateful I am to have been able to spend two years as sports editor. I am. I could highlight a few members of our athletics community who deserve more attention. They do. I could tell you that you should write for The Bachelor next year. You should.

But instead I want to focus on an issue that I feel is most pressing to the future of Wabash, a word that can make any upperclassman’s eyes roll – tra-

dition. This year and moving forward Wabash Athletics faces changes. Historic members of our conference are being replaced, new coaches are coming in, NIL is closing in on Division III. But most importantly, Wabash men are being asked to change for the better.

I love the atmosphere at Chadwick Court, at Little Giant Stadium, the Natatorium and everywhere else members of our community gather to support our teams. But I also hate losing, and I can’t imagine how much worse it would be to lose and then endure that atmosphere as an opponent to Wabash fans. I don’t think there is anyone at Wabash who hasn’t at least once seen someone wearing our colors violate the Gentleman’s Rule in how they treated an opponent.

Over the past year especially, the College has made a concentrated effort, spearheaded by the Athletic department to demand more from our fans. Unfortunately, rather than responding

positively to these ideas of a better Wabash, many students have pushed back.

Sports and our love for them is probably the most important tradition we have at Wabash. Education brings us together, but our sports programs keep us together. Given the choice between Center Hall and Chadwick Court — sorry religion department — I would take the Chadwick Crazies every day. But that doesn’t give us the free pass to forget that everything we say in the stands has an impact on those around us.

We should go above and beyond to support our players and fellow fans. We shouldn’t put that effort into dragging down college athletes who go through the same day-to-day struggles as we do. Wearing the wrong color doesn’t make them any worse than us. I love when we’re better than DePauw, but it doesn’t stop at the sideline.

This isn’t a call for Wabash fans to stop cheering. It’s a call for us to do what

we do best in the stands – get creative. Many students found “We love Wabash” to be a bit of a lackluster replacement for other Bell Game chants. I agree. So come up with something better. Get rid of the problems, not the passion.

Wabash Athletics is a living tradition. I’ve watched first-hand the massive increase in support for Lacrosse and Volleyball over the past four years. Let’s not stop there. We can be more passionate for all of our teams when we focus on being the best supporters we can be. We can work with the administration to make a tradition a winning one.



# The Bachelor

## Request for artists

Interested in featuring your art in the Bachelor?  
We are looking for new artists to be consistently featured in the Opinions section!

Are you interested in making comics? Do you want your art to be featured in *The Bachelor*?

Contact [pcreynol25@wabash.edu](mailto:pcreynol25@wabash.edu)  
or [ssbenedi25@wabash.edu](mailto:ssbenedi25@wabash.edu)

Looking for inspiration? Here is a beautiful 2023 Homecoming comic from Preston Parker '26.

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## Tennis finishes conference season in style on senior day

ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28  
STAFF WRITER

AAs the spring semester nears its end, Wabash tennis paid tribute to its seniors while on the road in Ohio. This weekend's matchups against Ohio Wesleyan and Wittenberg marked the second-to-last match of the regular season and a crucial step toward the conference tournament.

The team honored two seniors — Chris Zimmerman '25 and Jett Brownlee '25 — whose contributions have gone far beyond the stat sheet. Known for their contagious energy and leadership, Zimmerman and Brownlee have been vital to the team's morale and transformation over the past few seasons. Their commitment helped spark a cultural shift within the program, laying the foundation for back-to-back winning seasons in conference play.

This year marks the second consecutive season that Wabash finishes above .500 in NCAC play, having swept their last two conference matchups. While the team has leaned heavily on a core of underclassmen, experienced players like Cole Shifferly '26, Augusto Ghidini '26 and Ethan Koeneman '26 — who each have another year of eligibility — continue to provide stability and leadership both on and off the court.

The matches were a strong rebound for the team following a heartbreaking rivalry loss to DePauw on Wednesday, April 16. Against OWU and Wittenberg, the Little Giants made a statement.

The Little Giants' teams swept doubles against the Battling

enjoyed their last ride, winning their matches as well. Zimmerman won 6-1, 6-1 and Brownlee won in doubles 6-1.

The dominant wins weren't just about the scoreboard—they reflected the discipline, resilience and consistent work ethic that Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett and his staff have instilled throughout the season.

