

Wabash mourns the passing of Classics legend Fischer H'70



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Friends and colleagues of John Fischer support and congratulate him at his retirement reception.

TOBIN SEIPLE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

There are some people in this world that are so special, it is arduous to transcend text and achieve an accurate understanding of the bliss they bring to people. The late Professor of Classics John Fischer was that person; his principles and selfless outreach to people, especially the students of Wabash, made him a Wabash legend. His presence at Wabash was immense, building an army of student supporters that were individually impacted by his role in their lives. Fischer was established as a man that rarely talked about himself; he embodied humility and praised the achievements of others. He cared for his students with an agape love, a love that pri-

oritized the well-being of the people around him. The influence he had at Wabash will be felt forever, and as someone who changed the lives of many, his character will always be held in high regard.

On November 1, Wabash hosted a memorial service for Professor Fischer, who died in August. Fischer requested an Episcopal church service, which was led by Dr. Derek Nelson, a Lutheran pastor. Fischer's sister, Margaret Wachenfeld, delivered a moving eulogy that discussed aspects of his life before Wabash – aspects he never discussed with others given the fact that he hated to talk about himself. Wachenfeld also spoke about the impact the men of Wabash had on his

life, describing his students as his "hundreds of sons." After the memorial, a reception was held that felt like a John Fischer dinner party. Tributes and eulogies were given by those who knew him well, including Tim Padgett '84, Scott Dreher '82, and Dr. Jeremy Hartnett '96, each speaking to the profound influence he had at Wabash.

Fischer started at Wabash College as a Classics professor in 1964 after receiving his undergraduate at Drew University and then attending graduate school at Brown University. He served as an admirable teacher of Wabash men until his retirement in 2004. But his role as a teacher quickly grew into that of an indispensable mentor. At

any given time, he advised between 8-10% of the entire student body, helping students he first met in his freshman tutorial classes throughout their entire Wabash careers. Dr. Jeremy Hartnett, now a professor of Classics at Wabash, was one of those students.

"He was especially good at finding opportunities for students," said Hartnett. "It wasn't like they came to him and said, 'You know, I would like an internship'... He would say, 'I know this opportunity, I think you would be great for it.'"

Fischer's proactive mentorship led to life changing opportunities for many of his students.

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First, but not the last

Celebration of first-generation students acknowledges over 30% of student body

JAMES WALLACE '26
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Today, more first-generation students attend Wabash than ever before. To honor the National Week of Celebration of First-Generation College Students, Wabash passed out "1st Generation Proud" t-shirts to anyone at the College – not just students – who are first-generation to properly celebrate the week and the first-generation students who have made great contributions to Wabash.

"Approximately 270 of our current students are first generation," said Professor of Psychology and Klingaman Chair for the First Year Experience Robert Horton. "Nearly 20% of our faculty and staff and more than half of our senior administration is also first-generation."

Nationally, the rate of first-generation students has been increasing. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, 38% of undergraduate college students were first-generation in 2020. This presence has grown from only 18% of students being first-generation in 2011.

"At Wabash, our numbers have stayed pretty much steady," said Horton. "We've

had around 30% of the student body being first-generation college students."

With so many first-generation students, however, it is imperative that the College acknowledges the trends behind students who are the first in their family to forge a path to an undergraduate education.

Two main concerns stick out to those most familiar with the situation: According to BestColleges, first-generation students often come from lower-income families and incur more student loan debt. First-generation students are also much less likely to finish their degree.

"The national trend is for first-generation students to graduate at a far lower rate than their continuing generation peers, with a gap in four-year graduation rates being in the neighborhood of 20-25 percentage points," said Horton. "At Wabash, it remains true that our first-generation students, on average, graduate at a lower rate than their continuing generation peers. But the gap [at Wabash] is much smaller, closer to six or seven percentage points in a given year."

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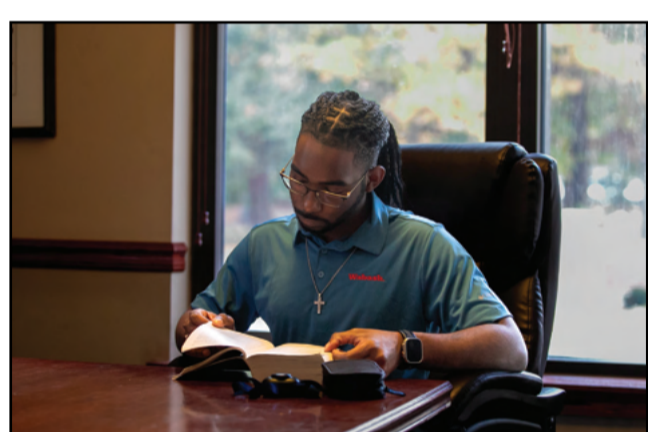


PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

Eric Copeland '26, a first generation college student, set to graduate from Wabash College.

An intersection of litigation and liturgy

Tatum '03 visits Wabash to discuss career in law and the Church



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

Josh Tatum '03 talking to a group of Wabash students in Center Hall 216 about his experience being a lawyer in a talk put on by the Pre-law society and Religion Department.

DAGIM HUNTINGTON '29
STAFF WRITER

Law can be a cutthroat business – but Josh Tatum '03, a partner at Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP in Indianapolis, tends to lean towards a merciful lifestyle.

"I am a church goer in a lawyer's suit," said Tatum.

Tatum visited Wabash on November 5 to discuss his career following Wabash and Vanderbilt Law School. His experience is vast and impressive, and his resume includes working with businesses, faith communities and nonprofit organizations.

He has experience with constitutional law, employment issues, insurance, healthcare and complex

appellate cases. Over his years as a lawyer, he has advocated in more than 100 appeals across state, federal and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Current Wabash students interested in the intersections between divinity and law benefited from hearing Tatum's experience.

"Hearing from Wabash alumni who are lawyers has really motivated me to continue to work hard," said Pre-Law Society President Chris Runyon '26. "Having Josh Tatum as a guest speaker to talk about his work as a lawyer for religious organizations was something right up my alley."

During the event, Tatum reflected on his most memorable cases, including one

with a dispute in a Sikh temple over leadership elections – a case that dealt with the boundaries between civil law and religious autonomy, which many pre-law students could relate to the PSC-315 Religious Freedoms course offered for prospective lawyers.

Events like Tatum's visit are a great example of the strength of Wabash's Pre-Law network and the value of alumni who continue to invest in the next generation of Wabash students.

Tatum's passion for both law and community remains rooted in Indiana where his journey began, and where he continues to make a lasting impact.

Pulitzer Prize winner Hernan Diaz visits campus

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26
MANAGING EDITOR

"What novel would I want my 16 year old son growing up in today's culture to read?" asked Professor of English Eric Freeze.

For Freeze, his answer was the 2022 novel and winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, "Trust." "Trust" has been a sweeping success in the literary world. Beyond

the Pulitzer Prize, the highest honor in American literature, the novel has been cited by former President Barack Obama as a personal favorite, and it is set to be adapted into a limited series on HBO starring Kate Winslet.

Wabash hosted Hays Visiting Writer Hernán Díaz, the author of "Trust," on Tuesday, November 4 in Korb Classroom for an eve-

ning filled with excerpts, insight and signed books.

"I'm very much concerned with the place of fiction in our world and the interaction between fiction and reality," said Díaz. "Storytelling was the very first technology that we as humans came up with to make sense of reality."

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Little Giant basketball team to tip-off season against Hanover

Wabash picked 5th in the NCAC preseason poll

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

As the 2025-26 men's basketball season begins, the Wabash College Little Giants find themselves in a somewhat unfamiliar position: the coaches' preseason poll of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) has them slotted at fifth place. While the Little Giants have long been a fixture near the top of the conference, this ranking represents their lowest preseason mark in the last eight years.

Last season the Little Giants posted a 17-9 overall record, going 13-3 in the NCAC. They averaged 69.8 points per game while holding opponents to just 63.1, a margin of +6.7. From a statistical



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

standpoint, they still bring credibility: their field goal percentage sat at .439 and they allowed opponents to shoot .397, among the stingiest in the league. Still, the poll voters clearly expect more from some of the league rivals (notably the reigning champion Denison Big Red) and a bit less from Wabash.

Head coach Kyle Brumett, entering his 12th season, accepted the ranking with measured resolve.

"We're not planning on finishing that low," said Brumett. "You probably don't have a pulse if that doesn't bother you and give you some extra motivation for the rest of the season."

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Hurricane devastates the Caribbean, Vietnam builds islands in South China Sea, Sudan suffers famine amid civil war

News around the world

PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28
ONLINE EDITOR

Hurricane Melissa Ravages the Caribbean

Hurricane Melissa, one of the strongest recorded Atlantic hurricanes, made landfall in Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba on October 28 and 29. Melissa struck Jamaica first as a Category 5 hurricane on October 28 before weakening to a Category 3 when it made landfall in Haiti and Cuba on October 29. Wind speeds from Hurricane Melissa topped out at 185 mph, tying for the second strongest recorded Atlantic Hurricane. Hurricane Allen (1980) was the strongest Atlantic hurricane, topping out at wind speeds of 190 mph.

