

January 31, 2025

Student Senate: Spring plans

JACKSON GOODYEAR '27
 STAFF WRITER

As the new year begins, members of the Student Senate have convened to begin working to provide an eventful spring semester for the student body. A major role of the Student Senate is to foster a sense of community throughout campus by hosting events of their own and funding student clubs and organizations around campus.

The first opportunity for the senate to make an impact this semester arrives with Casino Night. Casino Night is scheduled for January 31 in the Lilly Library. This is the second year in a row that the Student Senate has put on Casino Night. Students will be able to come to the Lilly Library and play some of the most common casino games — including blackjack, poker, roulette and craps. Players will each be given chips for free, and then be able to buy raffle tickets for different prizes using their chips. Prizes include electronics, gift cards and a wing night provided by Bon Appetit. The Student Senate has also allocated funds to provide catered food from Bon Appetit and a cash bar for students of age.

The senate hopes Casino Night will be a well-attended, high energy night that will start the spring semester on the right foot. Following Casino Night, the next major event is National Act, which will be hosted in March. More details about National Act will be released in the following week. These details will include artist, location and date.

Student Body President Anthony Donahue '25 and Vice President Jonah Billups '25 have stated that one of their main goals is to spend all of the Student Senate budget. Part of the motivation for this goal is that the leftover money from each semester's Student Senate budget does not rollover to next semester's budget. However, besides National Act, there are no other major Student Senate events currently planned for the rest of the semester.

"We wanted to see where we were at with the budget," said Billups. "We didn't want to over plan for certain events and then not be able to pay for them once all of the budget requests come in from different clubs."

Luckily, the senate is not expected to be the sole organizers of campus activities. One of the main functions of the Student Senate is to provide funding for student organizations on campus, with a large portion of their budget going towards that cause. In turn, these clubs host events that benefit the campus community. Deciding which organization to fund can be a challenging endeavor.

"It's important to allocate funds fairly and without bias," said Student Body Treasurer Brody Frey '26. "Every club and organization has an equal opportunity to receive funding as long as their event meets the standards of accessibility, engagement and impact on the student body."

By ensuring that the budget is spent effectively and in its entirety, Donahue and Billups hope this will affect another goal of theirs: improving brotherhood throughout campus. Major events such as the ones planned by the senate and student organizations, as well as sporting events, are where they are looking for students to show up. However, tracking attendance has been a tall task — making it difficult to definitively determine if their goals are being met.

"It's not something that you can technically measure," said Billups. "We just look at it as the vibe on campus. I think that is where you can know if there is good brotherhood being promoted."

The executive team believes that buying in and showing up will determine student experience this semester. From TGIF to National Act, every event is an opportunity to connect with the Wabash community. Once the senate plans and communicates the schedule to the student body, there should be plenty of opportunities to engage.

Hot-shooting hospitality sends Dannies home disappointed



More on Page 8

PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25
 Randy Kelley '26 bodies his way to the basket through a DePauw defender in Wabash's victory against DePauw on January 29, 2025, at Chadwick Court.

Lamberton given Butler-Turner Award

JAMES WALLACE '26
 NEWS EDITOR

Amongst the smell of freshly painted Homecoming floats and the sounds of excited Wabash men ready for a long day of football, the National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM) and members of campus gather in the Pioneer Chapel to celebrate those who have truly left an impact on the College during the annual Alumni Chapel. However, this past year, one award was not able to be presented: The Butler-Turner Student-Alumni Engagement Award. Although Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Associate Professor of English Jill Lamberton was unable to attend the Alumni Chapel last September, the NAWM made it right by presenting the award during a dinner program.

It is a deep honor to know that the NAWM sees my campus role as continuing Dr. Butler and [Horace Turner's] long, devoted campus leadership."

- Special Assistant to the President for DEI and Associate Professor of English Jill Lamberton

The award is presented to the Wabash faculty or staff member who has made an outstanding contribution to Wabash College by distinguishing themselves through the investment of personal time and resources resulting in a significant impact on Wabash students and/or alumni.

"Throughout her time at Wabash, Professor Lamberton has fostered a sense of belonging among our students and alumni," said Director of Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement Ron Dostal '92. "In various roles, she has worked to support students from marginalized communities, helped increase the enrollment and graduation of young men from new majority populations, demonstrated how a timeless liberal arts education speaks to the timely issues of equity and inclusion, created more cultural and artistic programming for Wabash and Montgomery County and significantly expanded the engagement of Wabash students with the Crawfordsville community."

"Wabash is blessed with an exceptional faculty and staff, and our alumni are proud to honor one member each year who has particularly distinguished themselves."