"The main changes I have observed over my four years of Wabash tennis mainly revolve around individual vulnerability and team identity," said Zimmerman. "When I got to Wabash, the culture was in a rebuilding position due to a recent coaching change, which showed due to a slight disconnect between players."

Though both Brownlee and Zimmerman started their careers in the lineup for both singles and doubles, their playing time later shifted. Still, they embraced their new role and found purpose beyond the court. As upperclassmen they have seen that honest communication and personal accountability are what build a strong team.

"Despite this change in role, I could not be happier with the group we have now," said Zimmerman. "My biggest takeaway is that throwing on a fake smile or avoiding conflict is not the way to create a successful atmosphere. Don't be afraid to call out your teammate or even yourself because you expect more. Let them be mad in the moment, and then hug them and be their best friend after. Speaking up shows you care, and this is a skill that trans-



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Ethan Koeneman '26 flips his racket in his #3 doubles match with partner Murilo Guiarniari '28 in the Little Giants' April 16 match against DePauw held at the Crawfordsville High School tennis complex.**

up," said Bickett. "These seniors are examples of what you need to do to avoid being a losing team. In 2021, we went 6-12, and they stepped up so the guys would never have a losing season again. The seniors are the stepping stone of what the program represents— a lot of hard work to close that gap."

With five matches played in just nine days, fatigue could have been a factor. But instead, the team showed grit and depth, adapting to the pressure and maintaining focus. Now, with only two matches remaining before the NCAC Conference Tournament—from May 2 to May 4 in Granville, OH—the Little Giants are focused and motivated.

The stakes are high, but so is the belief. With underclassmen stepping up and veterans leading the way, Wabash heads into the final stretch with confidence.

As the team wraps up the regular season, senior day serves not only as a farewell to Zimmerman and Brownlee but also as a celebration of how far the program has come. It's a reminder that



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**The Little Giants finished the North Coast Athletic Conference slate with a 4-3 record. This is the second year in a row that the team has finished with a winning conference record after a long drought.**

true success goes beyond wins and losses—it's found in the culture built, the relationships formed, and the legacy left behind.

"I hope to leave my team with a sense of discipline," said Zimmerman. "Even if you are not playing in the lineup for a par-

ticular competition or stretch of time, remember that you still have a purpose and impact your team indirectly through your presence and support."

## Tennis calls in two young alumni assistant coaches

**Cole Borden '24 and Clark Tinder '20 bring energetic presence to the tennis team**

ETHAN WALLACE '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

Tennis is a game that puts a lot of pressure physical and mental on the players; sometimes they need a little levity. A pair of familiar faces have joined the courtsides for Wabash tennis this season to help bring that lighter side of the game. For the 2024-2025 season, Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett brought in two new assistant coaches to help continue the team's upward trajectory.

Assistant Athletic Director Clark Tinder '20 and Assistant Tennis Coach Cole Borden '24 can be found at Collett Tennis Center most weekends, coaching the Little Giants to new heights in the North Coast Athletic Conference.

"Coach Clark and Coach Borden were an outstanding duo that helped our team succeed this year," said Captain Ethan Koeneman '26. "They brought energy, creativity, leadership, positive vibes and always made us smile, which helped us stay focused and loose during competitions to take some of the stress and pressure off of us. Having them around makes the team dynamic strong."

The pair have a lot in common. Both are recent graduates of the College, both were members of Lambda Chi Alpha and both can be found providing perspective to players during their tennis matches. But their very different paths to coaching make their spots on the team interesting.

At Wabash, Borden was president of Lambda Chi Alpha. A four-year member of the team and former #1 singles, Borden was an obvious choice for an as-

sistant coach.

"Borden just has a knowledge and an understanding of how I coach," said Bickett. And [he has] also been a pivotal member of our program. He has really strong relationships with most of the guys on the team."

After graduating he accepted a position as a data analyst at Johnson Grossnickle and Associates in Indianapolis. Borden makes the commute for all of Wabash's matches.

"He's making a weekly trip out from Indy to be here, taking time off from being young and in his 20's in the big city," said Bickett. "That's a big help right there. He is just giving back to the program in any way he seems fit, and we're very grateful for it."