Obtaining exact damage and casualty reports for all of the countries struck by Melissa has proved challenging. The storm has left 77% of Jamaica without power causing communication blackouts. This paired with roadways being blocked due to landslides has led the island nation to be effectively cut off from relief. So far, Hurricane Melissa has left at least 30 dead with more missing amongst the millions displaced and left without homes in the storm's wake.



Sand Cay development, a Vietnamese artificial island in the South China Sea 2025.

COURTESY OF VANTOR

Vietnam builds islands in the South China Sea

Over the last four years, Vietnam has made a substantial effort to build and develop artificial land in the South China Sea, a key corridor for international trade. Prior to 2020, China dominated development in the South China Sea when they developed over 4,000 acres of land between 2010 and 2015. Vietnam has since developed 2,200 acres of land spread across 21 islands and outfitted many with military accommodations such as airstrips and munitions storage units.

Despite these island developments, China has counterintuitively not had any major response to Vietnam occupying sections of the South China Sea. Their lack of response comes from an economic relationship between the two countries in which China outsources manufacturing and shipping to Vietnam to circumvent U.S. tariffs and international skepticism surrounding Vietnam's ability to actually defend their islands in the event of any major conflict.

Famine strikes two regions of Sudan amidst war

Famine outbreaks have emerged in two regions of Sudan in the midst of a civil war six months into its third year. The war, which has already killed more than 40,000 and left over 14 million homeless, is now leaving 375,000 starved and malnourished after the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have seized cities and cut-off supplies. States of famine have been identified in the cities of el-Fasher in Sudan's Darfur province as well as Kadugli in the Kordofan province

with 20 surrounding cities and 6.3 million more people at risk of famine.

The famine outbreak was indicated by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), who defines famine as an area where malnutrition-related deaths reach two people per 10,000, or four for children under five years old. The IPC has only issued five famine classifications in the past: Somalia (2011), South Sudan (2017 and 2020), Sudan (2024) and Gaza (2025).



COURTESY OF ABC

Jamaica devastated as Hurricane Melissa leaves destruction and cuts means of communications for many regions of the island nation.



COURTESY OF NPR

Famine hits the Sudanese regions of North Darfur and Kordofan due to civil war that has lasted 3 years.

First-generation students continued

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But first-generation students at Wabash won't let these statistics define them, instead choosing to take their own path during and after Wabash.

"As a first-generation college student, I'm constantly reminded of the statistics that say that I'm less likely to complete my degree," said Eric Copeland '26. "But instead of feeling down and discouraged about those numbers, I

see them as motivation. They represent the challenges that can be overcome, rather than limits that define us."

As trends continue to look up for first-generation students, they play an important role in higher education. Current undergraduate trends indicate a decline in attendance to universities and colleges, so continuing to recruit first-generation students will be an important piece of higher education surviving the declines in attendance.

"I believe that first-generation students are the future of college education," said Copeland. "We bring an immense amount of resilience, determination and perspectives to campuses all across the nation. These qualities embody what higher education should stand for – we are not just attending college, we are redefining what success in higher education looks like."

Improving inflation data, Nvidia and Amazon surge and more



COURTESY OF REUTERS

Nvidia's stock has surged in recent days due to the announcement of GPU.

AGUSTIN ANTELO '29
STAFF WRITER

This week the market pushed higher as softer economic data and a cooler inflation outlook supported risk appetite. Investors welcomed signs that the Fed's rate-cut campaign is starting to ease financial conditions, while strong tech earnings helped keep the rally alive.

Fed pause talk and improving inflation data

After two consecutive rate cuts, investors now expect the Federal Reserve to pause at its December meeting. Jerome Powell's remarks last week signaled confidence that inflation is moving in the right direction, while still warning that "progress remains incomplete." The most recent data supports that claim: the core PCE (Price Consumer Expenditures) index came in at 2.8%, its lowest level in two years.. That helped cement the expectations that the Fed's next move will come in early 2026.

Index performance: Strong across the board

Dow Jones:	47,915
(+0.6%)	
S&P 500:	6,924.73
(+0.5%)	
Nasdaq:	24,181.44
(+0.9%)	
Russell 2000:	2,498.12
(+0.3%)	

Markets increased their gains through the week, with the Nasdaq outperforming on the back of new AI optimism. The S&P 500 and Dow both reached record highs, while small cap stocks showed slower but positive increases.

The big moves: winners and losers

Big winners

Nvidia (+14%) - Surged after new GPU announcements and record quarterly revenue tied to AI demand.

Amazon (+9%) - Jumped on strong e-commerce sales and better than expected cloud growth.

Goldman Sachs (+7%) - Rose as financials benefited from falling yields and improved credit conditions

Big Losers

Pfizer (-5%) - Fell after reporting a larger than expected quarterly loss tied to declining vaccine revenue.

Ford (-4%) - Dropped on weaker Q3 guidance and rising costs related to EV production.

ExxonMobil (-3%) - Slipped as crude oil prices retreated from recent highs. Investors continued to reward companies benefiting from AI and digital transformation, while legacy sectors like energy and industrials lagged.

Debt markets and yields

Treasury yields fell for the second straight week, with the 10 year note closing near 3.84%. The move reflected growing confidence that inflation is cooling and the Fed will stay on hold. Corporate bond issuance picked up as companies took advantage of lower rates to refinance debt.

Global markets and policy backdrop

Overseas, markets mirrored U.S. strength. European stocks gained after softer inflation data in the eurozone, while Japan's Nikkei rose on a weaker yen. Gold hovered around \$3950 an ounce, consolidating after a month of strong gain. Oil prices slipped 1.5% as supply concerns eased new OPEC production.

Looking Ahead: Inflation and Consumer Data

Next week brings fresh U.S. CPI and retail sales numbers that will test whether inflation's downtrend is sustainable. Investors will also watch upcoming speeches from Fed officials for hints about the December meeting. For now optimism is high that the Fed's soft landing scenario of slowing inflation without triggering a recession is holding up.

Wabash mourns Fischer H'70 continued

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"He opened so many doors for me," said Hartnett. "I met four out of the six faculty members who were at the center of my graduate program at Michigan. And that was before I set foot in Ann Arbor!"

Fischer did not just praise his students' strengths; he cared enough to be realistic about students' abilities. "Feckless" was a well-known term Fischer would use to describe lost students. He would push them to do better and be great.

"'Feckless' wasn't just a word for John," said Padgett, presenting his eulogy at the reception. "It was a unified theory of the universe, a core life theme on which he composed more variations than Johann Sebastian Bach. If Johann was displeased with you, you were bound to learn new English vocabulary – and it was inevitably linked to fecklessness, that limp state of student character that it was his mission to call out and correct."

Fischer was also known for hosting hundreds of dinner parties, and he shared food to expand the horizons of students with narrow worldviews. He was famous for calling students out on being from "Pig Nipple Indiana" and encouraging them to travel and explore other cultures.

"He showed people the world through his food," said President's Chief of Staff and Director of Strategic Communications and Secretary of the College Jim



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

John Fischer H'70 at the dedication of Fischer field with his former student and now Wabash Professor of classics Jeremy Hartnett '96.

Amidon '87. "He famously did not want people to leave Wabash without trying an artichoke."

His generosity at his dinner parties was exceptional. Fischer shared unique foods and drinks – from eastern European liqueurs to lamb chops – with faculty and students alike. His passion for a wider world view was also reflected in the effort he poured into study abroad programs at Wabash.

"He used to do the work that we now have whole teams of people doing in terms of study abroad," said Amidon. "He made a huge impact on off-campus study...his reach was really quite astounding."

Fischer's expertise was built on experience. His leadership in classical studies included leading the Indiana Classical Conference, directing the summer session of the American School of Classical Studies in

Athens for eight terms and serving as Professor-in-Charge at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. His knowledge made the immersion trips he led unforgettable.

"I was able to travel with him to Rome in the early days of immersion trips... his energy and stamina were unrivaled," said Amidon. "His knowledge of the architecture and the art and the ancient history of all those sites was unimaginable to me."

It was this combination of worldliness, intellectual rigor, profound generosity and love for others that defined his legacy. As student after student attested: Fischer did more than teach classes; he taught generations of Wabash men how to live, and in doing so, truly became a father to "hundreds of sons."

'Curse of the Green Halloween Witch:' Better late than never

'Smiling Friends' third Halloween special manages to innovate successfully

JAMES WALLACE '26
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Holy s***, dude," said Mr. Boss, one week after the scheduled release of the "Smiling Friends" Halloween special. "No, like dude, that was freaking awesome...How do you do that? Like logistically?"

Mr. Boss's opening lines in "Curse of the Green Halloween Witch," Season 3, Episode 4 of "Smiling Friends" reverberated through my head as the Goblin Caught On Tape outro played, marking the end of the episode. Even now, days later, I still can't find a better statement to describe the latest installment of "Smiling Friends" than "freaking awesome."