- Director of Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement Ron Dostal '92

Lamberton did this through various acts across campus, such as organizing English Department tailgates at Wabash soccer matches and working closely with students in the Wabash Liberal Arts Immersion Program. She also has previously served on the Advisory Board of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS). Outside of her direct involvement in major organizations, her interest in students and faculty alike were main pillars in why she was given the award.

"I am genuinely curious about other peoples' stories," said Lamberton. "So I do like to get to know my students — where they come from, what their goals are, what their challenges are, what they are uniquely good at in a way others are not. And when someone trusts you with their story, they are giving you something almost sacred. To me, this award says students, alumni and the NAWM recognize those things as genuine. I try to be worthy of my students' trust, and when I mess up, I try to apologize and reflect on how not to make the same mistake again."

Continued page 2

Groundbreaking ceremony marks progress in Community Center



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
 Kelly Taylor, Jack Engledow '53, President Scott Feller, Cory Olson '85, Ike O'Neill '27, Clay Robbins '79 and Jay Allen '79 (right-to-left) were among many to break the ground at the Community Center Groundbreaking on January 25, 2025, in the Sparks Center.

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
 FEATURES EDITOR

After a semester of patient waiting, the Wabash and Montgomery County communities finally witnessed some progress on the Wabash Community Center this past Saturday, January 25 when the groundbreaking for the upcoming Community Center took place around midday.

The event was purely ceremonial; large containers of dirt were rolled indoors for the groundbreakers, who stabbed at the dirt with shovels in the Sparks Center's Great Hall. Though delays with obtaining the necessary government approval have pushed back the start of the destruction of the Frank Hugh Sparks Center and, as a result, impeded the start of construction on the Community Center, Saturday's groundbreaking represented the start of the culmination of years of time and planning that will bear the fruit of a brand new building on campus in just a few years time.

President Scott Feller began the ceremonial groundbreaking by welcoming and thanking the numerous groups and individuals who had a hand in moving the Community Center project forward. Members of the board of trustees of Wabash College, board members of the National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM), administrators of the Lilly Endowment, public sector leaders from Crawfordsville and Montgomery County, faculty and students were all represented on the day.

Feller remarked in his welcome that the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting loss of on-campus community was what prompted

him to ask the board of trustees to begin substantive work planning the Center. The loss of student community highlighted the importance of an investment that would act as a hub not only for students, but for other members of the community too.

"It [the Community Center] will quite literally transform the remarkable ways our very special town does collaboration," said Feller. "The College-community collaboration initiative will transform our campus and usher in a new era of positive cooperation for the benefit of our college and for everyone who calls Montgomery County home."

The emphasis from the project's leaders on boosting interaction between Wabash and the greater Montgomery County was evident in short addresses from Cory Olson '85, chair of the board of trustees' Building and Grounds Committee, and Kelly Taylor, chief executive officer of the Montgomery County Community Foundation. Taylor specifically mentioned the contributions of local Montgomery County residents to Wabash after the College burned down in 1838, just six years into its existence, calling it the best investment the county ever made.

The final speaker before the spades broke earth was Ike O'Neill '27, who will be a senior when the project is expected to be completed, and spotlighted the variety of buildings and locations on campus that students congregate in on campus.

"These are the places where we talk about classes and labs, strategize about how to beat our opponents or share our aspirations,"

said O'Neill. "These are the places where we forge relationships that will last a lifetime. But there's never been a place at Wabash where everyone can gather together, where everyone belongs; until now."

That act of congregating in a central space was a key hope of the Center's planners. Students can sometimes feel scattered across campus, and the lack of a true student center throughout the College's existence hindered cohesion among the student body. While Sparks was once a sturdy dining area for Wabash men, it lacked the pull to unite students from around campus.

"You think about Wabash and 'family' comes to mind," said Houston Mills '85, a member of the board of trustees. "But we all have our pockets of connection, with the football team, or the baseball team, the MXI [Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies] or whatever those pockets are. If students can bring all those points of connection to a very casual, interactive area that can expand relationships and allow for new connections to grow so when people come back in the future they'll feel even more connected to campus."

Alumni leaders also hope that the Community Center will help return campus to a status that drew students in on weekends. A focus of student leadership efforts in the past year, revitalizing the expectation of campus-wide events on weekends was another goal of the project's supporters.

Continued page 2

Lamberton given Butler–Turner Student–Alumni Engagement Award

Continued from page 1

The award, named for Dr. Butler – the first woman hired on tenure-track at Wabash – and Horace Turner – the first full-time director of the MXIBS – both worked with Professor Lamberton at Wabash shortly before both of their retirements.