Tinder's path to becoming a coach was less straightforward. Before Wabash, Tinder played high school tennis but didn't pursue the sport in college. As an undergraduate he was vice president of Lambda Chi and president of the Sphinx Club. Tinder returned to Wabash in 2022 to serve as director of facilities, equipment, and game operations.

Just a few weeks after Tinder returned to Wabash, Bickett asked him to be a driver for the team's spring break trip to Orlando.

"I was just a cheerleader, fan and just a guy enjoying a week in Orlando for free," said Tinder. "And then Coach Bickett was like — he actually knows something about tennis and can help the guys."

"As I got to know him over that week I found out that he played a little high school tennis," said Bickett. "We don't need him to be the foremost expert on the



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**(Left to right) Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett addresses the team after their April 16 match against DePauw. Assistant Althetic Director Clark Tinder '20 volunteers as an assitant coach. Jett Brownlee '25 is a senior member of the team. Cole Borden '24 played four years of tennis at Wabash before becoming an assitant coach.**

biomechanics of hitting a forehand or a backhand. But he's really helpful for our guys on the mental side of the game. One of the things that really stuck out with me the first time he traveled was just again, the connection he formed with some of the guys on the team."

More often than not, when a tennis player is losing, the real issue is a combination of confidence and mental factors. The focus required and stress created by the sport can quickly throw even the most experienced players of their game. It's all too easy to get caught up on a mistake. Where Borden and Tinder excel is getting players to let the previous point go and move on to the next one.

"I try to get the guys to re-

member that tennis is a game at the end of the day and it is a privilege to have the ability and the health to compete," said Borden. "I hope that sharing that allows the guys to stay intense, but also play relaxed. Tennis is all about comfort so I try to help the guys reach that any way I can."

"The biggest thing I remind them is that they have played tennis for a long time," said Tinder. "They're all very good at tennis. And they do not need to get so down on themselves when things aren't going their way. Tennis is a very hard, simple game. The goal of it is to be the last person that hits it over the net and in the designated area. And I think sometimes players who have played a long time just need a reminder."

Their focus on the more relaxed side of the game has allowed them to build close bonds with member of the team.

"Our team is very competitive, and everybody wants to win," said Augusto Ghidini '26. "And when you have them around, they bring that idea of lightness. I like being around them. They really bring a lot to the team."

So next time you're at a tennis match, keep an eye out for the two assistant coaches, laughing and cutting up with the players. At first you might even think they are still students at Wabash. But they aren't. They are a pair of alumni who bring a fresh wave of energy to their alma mater.



# ALL-TIME SCORING LEADER



190 points

Quinn Fitzgerald '26



## Fitzgerald '26 leads Wabash in all-time scoring

ELIJAH GREENE '25  
PHOTO EDITOR

Whether it be a rocket of a goal from 20 yards out, a deft move to slip past a defender or a sure-handed pass to a cutting attackman, Quinn Fitzgerald '26 can do it all with a stick. In his last home game at Fischer Field, the Indianapolis native and three-year starter for the Little Giants firmly ensconced his legacy in the record books by breaking Wabash's career points record. Previously held by Steven Stark '19, Fitzgerald passed Stark's mark of 185 points with a six-point effort against Hiram on April 19, taking his tally to 190 and counting.

"[The record] was something that I set my sights on at the beginning of the year, but it wasn't something that I was intentionally going for," said Fitzgerald. "My goal was to get it, but it was to get it by just going and playing the game and doing my job the proper way."

The Wabash lacrosse team breaks down their huddles to the call "One way! Right way!" Fitzgerald perfectly emulates the sentiment, combining his naturally competitive attitude with a sharp lacrosse IQ and advanced leadership skills: skills Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke spotted right away.

"When we had our conversation about him coming to Wabash, I knew what type of person he was and what type of player he was," said Burke. I knew that he would make a big impact on this program. He's a pretty competitive guy and his leadership really pushed this program forward, not just competitively, but also elevated our standards. He's always watching more film than anybody else. He's always trying to get better, even though he's our best player. Anybody can play lacrosse, right? That's not what we're about here. We're about teaching the intangibles. His competitive nature is something that we needed to get to where we want to go."