The episode was an embodiment of what "Smiling Friends" excels at: pushing the boundary and innovating successfully. Season 3 as a whole has an experimental tone, and yet still succeeds in entertaining viewers such as myself with a mostly-classic "Smiling Friends" feel.

Of the three Halloween installments, "Curse of the Green Halloween Witch" was the first to keep me on the edge of my seat from start to finish. With actual elements of horror throughout the majority of the runtime, and a chilling moral message, the episode captivates, ensuring that whatever dialogue occurs in a room of viewers is solely about the show.

Vibrant visuals and a higher gore-to-total-runtime ratio than most episodes – which featured stabbing, extermination and a vigorous readjustment of a jaw – were the first two wins of the episode, help-



COURTESY OF HBO MAX

The Green Halloween Witch asks the Smiling Friends for spare change in the most recent Halloween episode of 'Smiling Friends.'

ing to draw wandering eyes to the screen throughout the episode. The color grading ensured that viewers could only see as much as they needed to. The episode expanded the element of horror through the eerie visuals during darker scenes, while enriching the flashier violent scenes. Seeing blood and fire all over the screen perfectly contrasted with the muted tones of the breakroom when the power goes out inside of Smiling Friends HQ.

Timing was the other important player in the success of this episode. The comedic timing of gags throughout the episode paired perfectly with the extended horror

aspect, giving the episode a modernized feel of a "Smiling Friends" episode.

Within the horror scenes themselves, suspense was so effectively sustained that it distorted the perception of time. The tension built gradually before erupting into full-blown mayhem – so much so that my roommate asked, "Is this a 20-minute episode?" just five minutes into viewing.

Outside of the successful script and animation, one issue that has plagued "Smiling Friends" throughout its life cycle continued to persist in this episode – inconsistencies in voice actor performance.

Pim and Charlie were golden as usual, but Allan and Mr. Boss occasionally slip out of their iconic voices. The dichotomy of Allan's tone is apparent when analyzing the

flat tone of longer, extended voice lines and the more dynamic shorter quips that make Allan's character interesting. Mr. Boss also suffers from an occasional "flat-toned" line, pulling the viewer out of the moment and questioning if they really know who Mr. Boss is. But these moments are minor within the episode, and the comedic action unfolding on screen makes up for the momentary lapse in voice tonality.

An innovative utilization of horror elements enabled the Goblin Caught On Tape crew to successfully reinvent the wheel with "Curse of the Green Halloween Witch." By focusing on horror throughout the majority of the episode and ensuring that "normal" "Smiling Friends" dialogue – which avid viewers know is quite the opposite of normal – was present in the opening and closing scenes (and the post-credits scene as well), this Halloween special succeeded at entertaining viewers with a concrete story and stunning twist...even though we had to wait until after Halloween.

**FINAL VERDICT:
4/5 WALLYS**



'Getting Killed:' Love amidst chaos

EVAN BONE '26
OPINION EDITOR

Rock music has been in an odd place in the mainstream music landscape for a while now. It's no longer the most popular genre, and youth culture – which was once the trailblazer of rock – is now typically drawn towards more novel genres. But if you pull out your magnifying glass and are willing to do some digging, you can find a truly great rock album. Geese's "Getting Killed" is just that.

My initial pull towards "Getting Killed" came from my love for frontman Cameron Winter's solo album "Heavy Metal" which was released at the end of last year. "Heavy Metal" is an obtuse album. This stems from Winter's unconventional yet resonant lyrics that discuss feelings over topics like self-worth, love, growing up, vulnerability, creativity and more. I hoped to find Winter's stark poetry from his solo album on Geese's newest album, and I wasn't disappointed.

"Getting Killed" is an intense listen that covers many subgenres of rock while maintaining an authentic indie feel. Many times this record dips into noise rock as seen on the opener, "Trinidad." This opener may scare away listeners with its loud eruptions, but it also features a thick bassline anyone can jam too. From there the album takes many turns. The next song, "Cobra," is catchy, light and danceable with its delicious melody and upbeat tempo. The title track has one of the odder song structures as it begins with a thumping bassline and rambunctious drums that form a cacophony of rock music. Geese then oscillate in and out of this

cacophony. The New York band utilizes repetition and tension masterfully throughout the album. A prime example can be found on "Islands of Men" as the instrumental, the main guitar riff especially, repeats multiple times but with new elements and changes as the song progresses. This repetition builds tension which gives way to the gorgeous breakdown at the end. The band also has softer sensibilities with glistening piano chords and joyful riffs appearing at different points. But overall, this is quite an anxious record that expresses its anxiety with rough instrumentals. It isn't everyone's cup of tea, but the mix of tension, beauty and release makes for a varied and progressive listen.

Cameron Winter's vocal style comes from a line of singers like Bob Dylan, Lou Reed and Will Toledo as he opts for a rough and down-to-earth approach; he won't necessarily impress you with incredible range or perfect pitch, but his style is full of passion. There are moments in the album that his vocals don't sit perfectly with me, but there are other moments where his expressiveness is well executed. Winter's cheeky bravado on "Cobra" gives the song a cute energy to it, his desperate pleas on "Islands of Men" help convey the powerful lyrics and the natural strain in his voice on "Au Pays du Cocaine" makes for the most tender moment on the album.

Cameron Winter's songwriting shines all throughout "Getting Killed." "Trinidad" throws us into a panic attack as Winter accounts feeling as though he has tried hard and adapted to his life, yet is constantly met with some force against him-

self. His screams of "I have a bomb in my car!" voice his pain and his desire to end his pain by his own hand. Or maybe a "a bomb in my car" is a symbol for the flaws and pain we carry with us wherever we go? This is what makes Winter's lyrics so effective to me; his anguish is palpable, but his poetry doesn't allow itself to be pinned down perfectly. He discusses his own cryptic lyrics on "Husbands" as he sings, "I'll repeat what I say, but I'll never explain, so you don't have to waste your time. You don't have to waste your time. Hiking up a hundred hills, You don't have to, but I will." These lyrics show that Winter doesn't want his listeners to decode every lyric as he writes and sings for himself. "Husbands" seems to be about his complicated relationship with music. Music gives him an avenue for self-expression, but fame is an imperfect solution to his loneliness. The title track has the genius line, "I'm getting out of this gumball machine," which shows Winter's dissatisfaction with a uniform and mechanical life despite its colorful appearances. He laments life in New York City and how the claustrophobic walls of modern urban life make him feel as though he is "Getting Killed." My favorite song, "Au Pays du Cocaine," is a painful plea for compromise and stability in a rocky relationship. The lyrics, while gut-punching, aren't specific enough to be applied to only one relationship; the lyrics are universal and can cut deep for everyone. Winter pleads with another saying they "can change" and "be free" while still giving Winter the love he wants or needs. It's a song that grips me every listen because of its naked honesty and genuine pleading for comfort despite constant change.

"Getting Killed" is a rough and dirty indie rock album that is willing to get noisy yet sound heartfelt. The poetry from Cameron Winter accounts his struggles with sorting a complex, chaotic and changing life. Lyrical content, vocal flare and the experimental instrumentals coalesce into an album about anxiety and love in the 2020s. Winter ends the album with the lyrics "I have no idea where I am going, here I come," demonstrating his resolution to keep going despite his anxiety and fear. This final message encapsulates what so many of us feel today – that our world is falling apart yet we must keep going.



COURTESY OF BANDCAMP

**FINAL VERDICT:
4.5/5 WALLYS**



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

The members of Geese perform at a concert in 2024.

Wabash Night with the Pacers

Monday | December 1 | 7PM
Indiana Pacers vs. Cleveland Cavaliers

Tickets: \$33.15 - \$49.73
gofevo.com/event/Wabashcollege25

[instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis](https://www.instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis)

Pulitzer Prize winner continued



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Hernán Díaz stands holding his book 'Trust' while discussing his writing process to students and staff on November 4, 2025, in the Korb Classroom.

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Díaz's novel explores this fascination with narratives' effects on reality and how humans construct truth through its narrative structure. "Trust" is ostensibly a story about the American Dream in the shifting economic landscape of the 1920s and 30s. The novel comprises four distinct sections including an in-universe fictionalized novel, a character's incomplete memoir, a first-person account and a found journal. These disparate accounts from different perspectives leave the reader questioning how reliable each narrator may truly be.

This dense, metafictional approach explores themes of narrative reliability, but also the history of the American relationship with wealth, the myth of the self-made man and human will. Through all of these threads, however, Díaz shies away from the notion that readers should take away something specific from reading "Trust," instead grappling with the themes through conscious engagement with the structure of the novel.

"I'm a little trepidatious about the whole 'take away' idea from a book. If the book could be reduced to an aphorism, then why not write the aphorism?" said Díaz.

However, one theme that Díaz hopes readers pick up on is the power of exploring stories through diverse perspectives.