“A part of the story of this award is the professor, Dr. Melissa Butler, and staff member, Horace Turner — ‘H.T.’ as the students called him — for whom it is named,” said Lamberton. “I knew and worked with them both in my early days at Wabash, just before their retirements, and each was a legend. It is a deep honor to know that the NAWM sees my campus role as continuing Dr. Butler and H.T.’s long, devoted campus leadership. May it continue to be so!”

While many awards presented by the NAWM to members of the Wabash community are named after past Wabash legends, the recipi-

ents themselves will be ingrained as critical parts of Wabash’s history themselves.

“It’s a core human need to be seen, known and valued, and we all play a part by appreciating one another,” said Dostal. “Wabash is blessed with an exceptional faculty and staff, and our alumni are proud to honor one member each year who has particularly distinguished themselves. And, it’s a way of recognizing today’s Wabash legends in real time, connecting them to the legends of the past that many of our alumni may be more familiar with from their own years as students on campus.”

The NAWM board is open to receiving nominations from any student, alumnus, faculty or staff member, and will consider this year’s nominations during its May 2025 meeting. Those selected will be honored during Alumni Chapel at Homecoming on September 27, 2025.



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

National Association of Wabash Men President Jim Hawsworth '95 speaks on the importance of the Butler–Turner Award as Professor Jill Lamberton and Director of Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement Ron Dostal '92 watch on January 24, 2025, in the dining room of Trippet Hall.

Community Center

Continued from page 1

“The Community Center is going to provide a place for the students to be in on the weekends and not leave,” said Tony Unfried '03, vice-president of the board of directors for the NAWM. “I heard the term ‘suitcase campus’ said the other day, but in past eras students never left, there were always things to do on campus. This gives students a new invigoration to host.”

Even well-intentioned and necessary efforts to improve campus life and dissuade students from packing their travel bags on the weekends are difficult to manifest, however, especially for small colleges and universities dealing with the strain caused by slipping higher education enrollment rates across the country. Members of the board of trustees see the Community Center as a tour de force for the College, which is seemingly overcoming at least some of the financial trials similar institutions currently face.

“This is a real sign of strength,” said Greg Estell '85, a member of the board of trustees. “It’s especially a sign of strength given the economic conditions that are facing so many other schools. Not a lot of places have the capacity or the foresight to launch projects like this right now.”

Beyond economic perils, many colleges are worried that the increasing number of people pursuing online education and degrees spells danger for higher education as currently conceived and could strike a death blow to some institutes of higher learning. In light of those general concerns, Wabash’s construction of a new campus building seems quite bold.

“We are very intentionally making the Community Center a focal point for a personal residential living experience when there is so much doubt about whether the model of in-person, residential education can thrive,” said Greg Castanias '87, a member of the board of trustees. “It’s not just that we are making a bet on that. We know that it works because we’ve been doing it for close to 200 years, and we’ve been doing it extraordinarily well.”

While the predictions for what the Community Center will bring to campus are abundant and positive, the building process has already

suffered hiccups. The College is seeking financing from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is offering extraordinarily favorable lending terms to Wabash. However, the destruction of Sparks and the commencement of construction on the new building has been delayed while the College checks the necessary boxes to fulfill the lending agreement and waits for the Department of Agriculture to approve its progress. Furthermore, executive orders relating to federal grant spending freezes have created greater uncertainty and are actively evolving.

“It is not in any way or shape or form the College taking its own sweet time or delays caused by anything other than the slow role of government bureaucracy,” said Castanias. “But the fact of the matter is that we anticipate that those approvals will be final relatively soon.”

In light of the delays in the government’s approval of the Community Center, the projected opening date of fall 2026 is in serious doubt.

“We don’t have the ability to reverse time,” said Estell. “Fall of 2026 would be miraculous at this point, but the end of that academic year, 2027, that’s realistic.”

Even though the opening date will be later than at first expected, the mood Saturday remained high. Audience members gave an especially loud round of applause to Jack Engledow '53, who was a student when the Sparks Center groundbreaking was held 72 years ago and a picture of Engledow and president Frank Hugh Sparks appeared in *The Indianapolis Star*. Engledow remembered that day fondly this past Saturday.

“It was an exciting time,” said Engledow. “We didn’t have anything comparable to this [the Sparks Center], so at the time it served a necessary purpose.”

Over time the Sparks Center’s purpose and popularity among students waned, but a similar hope for the future that abounded in 1953 is prominent for some still.

“The Sparks Center was a great, state-of-the-art building for its time, but its time has passed,” said Castanias. “What is going to appear in its place is going to be a remarkable, even transformational, change for the culture of the College, and transformational in ways that can only be positive.”