After spending his freshman year in Melbourne, Florida playing for the Florida Institute of Technology, Fitzgerald made the decision to transfer and play lacrosse in his home state at Wabash with his cousin, Caulin Fitzgerald '25. From there, he became a standout player from day one, notching multiple goals and assists in almost every game he played for three straight seasons. Fitzgerald also shares the NCAA record for most goals in a single game by one player (13), a figure he matched during his first year with the Little Giants

in a game against the University of Concordia-Chicago.

But Fitzgerald will be the first to tell you that he isn't the perfect lacrosse player archetype. He himself admits that his game relies as much on playing solid, team-oriented lacrosse as anything else.

"It's very much a team effort," said Fitzgerald. "For all the goals throughout my career, I'd be willing to bet that probably north of 50% of my goals were assisted. I'm not necessarily the type of player who's going to just take a guy to the rack one-on-one. I'm relying on my teammates to allow me to score, so it's a total team effort. And I'm very thankful to all my teammates that I've had throughout the last three years, because without them, I don't get this record. It's a reflection of where the team is at, as much as it is where I'm at."

Unlike in many of the popular sports in the United States, the statistical category of points is peculiar to goal-based sports like lacrosse. Instead of being only awarded points for goals, a player is credited with a point if they assist a goal as well, representing the overall impact that player had on the game as a whole. So, for Fitzgerald, this stat represents as much about his pass-

## Lacrosse bounces back against Hiram

TY MURPHY '27  
FEATURES EDITOR

After a devastating loss for the Wabash lacrosse team to the DePauw Tigers on April 15, it was all about whether they would lose their confidence or bounce back. It is safe to say the team bounced back after a 21-0 victory on April 19 against the Hiram Terriers on Fischer Field. It would have been easy for the Little Giants to lose faith after a tough loss, but that's not what this team is about.

"We're a more talented team, we're more athletic, and on top of that, we have more heart," said Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke. "And it became more of a pride thing. 'How do we want to win this game? How do we want to lose games?' And we got back to kind of our foundational piece, which is, you win games and lose games the right way. And that really showed against Hiram."

This mindset was displayed against the Terriers. Rather than dwell on the disappointment of their rivalry defeat, Wabash refocused. Attacker Quinn Fitzgerald '26 led the team with five goals, making him the all-time career points leader for the Little Giants. Attacker Jake Pippen '26 contributed with another four goals and defender Bryce Poling '26 finished with a team-best six ground balls. But it was more than just the stats. It was also the fact that every senior on the team was able to check into their final home game.

"All four seniors did a fantastic job of leading the way," said Burke. "And ultimately, that led to a really good team environment on the sideline. Quinn was five and one and was out before the middle of the third quarter, and he was one of the biggest cheerleaders on the sideline. That's more of a testament of how this group has grown together."

It would be easy for this team to be complacent, coming off a decisive victory against Hiram, but the season's defining moment still lies ahead. The team will travel to Columbus, Ohio on Saturday, April 26 to face the Wooster Fighting Scots. This game comes with opportunity as the Little Giants seek to finish with a nine-win season for the first time in program history.

"We have everything to lose," said Burke. "And if the guys have that mentality against Wooster,

we're going to be in really good shape. We'll get better too, not just as a lacrosse team, but mentally."

"The team is ready," said Pippen. "Some may say the season is over, but we've still got goals of ruining Wooster's chances at the playoffs. We still have an opportunity to make history as a program."

Regardless of the outcome Saturday, this is a team on the rise. There have been multiple firsts in program history from this season and the Little Giants look to capitalize on that even more in the upcoming season.

**"Some may say the season is over, but we've still got goals of ruining Wooster's chances at the playoffs. We still have an opportunity to make history as a program."**

-Jake Pippen '26

"We're going to have more depth next year," said Burke. "The guys have gotten drastically better, they've really fought. And then there's the learning experiences from this year. Yes, this season had a lot of highs and lows, but also a lot of experience and figuring out 'what do we need to do to beat that team next year? What do we need to do to make the next move?' And I know the guys are definitely up for that."

And the players can feel the energy too, as they are excited to take what they learned from this season and go full force into the next.

"The future is bright," said Pippen. "While we may be losing some key guys, I put my full faith into this team and the returning players next year. We're ready to get over that hump and make some waves."