"It's important to open one's ears to voices that are perhaps

more tenuous and feebler than the loud voices that one takes to be the true ones because they're loud," said Díaz.

Through the avenue of the Hays Visiting Writer, Wabash is able to fund opportunities for students, faculty and the community to engage with and learn from authors at the top of their field.

"I thought it was really interesting to hear from an author I've never heard of before and get some insight into how he writes his books," said John Schnerre '26. "I'm not a huge literature buff, but I thought it was cool to hear from someone so distinguished and it's really nice that Wabash provides opportunities to come and hear from these people."

While Wabash regularly hosts visiting academics and professionals, it is rarer for the College to attract a creative whose work has received a prestigious award like the Pulitzer. Yet even with his commercial and critical recognition, Hernán Díaz stays humble about his success and expresses open wonder that he has received the same honor as authors like Edith Wharton that inspired his work.

"Of course, it's a massive honor," said Díaz. "It defies belief to think that one is among those people. On a more terrestrial level, it allowed me to become a full time writer which is what I've wanted to be since I was a kid."



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

A Wabash student reads 'Trust,' Hernán Díaz's novel that won the Pulitzer Prize Award on November 5, 2025.

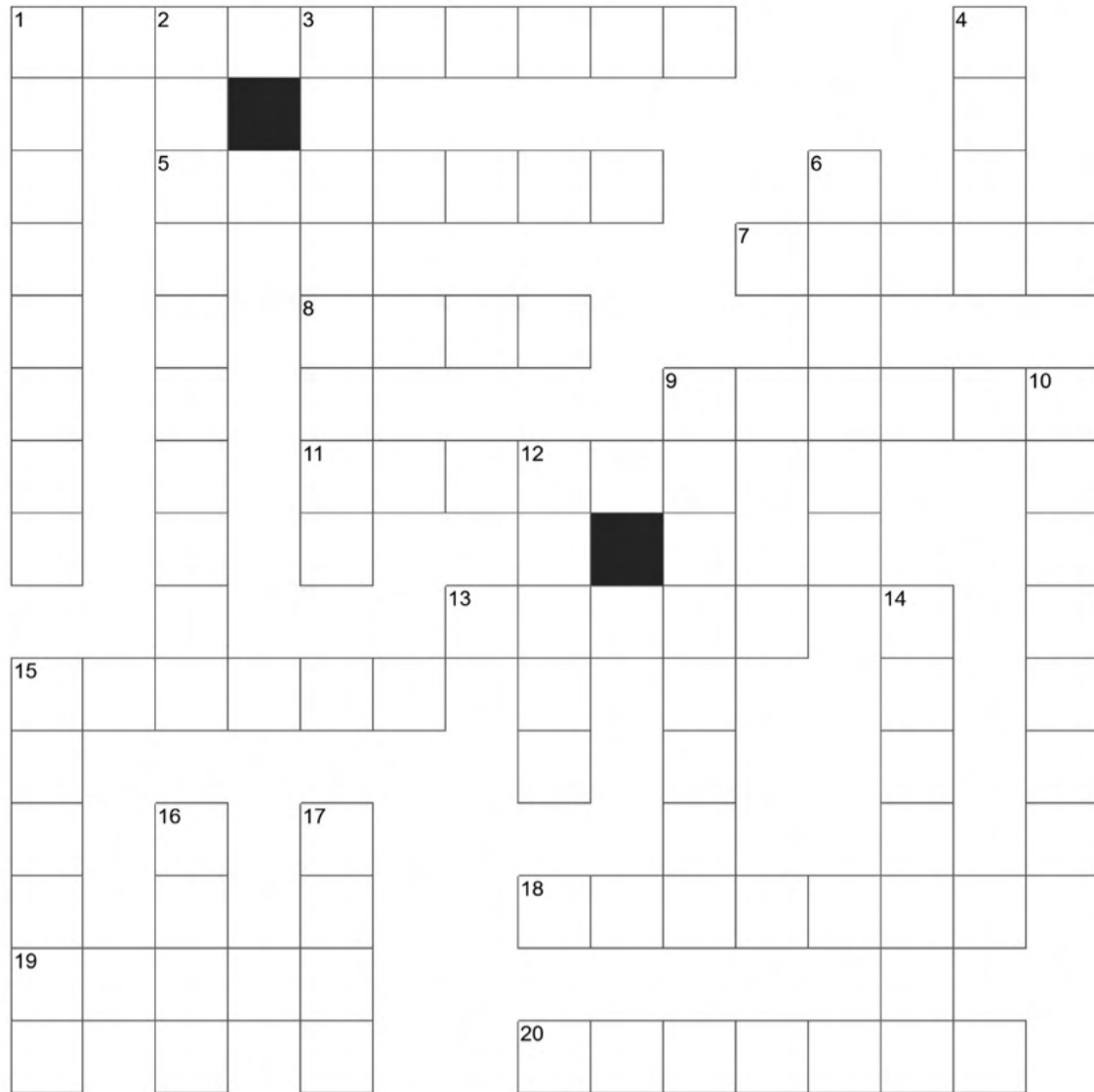
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- Online and Hybrid Master of Public Administration Degree Program
- Courses focus on management and policy

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

'Buildings'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26



Across

1. Historic academic building designed by William Tinsley at Wabash College
5. Hall housing Admissions at Wabash College
7. Cottage, home to Wabash's second faculty member
8. Art Wing in Wabash's Fine Arts Center
9. Hall, site of Caleb Mills' first class at Wabash
11. Bill and Ginny Hays ___ Center
13. Athletics and Recreation Center
15. Building that used to train soldiers
18. Field for soccer and lacrosse at Wabash
19. Library on Wabash's campus
20. Gallery for Wabash's permanent art collection

Down

1. Court, home to Wabash basketball since 1917
2. Class of 1950 ____, Aquatic facility
3. Gallery for temporary art exhibitions
4. House for the Advancement Office
6. Dorm hall designed by Eric Gugler at Wabash
9. Center for music, theater, and art at Wabash
10. Architect of Wabash's Center Hall
12. Caleb ____ House named for Wabash's first president
14. Hall, a residence on Jennison Street
15. House for Career Services
16. Theater within the Fine Arts Center
17. Hall housing biology and chemistry departments

Scan for answers!



Show me the money!

Interest in finance at Wabash reflects national trends

AGUSTIN ANTELO '29
STAFF WRITER

Walk across any college campus today, and you'll likely hear someone mention Investment Banking, Private Equity and Venture Capital. Over the past decade, finance has transformed from a niche pursuit to one of the most popular majors among college students nationwide. According to Validated Insights, undergraduate enrollment in finance programs rose by 12.3% between spring 2024 and spring 2025, outpacing most other business disciplines. What was once an intimidating field filled with numbers has become a gateway to opportunity, independence and ambition.

What explains this boom in interest? Part of the boom has come from popular culture. Over the past decade, social media has made financial knowledge accessible in a way it's never been before. From YouTube to TikTok, people explain how to invest, break down personal finance and much more.

"I definitely think you get your fair share of people who are genuinely interested in finance and those who just plainly want to make money," said Financial Economics major Jackson Hughes '26. "I think it's hard not to be interested in finance to some extent because it affects each one of us, whether we study it or not. People are probably realizing that too."

The idea of being financially literate has become less of a goal and more of a necessity for students across universities. They are no longer waiting until graduation to start budgeting and investing, they are building wealth from an early age.

At Wabash, that shift is clearly visible. The Financial Economics major has become one of the fastest-growing programs on campus, attracting students who see finance as both an intellectual challenge and a tool for practical growth.

"I was interested in Financial Economics because people said it was difficult, which drew me in," said Hughes. "I figured that would look better when applying to jobs and internships compared to economics since I wasn't double majoring or anything like that."

His comment captures a broader trend. Students aren't just chasing finance because it's popular, but because it's rigorous and respected. There is also a pragmatic element.

"Plenty of people can read the Wall Street Journal or follow a trend, but those that really stand apart are willing to take a different view from the crowd."

- Driehaus Capital Management Portfolio Manager Chad Cleaver '00

"Finance has grown so much lately because people have realized the importance of being financially literate," said Hughes. "They want to be able to build. As a result, you find more people in finance-related careers and majors in schools."

That surge in student interest hasn't only reshaped classrooms, it's shifted the job market too. According to the CFA Institute's 2025 Graduate Outlook survey, 37% of recent graduates say finance is the most promising career choice. Meanwhile, employment projections signal that roles like financial analysts are expected to grow about 8% from 2022 to 2032. What does this add up to? More students chasing finance – and more employers chasing students who can think quantitatively and strategically.

"When I got into the industry in 2004, we still had fresh scars of the bear market in the wake of the dot com collapse, and this type of interest [in finance] was not prevalent," said Driehaus Capital Management Portfolio Manager Chad Cleaver '00. "Today, it is much the opposite, as we have been amid a multi-year bull market, accompanied by increasing participation by retail investors. When an industry is hot, it tends to attract interest."