Wabash mourns legendary Dean Tom Bambrey '68

Article courtesy of Wabash College Communications and Marketing

Dr. Thomas E. Bambrey '68, who served his alma mater as Dean of Students and Director of Athletics from 1997 through 2011, passed away in the early morning of January 26 after an extended illness.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 8, in the Pioneer Chapel.

Over the last decade in his retirement, Bambrey and his wife, Roselie, were mainstays at campus events and they delighted in traveling to wherever the Little Giants were competing. He was honored at Homecoming last September with his induction in the Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame. He also gave many Chapel Talks, including his reflections on his half-century love affair with Wabash in 2022.

“When I arrived on campus, Tom’s care for students and his approach to student life shaped my understanding of the special role that the Dean of Students plays at Wabash,” said President Scott Feller. “I will miss the kind, gentle way that he shared his philosophy of student development with me – from my earliest days as a faculty member right up to a long conversation the two of us shared this past fall on building a campus culture of personal responsibility.”

A native of Western Pennsylvania, he was a three-year letterman for Coach J. Owen Huntsman’s track and field team when he was an undergraduate at Wabash. He was an English major and member of Sigma Chi.

After teaching and coaching at Southmoreland High School in Western Pennsylvania, Bambrey

earned his master’s degree and Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Denver (DU). He taught English lit and was an administrator at DU from 1976 through 1992, and from 1989 through 1992 he was Dean of Student Life and Director of the Honors Program.

He left DU in 1993 to become Dean of Student Life and Co-Curricular Education at St. Lawrence University in New York, where he worked until Wabash President Andy Ford convinced him to return home as Dean of Students in 1997.

Bambrey served as an even-handed Dean and educator for 11 years and helped oversee the construction and renovation of most fraternity chapter houses and a massive investment in the College’s athletic facilities. As Dean, his responsibilities included residence life, athletics, and career services. He hired Mike Raters '85 as Associate Dean, and together they ushered in an era of “fun” in working with students.

Prior to his arrival, most head coaches in athletics had secondary responsibilities in another sport. Recognizing the recruiting advantages, he professionalized and expanded the athletics program. He was integral in the hiring of some of the most successful coaches in Wabash history, including Chris Creighton and Erik Raeburn in football, Brian Anderson in wrestling, Roger Busch in cross country, and Clyde Morgan in track and field. Those coaches helped Wabash become a regular in the NCAA football playoffs, a top-10 national wrestling program, a perennial con-



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Dr. Thomas E. Bambrey '68 served as both Dean of Students and Director of Athletics at Wabash.

ference track and field champion, and never-before achieved levels of individual national championship success. He also oversaw construction of state-of-the-art baseball and soccer stadiums with Goodrich Ballpark and Fischer Field.

He stepped down as Dean of Students in 2008 and President Patrick White appointed him Director of Athletics. Under his leadership, the department experienced unprecedented levels of success in all sports, though as a former runner, he was particularly proud of national champion distance runners Kevin McCarthy '12 and Jake Waterman '13.

“Much of the credit for the current success of our athletics program, both on the field and in the classroom, can be traced to the staff Tom hired as dean of students and his subsequent leadership of that staff as athletics director,” Mike Raters said at Bambrey’s retirement in 2011.

President White added, “At his heart Tom is a teacher, and he has taught all of us what it means to be Wabash... Tom has been to me a most valuable coach and teacher of Wabash, and I will always be grateful for his guidance and friendship.”

Friends can send notes of sympathy to Roselie Bambrey at 3 Bridge Hampton Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Dr. Thomas E. Bambrey was a three-year letterman for Coach J. Owen Huntsman’s track and field team when he was an undergraduate at Wabash. He was an English major and member of Sigma Chi. Later, served his alma mater as Dean of Students and Director of Athletics from 1997 through 2011.

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INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



Senior spotlight: Unashamedly himself, Luis Rivera



COURTESY OF LUIS RIVERA '25

Luis Rivera '25 has solidified himself as an icon of the campus community, and a staunch voice for marginalized communities.

BRYCE KINNAMAN '27
FEATURES EDITOR

Luis Rivera '25 is no stranger to being a part of something bigger than himself. The psychology major from North Carolina has continued to impact Wabash's campus since his arrival, and not in ways that are always immediately visible.

"I think I have tried to live my life in a way where I can encourage a campus culture of open mindedness. I think it is important that we are not complacent as a student body and we are critical of our own definition of brotherhood, one which includes all different types of men," said Rivera.

Rivera embodies the mentality that Wabash is an "and" school. Currently Rivera serves as the president of Psi Chi (the Psychology Honors Society), Academic Policy committee chair, Senior Fellow for Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse lead speech tutor for the Rhetoric Department, Board Intern at Humans United for Equality, member of the Sphinx Club, Malcom X Institute of Black Studies, La Alianza and Lambda Chi Alpha, all while majoring in Psychology and minoring in both black and gender studies. Previously, Rivera served as President of Lambda Chi Alpha, 'shOUT, and held various roles in Student Senate.