Before they can think about the future, though, the Little Giants' path to another historic season remains barred by the Fighting Scots. But if the Little Giants learned anything from this year's campaign, it's that they are up for a challenge.

ing and in-game positioning as it does his goal-scoring ability.

While he may be out of NCAA years of eligibility, Fitzgerald still has a semester of classes to finish at Wabash. To continue to use his leadership skills and knowledge of lacrosse, he will be taking a role as a volunteer assistant coach with the Wabash lacrosse team in the fall, furthering his dream of becoming a full-fledged coach after graduation.

"It'll be a nice experience for him and it's definitely something that we're welcoming," said Burke. "Because he understands

the culture of the school. He understands the culture of our guys. And I think that is only going to add to our coaching staff. To have him back for that semester to open his eyes to what college coaching is about is going to be super helpful. We're really looking forward to it. I think he's a guy that is going to end up being a great, great lacrosse coach."

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# SPORTS



Cam Scheidt '25 walks up to the plate in the Little Giants' home game against Earlham College on April 22 at Goodrich Ballpark.

PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

## Cam Scheidt '25 sets all-time hits record as Wabash rides NCAC wave

HAI DEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26  
STAFF WRITER

With just a few weeks left in the regular season, the Wabash baseball team has fought its way into prime position, firmly in the hunt for a top-four spot in the North Coast Athletic Conference and a trip to the conference championship series in Chillicothe, Ohio. Ahead of their two home games this week, the Little Giants trailed only fifth-ranked Denison, but their recent play has proven they're capable of winning the NCAC and earning a spot in the NCAA Division III Baseball Championship Tournament.

In their first game of a doubleheader with Kenyon on Monday, April 21, Wabash came out to send this exact message. In the blink of an eye, the Little Giants put up 12 runs in three innings. Although the Owls tried to crawl back into the game, a three-run homer from Camden Scheidt '25 in the fourth period added insult to injury, as Wabash would cruise to a 19-2 victory in seven innings. The hitting was contagious, as eight players made bat-to-ball contact while six racked up multiple runs, led by Scheidt and Ben Henke '26 with four apiece.

Starting pitcher Caleb Everson '26 remained on the mound from start to finish, solidifying the complete-game victory. The junior struck out five Kenyon hitters and improved his season record to 5-3.

"I had a lot of stuff working which is always nice," said Everson. "Everybody played well in the field, which made my job much easier and less pressure-inducing."

Unfortunately, Kenyon wasn't going to accept defeat that easily. Historically, their program has consistently been in the mix atop the conference and weren't going to leave Goodrich Ballpark without a fight. With the Owls' revenge mentality, the momentum Wabash built seemed to evaporate in the second game. After Kenyon jumped out to four runs in the first inning, the Little Giants couldn't muster any answers offensively. A fly out to right field from Will Phillips '25 allowed Ryan Keating '28 to score the lone run for the Little Giants in the fifth inning. But the Owls would tally two more runs and Wabash would fall 7-1, ultimately splitting the doubleheader with its conference foe.

"Good teams like Kenyon can flush a bad loss pretty quickly and reset and come right back at you," said Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin '03. "They're not a team that's going

to roll over just because you beat them in game one. Unlike the first game where the big early innings allowed us to play loose, giving up four runs right away made our offense maybe do too much. Some swings got a little big and the later the game went on, the more uptight and frustrated our guys got."

Grant Stratton '25 and Jackson Woehr '26 took turns on the mound, with Woehr earning NCAC Baseball Pitcher of the Week honors after his performance against Wittenberg on Wednesday, April 16.

But with a game the following day, more honors were ready to be obtained in front of the home crowd.

Wabash's matchup against Earlham on Tuesday, April 22 would rewrite the history books, as Scheidt broke the career hits and doubles records, surpassing AJ Reid's '24 and David Olinger's '16 records with 212 hits and 51 doubles, respectively. Now the all-time leader in runs scored, walks, hits, doubles and triples, the senior has cemented himself as one of the most dominant offensive players Wabash baseball has ever seen.

"I'm honored and blessed to be in this position, as all I've ever wanted to do is produce for the team and help us win ball games," said Scheidt. "We're starting to click as an offense and we're finding ways to win, so you can't really ask for anything more."