Cleaver also thinks that students have a new advantage when it comes to breaking into the finance world – an increase in access to stock trading.

"While finance is a career with many different applications, most people's direct exposure to the industry has been through the stock market," said Cleaver. "Today's students have had increasing access to invest in stocks through low-cost brokerage platforms."

But in a field that is so technically difficult, in which many students are on an even playing field when starting to make it into the inner folds of the finance world, Cleaver thinks the Wabash students interested in finance may have a distinct advantage in climbing the ranks.

"While it is imperative to have a quantitative skill set through courses in areas like economics and math, the biggest differentiator I find among students is the ability to think critically and creatively," said Cleaver. "Plenty of people can read the Wall Street Journal or follow a trend, but those that really stand apart are willing to take a different view from the crowd."

It is clear that the rising popularity of finance is not just a student desire - it is a job market shift. The interest from current Wabash students demonstrates this. From broader access and changing market dynamics to evolving employer expectations, finance is no longer a peripheral major; it is front and center.

BACHELOR

301 W. Wabash Ave.,
Crawfordsville, IN, 47933

X: @bachelorwabash
IG: @bachelorwabash

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James Wallace • jpwallac26@wabash.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

Nathan Ellenberger • nvelenb26@wabash.edu

NEWS EDITOR

Owen Vermeulen • ohvermeu28@wabash.edu

FEATURES EDITORS

Noah Mintie • njmintie29@wabash.edu

Tobin Seiple • tseiple29@wabash.edu

OPINION EDITOR

Evan Bone • ebone26@wabash.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

Sean Bledsoe • smbledso26@wabash.edu

PHOTO EDITOR

Will Duncan • wjduncan27@wabash.edu

ONLINE EDITOR

Paul Hawksworth • pdhawksw28@wabash.edu

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.

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Wallies in the wild: The art of just noticing



Jakob Faber '23

Many people preach the benefits of mindfulness; however, few explain how to put mindfulness into practice. This article is not a fluff piece discussing abstract benefits of mindfulness. Instead, I aim to provide actionable advice that you can implement today to make your life better: just notice. Specifically, just notice your thoughts and the sensations that arise when various emotions come throughout the day.

It sounds simple enough. And through practice, it becomes easier. But I can tell you from experience, just noticing is perhaps the single most difficult thing I have attempted to do or practice. The reason it can be difficult to implement mindfulness is because of the mind-body connection. Thoughts and emotions have their own gravity. The gravity of our thoughts can pull us into rumination cycles that feel uncontrollable. The gravity of our emotions can cause us to behave differently based on physical sensations our emotions produce. When we allow our thoughts and emotions to dictate our behaviors, we lose control of ourselves and our sense of self-autonomy. But you can take back control. Mindfulness is the tool at your disposal to take back that control.

So, what does this actually look like? It all comes down to where you choose to place your attention. Before we practice, let me give you an analogy about attention. Think of your attention as a boat that you, as captain of the boat, must guide. Sometimes waves, just like thoughts, will push the boat in a different direction than you were originally heading. As the captain, you have the ability to turn the steering wheel and point the boat back in the direction you want to go.

Now let's practice. Pick an object in the room you are currently in. It could be a chair, a bookshelf or a spoon—the object itself does not matter. Set a timer on your phone for 1 minute and just look at the object and notice where your attention goes and what thoughts emerge. No matter what the thought is, return your attention to the object you are looking at. This is what it means to just notice. The key is understanding that you have control over where you place your attention. Just because a thought popped into your head does not mean you need to give it life. You can bring your attention back to the object you are looking at without following the thought.

Although it may sound simple, this practice is a tool therapists and psychiatrists use to help patients heal from and manage depression, anxiety and a whole host of other mental health challenges. Further, the concept of just noticing may sound easy as you read this article, but the true test is implementing the practice when unwanted thoughts generate anxiety and the urge to overthink a situation sets in. Just as muscles must be put under strain to grow, mental strength only develops when experiencing uncomfortable circumstances. To become a more patient person, you must be placed in situations where patience is required. To become a more forgiving person, you must practice forgiveness when someone has actually hurt you and caused pain. To become more mindful, you must practice living in the moment when the urge to ruminate about anxious thoughts surfaces.

Random thoughts, emotions and physical sensations are going to arise throughout the day; however, you have the ability to bring your attention back to whatever you want. Momentarily, your attention may stray but you can guide your mind back to the present moment. While this is not a substitute for professional assistance, if this technique helps even somewhat, it will be worthwhile. Being less reactionary to thoughts and emotions allows you to feel more stable when moving through the day. And everyone can benefit from practicing control over one's thoughts and emotions.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

WABASH ALWAYS WATCHES

Doubleplusgood to the cast and crew of "1984" for a very successful weekend of shows. We just can't decide if The Party says if it's Hi-Fives or Hi-Fours...

BE COOL!

Lo-Five to the government for being shut down for 36 days - the longest shutdown ever. Have you tried turning it off and on again?

SIX, LOOKING FOR SEVEN

Hi-Five to Will Smith and the Los Angeles Dodgers for winning the 2025 World Series. It's the sixth straight year in which a Will Smith was crowned world series champion, and none of them had a public meltdown about their wife.

MONDAY NIGHT SILENCE

Lo-Five to Google and Disney for getting into an argument and removing ESPN from Youtube TV, resulting in many fans being unable to watch Monday Night Football. At least Rhetoric majors actually did their homework Monday night.

THE CAT'S MEOW

Hi-Five to the cat that was hanging around campus and sneaking into Baxter this week. Sources report the little guy walked under the arch; we all know what that means...

What can we learn from superheroes?



Jaxson Bower '27

Reply to this opinion at jabower27@wabash.edu

Education is a luxury that all of us here at Wabash are lucky to receive. Education to most people is done only in schools, as most of us here know we're in school to be taught. We are being taught by some of the greatest professors in the country. However, I believe that some of the greatest lessons can be learned by turning on the television and watching a superhero movie. Two of my favorite superheroes are Spider-Man and Superman. Both of these characters have taught me valuable lessons that will help me in my future endeavors and they could help you!

Spider-Man is the most relatable superhero that has ever been created. Unlike other superheroes who are rich or have their housing and all needs paid for, he has real human problems. Spider-Man has to worry about paying rent on time, has to balance his relationships with his superhero side-gig, self-doubt and he struggles with doing the right thing. Spider-Man also teaches us that we can change who we are and what we do things for. When he originally gets his powers, he begins using them for selfish reasons. That is until his Uncle Ben is murdered by a mugger. He then makes it his life mission to hunt down the mugger and kill him for what he did to his Uncle Ben. When he catches the mugger he begins to beat him until he remembered what his Uncle Ben told him, "With great power comes great responsibility." This event became his defining lesson, heroism doesn't lie in powers or super-abilities, but it's how we use our abilities to serve others.

Spider-Man's lesson comes from an ordinary person struggling to do good,

Superman's teachings come from a person trying to use his strengths for good. An alien that crashed and was then raised in Kansas, Superman has the best of both of his worlds, incredible world breaking strength, and humbleness of no other comparison. He is capable of being the king of our planet, and yet he chooses to live with us, protect us. Superman, in every facet of life, models integrity, or the idea that being good is not about being perfect, it's about choosing empathy over ego.

Both of these heroes are models of hope for the human race. Both of them represent the belief that no matter how dark the world may seem, no matter how many times you get knocked to the ground, you always have the potential to rise back up and keep moving forward. Superman's "S" symbol is just the Krypton symbol for hope, not super. A quote from the end of the *Amazing Spider-Man 2* is "We have to be greater than what we suffer, my wish to you is to become hope. People need that". Hope is what elevates these characters to the status of super. Not the powers, not the adventures and not the countless times that these characters have saved the world. It's the lesson of hope that they teach us, and I believe that it is one of the greatest lessons that we could ever choose to learn.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NPR.ORG

A brighter future for Argentina



Antonio Grandinetti '28

reply to this opinion at agrandi28@wabash.edu

Last week around 6,000 miles away in a country on the south cone of America, history was made. This is an article about how Argentina may revive from the ashes as its government keeps growing in power and influence. Despite the pools, the Argentine party La Libertad Avanza (LLA), wins with over 40%, demonstrating that the people support Milei and, therefore, his ties with the US.

For background information, Javier Milei, President of Argentina, is a rather interesting character that took office in December 2023, at the time Argentina was going through a massive but rather common crisis: inflation. Inflation rates were up close to 25% monthly and economic collapse was close. Many people believed that hyperinflation and default were unavoidable. Milei became popular for his aggressive anti-corruption speeches, dollarization plans and attacks on the political elite. People needed a change and this is the main reason Milei seemed like the best candidate.