"Part of it is in my nature," Rivera said while detailing his involvement. "I am not going to find the great connections that I have while staying in my room. I never thought I would become so connected and ingrained into the Wabash culture, but meeting amazing people and feeling the sense of community is something I love, especially when

I go back home and walk on NC State's campus and feel the absence of it."

Regardless of the impressive resume, Rivera's influence can be felt in every corner of the classroom.

"Academically, Luis is one of the best students we have had in years," said Robert Horton, Rivera's Capstone Advisor. "He sets the bar high for other students and even for us faculty in terms of atmosphere, he is such a positive, uplifting and humble person. While he is self-confident; he knows the limitations of his knowledge and asks some of the most interesting questions."

After graduation, Rivera is attending Duke University – The Fuqua School of Business to pursue a Master of Management Studies (MMS). Rivera wants to eventually obtain an MBA and is considering a career in consulting for DEI firms or working in higher level management for non-profit organizations focused on supporting LGBTQ+ people.

"Whether it is working for social justice or supporting marginalized communities more broadly, I just want to work where I can make peo-



COURTESY OF LUIS RIVERA '25

Luis Rivera '25 (left) sits with fellow 'shOUT members Hawk Ricketts '23 (middle) and Zachariah Alvarado '24 (right) in their clubroom.

ple feel valued," said Rivera.

Rivera is nothing short of a trailblazer. As a person of color, a gay man and an out of state student, there are countless decisions and judgements made every day that could rightfully frustrate the senior; nevertheless, Rivera still walks with his head high and flashes his iconic smile to all Wabash men and faculty. Not everyone can say they have been a fraternity president and a torch bearer for diversity and inclusion on top of being an exemplary student.

Pilgrimage to Rome leaves lasting impression on group of Wabash juniors

TY MURPHY '27
FEATURES EDITOR

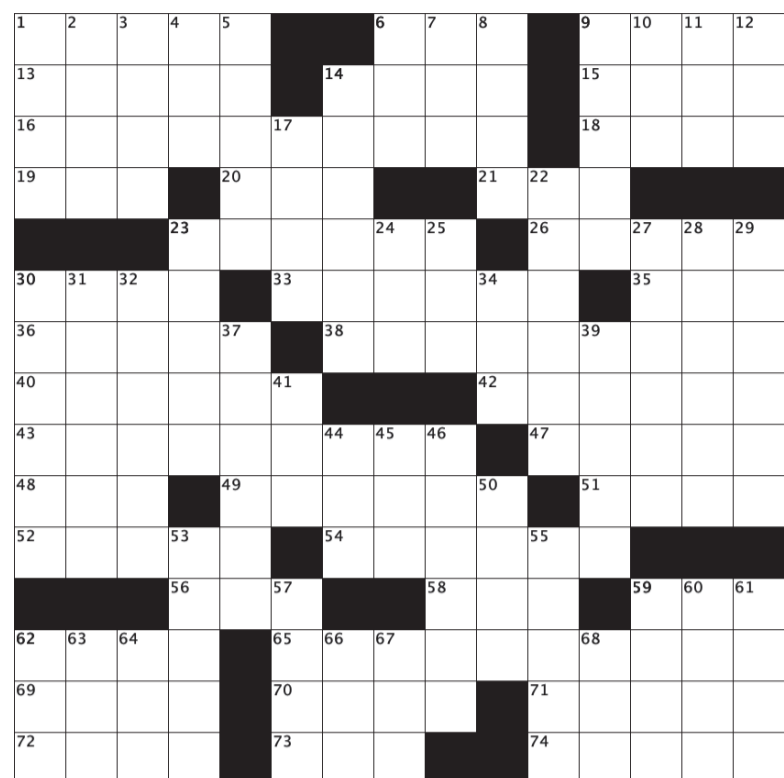
Going out of the country is no foreign concept to the typical Wabash student. Throughout their four-year journey, most students will be presented with the opportunity to take a class with immersion experience. These classes can include opportunities such as walking 100 - miles of the Camino de Santiago in Spain, studying ancient and classical architecture in Greece or even a deep dive into public health in Peru. Most students will find these opportunities in the classroom; however, four Wabash juniors had unique experience in finding this opportunity somewhere a little more impactful to them. These juniors of the Newman Catholic Center found the chance to further develop their faith with a trip to Rome, Italy. But it was not offered to just anyone.