Scheidt's first hit set the tone for the rest of the afternoon, as the Little Giants would control the flow of the game, despite the Quakers closing the gap to three runs on three separate occasions. Will Phillips '25 and DJ Mendez '28 both went three-for-four from the plate, while Will McKinzie '26 led the team in runs with three. Mendez also added a double and 4 RBIs, tying career-high marks for the freshman. The example Camden Scheidt has set for underclassmen like Mendez has enabled their development, adding depth to supply the offensive production.

"Cam's impact has shown me how to carry myself when negatives happen, especially at the plate," said Mendez. "He never complains about a previous at bat and looks to be successful in the next at bat. With that mindset, it goes to show why he's so successful and it's showing with all his recent accomplishments."

The Little Giants would coast to a 13-7 victory, with Connor Lambert '26 striking out four Kenyon batters and Aiden McConnell '26 collecting the win out of the bullpen.

Wabash (23-10, 9-3 NCAC) remains third in the conference, with a key doubleheader against second-ranked Wooster approaching this Saturday, April 26. If the Little Giants can pull off the sweep over the Fighting Scots, they'll jump to second in the NCAC and be ever closer to punching their ticket to the NCAC championship series. With a small midweek rest period, the team will use this time to gear up for this weekend with heavy conference implications in the balance.

"We will use the next couple of days to get healthy, clean up a few swings and rep some defensive situations that we feel we are likely to be in against Wooster," said Martin. "We are excited for the opportunity we have ahead of us at Wooster."

## Ups and downs in track & field

ETHAN WALLACE '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

Not every day can be your best day. The track & field team faced challenges in their previous two meets, going up against tough competition and bad weather. On Friday, April 18 the team competed in the Rose-Hulman Twilight Invitational in Terre Haute, Indiana. The next day they competed in the Indiana State University Gibson Family Invitational.

The Rose-Hulman meet was a chance for a limited roster of Little Giants to shine as they finished seventh out of 15 teams. With only a small portion of the team competing it was a chance to target a few specific events.

Ryan Papandria '25 hit a career-best in javelin throw by reaching 51.17 meters. He finished second in the event.

"For the javelin competition, I had been going through some struggles in my throw the week or two leading up to this meet," said Papandria. "I finally started to get a better feel for my throw and technique the day before so I was more confident in breaking my [personal record] than I ever had going into a meet, which was odd since it had been over two years since I hit my previous [record]. I even texted one of my buddies that that was going to be the day and told my coach the day before that it was coming."

Jacob Sitzman '25 finished third in the 5,000-meter race with a final time of 15:32.09.

The Indiana State meet put Wabash up against a strong field of competition and adverse weather. From a wet track to a flooded ring, the team had their work cut out for them.

"Any type of adversity we face, we look at it like this – conference might be like that, nationals may be that way," said Head Track & Field Coach Clyde Morgan. Last year, the second day of conference was pouring rain, probably up until the last few events. So we need to be prepared."

The combination of factors kept Wabash from scoring many points. But a few wins stood out. Owen Smith '27 set a personal record in the 400-meter hurdles, finishing in a time of 56.69 to claim 16th place.

"I was very fortunate to be able to avoid much of the downpour when I ran," said Smith. "So I was able to get favorable conditions for my race. Getting the [personal record] was a great feeling and it was something I really needed as we get closer to conference. That race gave me the confidence and the information on what I need to improve on for next week."

As the semester comes to a close, track will continue on through May. The team will compete in the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships on May 2-3 in Greencastle. There's still work to do. A handful of athletes need to hit their conference cutoffs so that they can compete in the meet, and the rest of the team needs to hone in the little details that add up.

"We have a lot of work to do and not much time," said Morgan. "Work is hard. Greatness is hard. We've been successful so long; complacency can seep in here. And we're dealing with a little bit of that. [But there] is no reason to sound the alarm. I've witnessed this before. It's got to go from the inside out with the athletes, and we need to straighten some things out. I'm confident we'll figure it out."

The Little Giants will have a few more chances to compete before the NCAC Championships. On April 26, the team will split up to travel to the Grand Valley University Extra Weekend Meet in Missouri and the Olivet University Open in Illinois.

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