Milei, with this scenario in mind, had a shock plan that would either make or break Argentina. Two of his main promises were cutting government spending and making a close alliance with US President Donald Trump. As we know, the US and especially the Trump administration tends to be a little bit extreme with the foreign policies; allies tend to get a lot of help and enemies tend to have a lot of repercussions. This is where we go back to Argentina. The secretary of the treasury in accordance with the alliance between the US government and the Argentine government came up with a currency swap plan. Argentina received 20 billion US dollars and the US got the equivalent in Argentine Pesos. This was a resource for the government showing political support in the world and an incentive for people to support the government. Understanding that, this could be very beneficial for the south american country.

One of the things that makes Argentina an interesting case economically is the volatility

of its market. There can be a lot of growth in a short period of time and a lot of poverty simultaneously. This is mainly because this lack of planning and lack of action in the political sphere acts as its main enemy. This is the country that, in the 1880s, was competing against the US for which country would be the largest economy in the Americas. A country where its capital was called the "Paris of South America" due to its quantity of French architecture and French styled palaces. And this competition lasted until World War I broke out. Afterwards, competition largely ceased. Thus, while the US built and diversified their economy, Argentina decided to stay agricultural, and when the United Kingdom stopped demanding goods because of the Falklands War, instability started and it's been part of Argentine lives until this day. Since then, scenarios like military groups taking the government by force and corruption on every level, politicians being corrupt and businessmen not being prosecuted after getting caught bribing government officials have ravaged the economy. These are some examples of why the markets don't really trust this country that, if it gets blessed with a good political atmosphere, has the resources to be a powerful global exporter.

The government was running without the majority of spots on the senate and its lower level; these spots are needed to pass laws and comply with the government's economic plan. Additionally some state level politicians were trying to boycott the president by expending government money for personal interests.

Now what? After one day of the elections, markets went nuts. Some stocks went up anywhere from 20% to 40%, US dollar exchange went down 5% in comparison to the Peso and most importantly, thanks to the trust in the government, Argentina is more plausible to receive foreign investments, which are desperately needed for Argentina to prosper.

For the first time in a really long time, there is hope for change, real change. If the promises of businessmen come through, Argentina should see a massive investment in critical areas such as mining, oil and technology. The government with this new power can catch up with other issues that affect the economic sphere of the country such as a tax reform, a labor reform and lastly an education reform. If these three are taken care of, Argentina may be the world's fastest growing economy and maybe be able to sustain it.

What gets counted and what really counts: A liberal arts life



Elijah Wetzel '27

Reply to this opinion at ejwetzel27@wabash.edu

“Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.” Like many famous lines, this one is attributed to a famous historical figure — in this case Albert Einstein — even though there is scanty evidence to suggest Einstein ever said it. In actuality, the origins of this proverb are murkier. But whether it came from a renowned physicist or from an unknown laborer, it is an insightful observation that can be applied to numerous fields and practices and invites us to investigate what we hold up as important. Pertinent to Wabash readers, it describes one way to define the goal of a liberal arts education: a lifelong investigation of the things that count but cannot be counted.

To say that something cannot be counted is not to say that it is less real or less important. The problem is that, since the modern scientific era, that is precisely what it means to many people in the US and the Western world. With this philosophy in mind we educate, run businesses and assign value to people’s contributions. Classes and exams matter primarily because we get grades. Tests that measure intelligence, logic and memorization determine admission to the best schools and programs. The success of a business can be ascertained by the stock price and quarterly revenues. Doctors perform at their best when they see the most patients and render the most CPT codes. I don’t mean to say that these things aren’t important, that they are completely underserving of our attention. But I do believe that we aren’t paying enough attention to those things that aren’t counted so easily. Perhaps classes and exams matter in part because of the grades that can open doors down the road, but perhaps they matter more because learning and knowledge are intrinsically essential to human life and cultivating a love for them grows our humanity. Businesses need funds to sustain, but exemplifying a commitment to ethical principles and a philanthropic culture may be just as important to a business’s success. And instead of justifying their existence through billable services, could doctors’ primary role be to show desire and a capacity to linger compassionately with patients? If we don’t consider the impact of these “un-measurables,” might we miss out on things that “count” more than things that can be boiled down to a number?

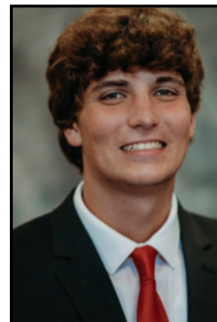
To me, a liberal arts education should be set out to give students the experience and tools necessary to observe the world subterraneously—to be aware of things unseen and uncounted. In spatial terms, this means the liberally educated student lives and thinks in a multi-dimensional sense.

Areas of inquiry or contention aren’t just things to measure, but ideas to be understood — to grasp their essence. Picture a giant cube. One could measure its faces and edges, stand in one place and stare at it for a while, make observations of its substance and maybe even peer around its sides and arrive at the conclusion that yes, it is a giant cube. However, one could also walk around the cube slowly and inspect it closer, dig down beneath the cube to see how far down it goes, observe how the cube interacts with other things in its environment, investigate how the cube ended up how and where it is and observe how the cube makes one feel. The latter technique of observation includes “data” that cannot be quantified but nevertheless informs the observer about a part of the cube’s essence. This strikes me as more akin to the liberal arts and likelier to leave the observer with a rich concept of the cube.

If we receive our liberal arts education as an invitation to discover and cherish things which are not immediately obvious, what are some ways we can respond? First, we can develop our curiosity. If we only see ourselves as pupils in the classroom, how many opportunities are we missing to ask “why” throughout our day? Perhaps more than we realize. Curiosity goes hand in hand with humility, another response the liberal arts calls us to. Who are our teachers? Only people who have attained a similar level of formal education? Only those who are older than us or have more paid experience? I think we should be very wary of any attempts, from within or without ourselves, to limit our teachers to our “equals” or “superiors.” In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus Christ says that the kingdom of heaven belongs to little children and those like them. Regardless of your spiritual convictions, is it possible that those who society regards as “small” or “powerless” — common descriptors of children — may be the most qualified to teach about the things which are “heavenly”? When we answer this question affirmatively, I believe we approach one of the greatest gifts to which the liberal arts invites us: eyes to see and hearts to recognize those who are on the outskirts — of society, of community, of health, of legal standing or of a social situation — and value them as humans with treasures to contribute. The number of ways liberally educated men can dine on the fruit produced from their education is infinite. Maybe it’s working hard to include a quieter colleague in company meetings, spending time with someone who is homebound, making it a point to learn from your patients or listening attentively to a partner’s anxieties and troubles. Whether it is these or any number of other things, we should search diligently for chances to live out the liberal arts in such a fashion.

“Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.” To reiterate, I think this phrase’s hermeneutic value is broad. The liberal arts is one arena it illuminates, but I encourage you to try its light in others. You’ll probably see something you hadn’t counted on.

“Mr. Consistent:” Why milk never misses



Zade Kalesperis '27

Reply to this opinion at zskalesp27@wabash.edu

In this Wabash man’s distinguished opinion, milk is by far the best beverage one can consume. To begin, milk is a nutrient rich super food. It is filled with protein that can power Wabash students through their days. It also has calcium and vitamin D, which is amazing for your bones and teeth. I drink milk every single day and I have never had a cavity.

Nutritionists consider milk to be a complete food, because it provides protein, carbohydrates and fat all together in one delicious combination. Soda or juice does not accomplish half of what milk accomplishes for the human body. Not even water has the health benefits that milk has.

Additionally, the absolute versatility of milk never ceases to amaze me. It compliments so many foods and makes eating experiences better. For example, what other beverage can you eat cereal with? Are you going to pour water over a delicious bowl of Cinnamon Toast Crunch? I don’t think so. Also, milk and cookies are a classic combination. Nothing beats dipping a chocolate chip cookie in a nice, delicious glass of milk. There is no greater tragedy than when a cookie breaks and falls into a class of milk. Furthermore, the source of milk is significantly better than any other drink. Instead of being composed in some chemistry lab like soda, or picked

from a tree like juice, milk is produced by beautiful, elegant creatures we call cows. Cows are majestic animals that produce a majestic drink, a claim that no other drink can make.

Our beautiful college resides in the state of Indiana, the racing capital of the world. Each year, millions of people gather around to watch and see which driver claims victory in the Indianapolis 500. And once that driver wins, what is the first drink they consume? Of course the obvious answer: milk. Milk at the end of the Indy 500 is a tradition that has been celebrated for years. The race car drivers have the right idea here—if I were to win and accomplish a historical feat, my first thought would also be to find a glass of milk.

Milk is a consistent and humble drink. It is what drinks are made to be. It is not an overly glamorized beverage such as wine or beer. Milk keeps to itself. You never see commercials for new flavors of milk, because milk has been “Mr. Consistent” for centuries. In every empire, country or civilization throughout time, milk has been involved. The patriots threw tea into the harbor during the Boston Tea Party because they didn’t really care about any drinks besides milk. The British just took it the wrong way. During prohibition, bootleggers would smuggle illegal booze to pay for their milk consumption. Milk is mentioned fifty-three times in the Bible. How many times is root beer mentioned? How many times is Diet Dr. Pepper mentioned? Yup, you guessed it: zero. Milk is a timeless classic that has been bringing people together for centuries and will continue to bring people together for centuries to come. I think that if people were to sit down and enjoy a glass of milk together, world peace could be achieved.