"Part of who got to go was through an interview process, and you're interviewed by someone from St. Bernard [in Crawfordsville], the chaplain of the Newman Center and someone from the Newman Center," said Sammy Saunders '26, one of the five students that earned the opportunity. "And essentially two years of service, and that could be something like religious education. I teach high school religious education, and we volunteer at church and more stuff like that. Then there's other small mandatory requirements, such as doing 30 minutes of prayer a day."

Saunders was accompanied by fellow students Preston Art '26, John Schnerre '26, Dominic Litchfield '26 and Evan Dickey '26, as well as the head of the Newman Center, Father Michael Bower. In Rome, they sought to further educate themselves in the Catho-

Across

- Ski machines
- Card that may be "in the hole"
- Famous tower feature
- "Canadian ____" ("Weird Al" Yankovic parody of a Green Day song)
- Dressed (in)
- Like the stepsisters in "Cinderella"
- *Worthless
- Try to tempt
- Freddy Krueger's street
- Gift given while saying "Aloha!"
- Org. targeted by GOP budget proposals
- Had a feeling
- German steel city
- Mom's mom
- Take down a peg
- Chinese "way"
- Took it from the top
- *Talisman
- Semiprecious stones
- "Burnt" Crayola color
- *Popular children's book
- Lollygagged
- "And how!"
- "Got a brand new house in ____" (John Mellencamp lyric)
- Tie recipients, often
- Nose-in-the-air types
- View from Jackson Hole
- 24-hr. cash source
- Tick off
- Sass
- Bounce back
- What one might get off to... or what might be helpful in answering the starred clues
- One of two diametric forces of the universe
- Campus list keeper
- Shell fare
- Big Pharma's output
- Bugling beast
- Lose one's balance?



Down

- "To ____!" ("L'chaim!")
- Rocker Billy
- Mattress option
- 143 stone, roughly
- Priest's scarf
- Lord of the ring
- A dance, when doubled
- Barely beat, with "out"
- Vader's creator
- SNL cast member Nwodim
- Like
- Daughter of Chaos
- Tool with a bezel
- Do a tavern job
- Mini golf need?
- Surname for Pitt or Jolie, in 2005 film
- This does not fly!
- Yule mo.
- Couplet, triplet or quatrain
- Brought home
- Many Maasai and Samburu, e.g.
- Baby ____ (small pianos)
- Corn Belt or Rust Belt
- Slower than andante
- Some assault rifles
- Dislike with a passion
- Flip side?
- Green iPhone texts: Abbr.
- LGBT History Mo.
- Mined find
- Vague conception
- Boggle find
- Bocce equipment
- Branch headquarters?
- Placed, as a bet
- "Arsenic and Old ____"
- It may be pumped
- Affliction for some vets
- Hesitate in speaking
- Apple eater
- Relief
- Hair holder
- Mature acorn
- Take advantage of

Scan for
solution!



COURTESY OF SAMMY SAUNDERS '26

Father Bower, Preston Art '26, Sammy Saunders '26, John Schnerre '26, Dominic Litchfield '26 and Evan Dickey '26 (left to right) stand in front of Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome.

lic faith and visited several of the historical monuments within the ancient city.

"I kept note of every church, crypt and chapel that we went to, and my final list held 46," said Schnerre. "46 churches in only eight full days. The sheer magnitude of the churches was incredible. Almost every church held the final resting place of a saint, with many of them being household names in my family while I grew up."

While being a highlight of the trip, it was more than just famous churches the group experienced in Rome.

"Essentially, we were pilgrims traveling, learning about a bunch of history, seeing a bunch of different things, but also attending daily Mass and prayer," said Saunders. "And it was fully in Latin and Italian which was pretty cool to experience. A lot of sightseeing, but mainly staying on the path of Catholicism sightseeing, because there's a lot to see there."

The trip was full of special moments as students were able to relate what they were seeing in real life to their faith. Students connected monumental parts of their life with what they experienced in Rome.

"As an adult in Catholicism, you get a confirmation saying, and my confirmation saying is Saint Sebastian, patron saint of athletes," said Saunders. "We went to the basilica and church of Saint Sebastian. He's a very easy Catholic saint to learn about and dive into, because he represents a lot of good masculinity, which is what he's associated with. So that's why a lot of people, me included, choose him as their patron saint. I chose him because I'm also an athlete, and thought his story was very cool. It's a very full circle moment seeing his remains, and we actually had a service at an altar underneath him and his Basilica."

The trip was a once in a lifetime



COURTESY OF SAMMY SAUNDERS '26

Dominic Litchfield '26 (right), Sammy Saunders '26 (right) and Father Bower (middle) stand on the steps of the Basilica of Santa Maria in Aracoeli, Rome.

opportunity that they will relive in their minds, but they didn't just leave with memories. The group returned to Crawfordsville with a rejuvenated sense of excitement in their faith.

