

## Daniel Cueller: The Man, The Myth, The Legend

Daniel Cueller is a Wabash alum, and during his time at the college he was the definition of a Wabash Man. He was part of the soccer team, a member of the Sphinx Club, a brother of Beta Theta Pi, and an active on campus. In reality, Wabash was the only school that could give him what he wanted.

Daniel was born in Chicago and lived there for twelve years. After this, he moved to Munster, Indiana where he attended Munster High School. When he started the college



1983 Yearbook Photo (*The Wabash*, 1983)

application process, Wabash was the only school to which he submitted an application despite never visiting the college. His plan was to become a lawyer like his other brothers. But, when he arrived at Wabash, he found many things to beyond academics.

The first thing that Daniel did was join a fraternity. During his first days on campus, Beta Theta Pi stood out because of the attitude of its members. He liked that Beta Theta Pi was very clean—at the time it was

known for being the cleanest fraternity on campus. When he joined, he continued to play soccer with his friends and fraternity brothers. One of his fraternity brothers told Daniel

that he was very talented and should think about joining the soccer team. Later, Daniel tried out and made the varsity lineup.

During his soccer career, the team never had a winning season. However, Daniel was awarded three varsity letters and played on the varsity team every year that he played. In 1981, his junior year at Wabash, he suffered a knee injury at the beginning of the season. *The Bachelor* said “[Daniel] exemplifies the Wabash Effort.” His coach, Bill Rost, expressed his sadness of losing Cueller in an interview: “[Daniel] will be hard to replace next year.”

Later in his Wabash career, an experience that defined Daniel was the semester he lived and studied in Spain. Daniel was a double major, studying both Economics and Spanish. He wanted to study abroad. But, at the time, Wabash did not have a study abroad program. Because of this, he applied to Alma College’s program and was accepted. During the second semester of his junior year, he studied at the University of Madrid. Because of this experience, he completed most of the coursework for his Spanish credits, and it was the reason he was able to major in the language.

There were many students in the program who wanted to talk with other Americans. Daniel was not like this and, every day he could, he would get lost in the city of Madrid and try to find a way home. This allowed him to explore the city and get to know new people. Also, it helped him to communicate in Spanish. It was difficult to communicate with the family he was staying with. He did not understand anything. When they talked, he would count cigarette butts because he struggled to follow their conversations. But, as time passed, he improved his Spanish abilities. Because of this, the mother of the house where Daniel was staying told him “[he] was the best student we ever had” (Personal Interview 9/25). He would spend days in cafes where he would get to know

new people and learn the perspectives of Spaniards. He liked to know their opinions on global issues. In particular, how their opinions differed from those of Americans. A consistent opinion he found was that Spaniards take time to relax during the day, which is much different than Americans, where they feel pressure to work a lot.

After Wabash, Daniel continued his studies at Indiana University in Bloomington where he attended the Maurer School of Law. There he continued to play soccer in his free time in the university's intramural leagues.

Once he graduated from IU, he worked for the office of Maroje O'Laughin for three years. Later he started his own law office in Indianapolis, The Cueller Law Office. Today, he works in business law and litigation. Specifically, he represents small businesses and injured people. Daniel is a member of the Indiana State Bar Association, The Indianapolis Bar Association, and The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

–Ayden Lutes '26

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