Request for opinions

Have an opinion on campus culture or a hot take to share? Write an opinion piece!

If interested, contact ecbone26@wabash.edu

‘How did Wally spend Halloween?’

by Drake Green '28

Wally’s Wall: Favorite sports moments

Padraig Keefer '28

When the little giants took on Denison in baseball. Jarrod Kirsch shut them down. Electric.

Jackson Bohrer '26

Nov. 10th, 2001.

Nathan Ellenberger '26

Pacers/Knicks. Eastern Conference Finals. Game 1. The Aaron Nesmith legacy game. The Haliburton buzzer beater that floated down from the rafters. Absolute cinema.

Evan Bone '26

Wabash volleyball senior night last semester. Two legends put on a show in Chadwick for the last time.

Bradley Gilliam '27

My favorite sports memory is attending the College World Series in Omaha in 2019 with my family and travel baseball team. Seeing college baseball at the highest level in person was an experience I will never forget. From the abundance of baseball, food, and other miscellaneous vendors to the electric atmosphere inside the stadium, Omaha is the place to be in June.

Nicholas Green '27

One of my favorite sports memories is watching my highschool team make it to state playoffs while in Marching Band. Despite the cold (52 degrees) is was still one of the first football games I truly enjoyed watching.

Tanner Quackenbush '26

Pacers run to the finals last year. So many great moments, both amazing and heartbreaking.

Michael Cruzado '27

My favorite sport moment has to be the Wabash Swim and Dive team winning the 2024 Gail Pebworth Invite. It was the first time that we had ever won that meet in the 6 years that we have hosted it. Gail Pebworth herself was in attendance and that made the win even more impactful. Being able to honor our NCAA DIII Hall of Fame coach by winner the meet dedicated to her was something special and I will remember it for the rest of my life.



Little Giant basketball team to tip-off season against Hanover

Wabash picked 5th in the NCAC preseason poll

Continued from page 1

The returning players, especially Josh Whack '26, Randy Kelley '26 and Gavin Schippert '26, are expected to lead the team. Whack averaged 8.3 points and 2.0 assists per game last year while shooting an impressive 88% from the free-throw line. Kelley chipped in 6.8 points and 2.8 assists. Rich Brooks '26 knocked down 41 three-pointers en route to 9.4 points per game. Schippert posted 7.3 points and team-leading 5.0 rebounds, shooting over 50% from the floor. Coach Brumett believes those four will set the tone in practices, in huddles and in tight late-game moments. He not only expects these upperclassmen to lead in production, but also as locker room leaders.

"We're not planning on finishing that low. You probably don't have a pulse if that doesn't bother you and give you some extra motivation for the rest of the season."

- Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett

"Gavin Schippert is probably the guy that has played the most for us, and he's a great leader," said Brumett. "I think Schippert, Whack and Kelley are all trying to figure out their leadership styles, and I am excited to see that happen."



Rich Brooks '26 attempts a floater in the paint during a scrimmage against Manchester University on October 28, 2025, at Chadwick Court.

And there are reasons for excitement beyond just the returners. The Little Giants will welcome a strong freshman class: guards Luke Ellspermann '29

and Deric Cannady '29; wing AJ DeFur '29; forward Colton Stowers '29; post Kadyn Ellery '29; and newcomer Isaac Rivas '29 round out the six-man incoming group. The coaching staff believes these young players bring energy, fresh legs and positional depth that the program has been

seeking.

"The most important thing for me is to contribute to Wabash winning games," said Ellspermann. "I will do my best to bring lots of energy and effort to keep the winning culture growing."

Given their ranking, the Little Giants might feel overlooked.

But the quality numbers from last year suggest they still have the tools to make noise. For instance, Wabash made 212 threes on 618 attempts (.343) — solid in the NCAC. Their turnover margin was +1.7 (8.8 turnovers per game vs. 10.5 for opponents) and their assist/turnover ratio sat at 1.3. One early key to watch: how quickly the freshmen integrate into the rotation. Will Ellspermann or Cannady carve out minutes early? Will Stowers and Ellery force the issue inside? And can the senior leadership translate into steady performance in tight contests? The young talent is there; the framework is in place. What the team now must cultivate is cohesion.

"I think Schippert, Whack and Kelly are all trying to figure out their leadership styles, and I am excited to see that happen."

- Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett

The Little Giants open their season on Saturday, November 8, on the road, and the scarlet faithful will be eager to see whether this blend of seasoned veterans and hungry newcomers can launch Wabash back into the conference conversation.



Luke Ellspermann '29 dribbles down the floor during a scrimmage against Manchester University on October 28, 2025, at Chadwick Court.



Colton Stowers '29 goes up for a layup during a scrimmage against Manchester University on October 28, 2025, at Chadwick Court.

Redpack finishes strong in NCAC Championship

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College Redpack rose to the occasion on November 1 at the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championships, hosted by Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Predicted to finish sixth in the pre-championship coaches poll, the Little Giants defied expectations, securing a fourth-place finish out of nine teams with 122 points, edging out DePauw (127) and Denison (140).

John Carroll University captured the team title with 24 points in its debut NCAC season, followed by Kenyon (62) and Oberlin (73). But for Wabash, the day was defined by resilience, improvement, and one of the most complete team efforts of the season.

Leading the charge was Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26, who turned in a standout performance with a sixth-place finish in 25:45.4, earning First Team All-NCAC honors. The performance marked the third all-conference cross country award of his Wabash career and cemented his role as one of the program's most consistent leaders.

"It was fulfilling to give my all on the grass one last time and spark those competitive gears that will be useful during the track season," said Diemer-McKinney.



Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 crosses the finish line at the NCAC Championship on November 1, 2025, in Gambier, Ohio.

talented freshmen stepped up in a big way. Samuel Carpenter '29 (31st, 26:42.4), Jack Loftus '29 (36th, 26:47.9) and Tyler Kerzee '29 (43rd, 27:14.3) all delivered clutch performances to round out Wabash's top five scorers.

Veterans Thomas Price '26 (50th, 27:41.2) and Angel Perez '27 (56th, 27:48.9) capped the Little Giants' lineup with career-best times of their own, adding valuable depth to the scoring effort. The team's blend of senior leadership and emerging young talent gave Wabash a strong identity on a challenging, hilly Kenyon course.

Saturday's performance highlighted the steady progress Wabash has made throughout the fall season. The Little Giants have steadily improved their pack running and

depth, with consistent time drops from both upperclassmen and underclassmen.

With momentum on their side, Wabash now turns its focus to the NCAA Great Lakes Regional on Saturday, November 15, hosted at E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park in Louisville, Kentucky. There, the Little Giants will face some of the best programs in the Midwest with hopes of continuing their postseason surge.

"Our young group will have an opportunity to run without pressure," said Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary. "This gives them the green light to be aggressive and see what they can do as a young core."

Swim and Dive finishes 3rd in Kalamazoo Invitational

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

Mason Gilliam '28 delivered a record-breaking performance to lead the Wabash College swimming and diving team to a strong third-place finish at the Kalamazoo College Quad Meet, held October 31 and November 1 at the Anderson Athletic Center Pool.

The Little Giants totaled 760 points across the two-day competition, finishing behind John Carroll University (1,115) and Hope College (857), but well ahead of host Kalamazoo College (358).

"This result gives us great confidence in how our season is progressing...to have those kinds of results is very promising."

- Head Swim and Dive Coach William Bernhardt

Gilliam stole the spotlight on Saturday with a dominant distance double. He shattered the pool record in the 1,000-yard freestyle, finishing in 9:52.00, and nearly added another record in the 1,650-yard freestyle with a winning time of 16:21.07—just half a second shy of the mark. He also placed

fifth in the 200-yard butterfly (2:02.22).

"It felt great to get the 1,000 yard record, although I was still a little upset after missing out on the 1650 record as well," said Gilliam. "But overall, it's always a great feeling to do something like that."

Wabash added several other top-five finishes on the meet's final day. The 200-yard medley relay team of Ryan West '28, Lew Sams '29, Brody Page '27 and Quinn Sweeney '27 opened competition with a fourth-place finish (1:35.77). West continued his impressive form with a runner-up effort in the 400-yard individual medley (4:15.74) and a third place in the 200-yard backstroke (1:56.62).

Nicholas Plumb '27 finished close behind West in the 200 back (1:57.16) and added a fourth-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke (54.73), another season best.

"This result gives us great confidence in how our season is progressing," said Head Swimming and Diving Coach William Bernhardt. "It was a long trip with a lot of swimming over a day and a half, to have those kinds of results is very promising."