"This trip was incredibly impactful," said Dickey. "I spent a lot of time with my brothers and, as Wabash men do, we engaged in great discussions and powerful experiences together. During this trip, we broke bread together, walked together, prayed together, participated in Mass together and grew closer to God together. Brotherhood is not only beneficial to the mind but also to the soul. The trip was filled with many fulfilling experiences that I will never forget. Of course, the beautiful sites will remain in my memory, but, more importantly, the bonds I strengthened with my brothers and Christ during this trip will remain with me even after this life is over."

At the conclusion of the immersion trip, the juniors were thankful for the opportunity to be part of an impactful trip. An experience that

will not be forgotten, and it all came from outside the classroom.

"The Newman Center has been a great bastion of faith during my time here at Wabash," said Schnerre. "It makes it easier for me to not only practice my faith, but to grow in it as well. Whether it is weekly Mass, rosaries or discussion, the Newman Center is one of the best ways I have found to participate in the faith here on campus. I have loved holding a position at the Newman Center and building a bond with all of the guys in the Club."

When they returned to class and shared their experiences with peers, students were reminded about the opportunities to travel outside the countries. But they also learned that it was not just the classroom where they can find these special opportunities.

The students become the teachers

25th annual Celebration of Student Research showcases student excellence



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

The Wabash community celebrated students' work last Friday, January 24, 2025, during the 25th annual Celebration of Student Research. Alumni keynote speakers began the day with multiple lunch time addresses, and the student presenters – like Garrett Dalton '26, pictured above with Colton Cooper '28 – took over in the afternoon oral and poster presentations, educating their fellow students, professors and other guests on the particularities of their research. "This 25-year campus tradition celebrates not only the particular achievements of individual students, but also a deeply embedded ethos of the College," said Celebration Co-Chairman and Professor of Chemistry Lon Porter.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

"Presenting a poster was a rewarding experience," said Matt Lepper '25, pictured above. "Professors and students from a breadth of disciplines asked meaningful questions, encapsulating the experiences that a liberal arts education can elicit."

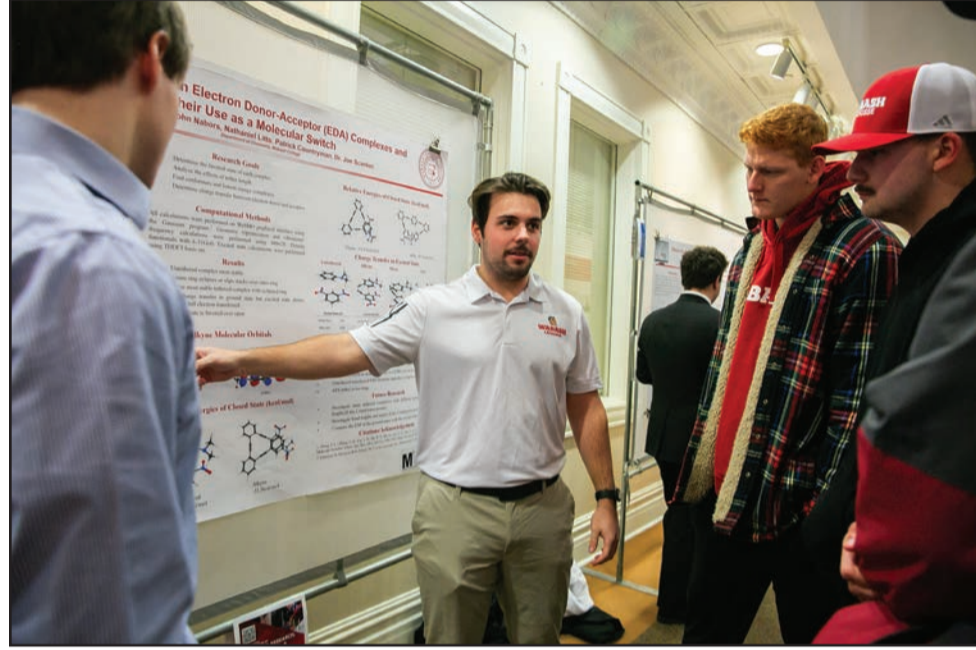


PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

The faculty voted to cancel afternoon classes, a rare occurrence on campus, so that students could attend the Celebration unencumbered by other obligations. Here, Owen Hauber '25 expounds on a part of his group research project, sharing insights with Jake Oostman '25 and Sam Santiago '26.

Must-watch movies of 2024

A top ten of the greatest films from the past year

Ben Wallace '25
STAFF WRITER

January is often considered a dry month for movies, with few new releases hitting theaters. However, that makes it the perfect time to catch up on films you might've missed from the past year. To help, I've compiled a list of the ten must-watch movies from 2024.