Wabash returns home next Saturday, November 8, to host Centre College at noon in the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

Football overcomes 14-point deficit to claw past Wittenberg 28-21

Team's attention is split between Oberlin and DePauw this week

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wabash College football team had their biggest scare of the season since their game against John Carroll as they found themselves down by two touchdowns early on against Wittenberg. Yet, the team was able to fight their way back in the second half to earn a 28-21 victory over the Tiger team from Springfield, Ohio.

Wittenberg received the opening kick off, but the Tigers did nothing with the football except punt it away to the Little Giants. The teams punted back and forth before Wittenberg finally broke the silence by punching in a touchdown with 3:05 left in the first quarter to put themselves up 7-0. The first quarter ended with the Tigers maintaining that advantage while still in possession of the football.

The teams continued to play hot potato in the second quarter, but it was Wittenberg who, once again, would find themselves breaking the plane of the goal line to earn another touchdown with 2:35 left in the second frame.

With a 14-0 lead, the Wittenberg Tigers had halted the notoriously potent Wabash offense in its tracks as well as silenced a historically loud Little Giant Stadium.

In search of some momentum going into halftime, Brand Campbell '27 stepped onto the field at his team's own 25-yard-line with only one mission in mind: get seven points on the board for the home team.

In a drive that lasted 12 plays, Wabash finally got themselves on the scoreboard with five seconds left on the game



PHOTO BY BRAIDEN FOSTER '26

Michael Holsclaw '26 makes the game-winning interception against Wittenberg on November 1, 2025, at Little Giant Stadium.

clock thanks to a touchdown pass from Campbell to Konner Chase '28. The touchdown proved to be a crucial turning point for the Little Giant squad as momentum began to feel like it was switching sides heading into the halftime break.

The two teams traded three-and-outs on the first two possessions of the third quarter, but Wabash would go on to capitalize on their second drive

courtesy of a touchdown pass from Campbell to Luke Adams '27 to knot the game up at 14-14.

The very next Wabash offensive foray resulted in another Campbell-to-Adams connection for six points, and by the end of the third quarter, the Little Giants were on top with a 21-14 lead.

However, Wittenberg turned the tide back to their side by finding the end zone with 8:52 left in the game to tie it up at 21-21.

Faced with the task of earning the lead back, Campbell and the Wabash offense took the field at their own 36-yard-line. The group marched down the field, and Campbell found Adams yet again in the end zone for the third time that day to give the Little Giants a 28-21 lead. Adams would finish up the game with 10 receptions for 82 yards along with the three touchdown catches.

Wittenberg had one last chance to square the game up with 5:23 left in the contest, and they started off the drive in a promising manner. They got

near mid-field rather quickly, but they decided to take a shot deep down the field. Mike Holsclaw '26 foiled the Tigers' plan by intercepting the pass and sealing out a Wabash the win. Holsclaw's impressive defensive performance earned him NCAC Defensive Athlete of the Week honors.

"It definitely wasn't our best day," said Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98. "We really struggled badly early. But I thought our wide receivers made a few plays to get us going early. Obviously Luke Adams with three touchdowns, but Nick Witte '28 and Konner Chase had great games too. Both of those guys had a lot of yards. Nick Witte had his best blocking game of the season. So I think those three dudes were the catalyst for it all."

"Personally, I have to give a lot of credit to some good red zone play calling as [Offensive Coordinator] Coach Casey Gillin gave me lots of opportunities," said Adams. "Brand and I see eye-to-eye on a lot of plays, and we think alike. I can almost always trust that Brand is seeing

what I'm seeing mid-play, and I know he is going to put the ball where it needs to be."

Being on the same page will prove to be important for the final two weeks of the regular season as the team ramps up their preparation for the 131st Monon Bell Classic. The Little Giants will travel to Oberlin this weekend, and while the Yeomen may not be the toughest opponent, Coach Gilbert is still wanting the starters to get a feel for live game reps.

"How much the starters will play is based on how they're doing," said Gilbert. "We are going to play as hard as we can play and as normal as possible, but we are going to show great sportsmanship. So if we're fortunate enough to get a bigger lead, then we will start to sub players, and that will be a great thing."

Kickoff is scheduled for 12 p.m. EST at Dick Bailey Field in Oberlin, Ohio.



PHOTO BY BRAIDEN FOSTER '26

Konner Chase '26 points to the sky after his touchdown reception against Wittenberg on November 1, 2025, at Little Giant Stadium.

The Bledsoe '26 breakdown – NCAC football Week Nine power rankings

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

Week Nine saw three demolitions and one close contest. That close contest happened to be here in Crawfordsville, but it thankfully went the way of your Wabash College Little Giants. There's also a new nationally ranked team in the power rankings...hint: it's us!

#1 John Carroll (7 - 1)

The Blue Streaks, the No. 11 team in the country according to the D3football.com rankings, did nothing this week. No game = none of Sean's attention. Good luck against OWU tomorrow. Say your prayers for the Bishops afterwards.

#2 DePauw (7 - 1)

I am incredibly tired of throwing D***** in the second spot, but the Tigers continue to prove that they deserve to be here. They beat Ohio Wesleyan 40-10 this past week, and their offense continued to thrive with Scott Touchentine throwing multiple touchdowns and Caden Whitehead rushing for a couple more. They pretty much did what they needed to do on the road against an OWU team that proved to be an annoying pest against Wabash. The black and gold Tiger team also comes in as the No. 15 team in the D3football.com national rankings. The clowns from down south will host Wooster tomorrow, and they should take care of business with the Scots before heading into Bell Week.

#3 Wabash (7 - 1)

Head Coach Jake Gilbert '98 said that Wittenberg was the best

2-5 football team in the country, and they proved it. Their defense proved to be a valuable asset as it aided the red and white Tiger team to a 14-0 lead over the Little Giants for a portion of the first half. The Little Giants did not waver, though, and fought back to capture a 28-21 victory. Again, people may be frustrated with me about why

I still have Wabash ranked

below D*****, but this weekend definitely set the team's ranking for this week in stone in my mind. The Dannies shut out Witt, and we allowed 21 points to be scored. With that being said, the Little Giants still managed to take care of business to improve to 7-1, and they cracked the top-25 in the D3football.com rankings for the first time this season at the No. 25 spot. The men in scarlet and white will travel to Oberlin this weekend for their annual punching bag fest before turning their full undivided attention to bringing the Monon Bell back to Crawfordsville.

#4 Denison (5 - 3)

Speaking of a punching bag

fest, it seems like the Big Red had some fun and left some dents in the Yeoman roster. A 62-9 beatdown had to feel good after being absolutely screwed over by the officiating crew the week prior against D*****. I really don't have much to say about this Big Red team other than the fact that they stand no chance of

finishing any higher in the conference. Keep building, and MAYBE we will see if this team will fare better next season...who am I kidding? They won't! Do you see the three teams ahead of them? Get used to being at the four spot for the next 100 years. Denison better enjoy beating the feathers off the purple bird team this weekend because next week they will take on the new perennial powerhouse in the conference in JCU.

#5 Wooster (5 - 4)

Speaking of the Owls, the Scots apparently hate those wretched birds. A 49-6 win for the bagpipe players sends a

very clear statement. They prefer their Golden Eagles (Scotland's national bird) more than some annoying bird that goes, "Hoooooooo...hooooooooo." Anyway, the Scots better prepare for war tomorrow as they invade the green castle that's occupied by Dannies. For the motherland, please beat D*****. Charge!

#6 Wittenberg (3 - 6)

I really want to move the red and white Tiger team up because of how they played against Wabash this past weekend, but it's really hard to do that when they lost to both Denison and Wooster in their respective head-to-head matchups. I will say that this team actually impressed me this past weekend. It was incredibly frustrating to see their defensive line get through to our quarterback rather often, and it was also irritating to see Witt quarterback make big play after big play. Enough with the compliments, though. They stay in my sixth place spot! Enjoy the bye week. Bye, bye!

#7 Ohio Wesleyan (2 - 6)

The Bishops played an actual football team this week after playing the dumpster fire of an Owl team from Gambier, Ohio. The sad thing is that the Dannies picked up a dominant win over the Bishops. Safe to say the man upstairs was on the wrong side of this matchup. Not sure how that guy doesn't side with the religious people considering the other side are literal devils disguised in black and gold. Regardless, the Bishops will play another real football team tomorrow in JCU. Hopefully Zeus doesn't strike OWU down too bad. Wait...sorry...wrong god.

#8 Kenyon (1 - 7)

I know the Owls' feathers are ruffled and burned from being in that incinerator of a dumpster, so I'll keep this short and simple. This team stinks. But not as bad as the team in my ninth spot. The Owls will need a lot of luck against the Big Red tomorrow if they want a chance of scoring any points at all.

#9 Oberlin (0 - 8)

The Yeomen nearly got into the double-digits for points this past weekend! Granted it was against Denison, so there is a little less validity to this accomplishment. However you view it, though, it does not matter because it is FINALLY Wabash's turn to plow through the squirrels. No more nuts for you! #WallyWuzHere



GRAPHIC BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26