Of course, there are still some highly praised films I haven't had the chance to see yet, so take this list with a grain of salt. Additionally, there are some great movies that narrowly missed my top ten, such as "Gladiator II," "The Wild Robot" and "Longlegs".

10. "Wicked": A spectacular musical that dominated the cultural zeitgeist in 2024. While it may not appeal to everyone, there's no denying the lasting impact of this film. With its sequel set to release next year, the buzz surrounding "Wicked" isn't fading anytime soon. Its cultural significance alone earns it a well-deserved spot in the top ten.

9. "Twisters": An action-packed summer blockbuster with arguably the best soundtrack of the year, featuring Tyler Childers and Luke Combs. Glen Powell and Daisy Edgar-Jones shine in standout performances, solidifying their rising star status. A perfect blend of thrills and heart, "Twisters" is the quintessential must-watch summer blockbuster.



COURTESY OF EBAY

8. "Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl": The 20-year wait for a new Wallace & Gromit film paid off. Fast-paced and thrilling, it felt like an ani-

mated "Mission: Impossible". Feathers McGraw's return as the villain was a highlight, delivering both laughs and suspense. A perfect blend of action and humor, this was a triumphant return for a classic duo.

7. "Juror #2": A gripping courtroom drama that delves into moral dilemmas. From the start, you're immersed in an intense mystery, following Justin Kemp as the case unfolds. His journey is both captivating and thought-provoking, as you experience the weight of his decisions. "Juror #2" skillfully balances tension with character depth, making it a stand-out of 2024.

6. "Conclave": A tense exploration of the process of electing a new Pope after the previous one's death. Though dialogue-driven, the film is fast-paced and engaging. Set in the stunning Sistine Chapel, it's visually breathtaking, and the compelling narrative culminates in an unexpected twist, solidifying its place as one of the year's best.



COURTESY OF THE MOVIE DATA BASE

5. "The Substance": Easily the weirdest movie of the year, it is a visual feast of distorted and unsettling imagery. It follows a washed-up actress who seeks to reclaim her youth through a chemical serum, leading to a surreal and gruesome finale. While not for everyone, its bold originality and grotesqueness make it a well-deserved top five pick.

4. "Nosferatu": The best horror movie of the year, "Nosferatu" delivers on every level. With stunning visuals and pitch-perfect performances, this reimagining of the classic tale is both haunting and mesmerizing. "Nosferatu" stands out as a true triumph in modern horror.

3. "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga": A prequel to 2015's "Mad Max: Fury Road," this film is pure adrenaline. Director George Miller once said that dialogue slows things down, and Furiosa takes that philosophy to heart. Short on words but packed with relentless action, it's two-and-a-half hours of sheer chaos and spectacle. If you're an action fan, this one's a no-brainer. "Furiosa" is straight-up beast mode from start to finish.

2. "Challengers": A groundbreaking tennis romance that redefines the genre. The genius camera work takes you inside the tennis ball as Art and Patrick battle for match point. The techno-inspired score adds an electric energy, perfectly fitting the film. "Challengers" tells a compelling story and inspired me to dive deeper into tennis. It's a must-watch and my second favorite of the year.

1. "Dune: Part Two": Of course, this masterpiece takes the top spot. "Dune: Part Two" will be remembered as the defining film of 2024, a cinematic achievement that will be discussed for decades. Every frame is art, from breathtaking visuals to intricate storytelling. If you haven't seen it yet, it should be at the top of your watchlist. A monumental experience that defines the year in cinema.



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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.

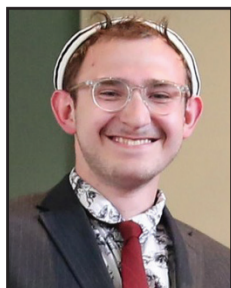
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Federal grant freeze spells chaos



James Szalkie '25

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Trump's midnight executive order freezing all federal aid has resulted in mass confusion among many government agencies. This order, signed overnight, behind closed doors, was summarized in a two page memo sent out Monday night. This is an order which sought to directly freeze hundreds of billions of dollars of the American economy. The extent of this order's intent is unknown, sending Washington, and the entire country, into a silent but steadily increasing panic. Following a judge's blocking, the executive order was rescinded. But this will not be the end of these efforts, nor does it remedy the chaos this order has caused.

If you have a research position funded by National Science Foundation (NSF), or National Institute of Health (NIH), this could affect you. If you know anyone who works for or is supported by a national nonprofit, this could affect you. Foreign aid was put on hold to dozens of countries around the world for the duration of the order. Nonprofits who receive federal grants such as Meals on Wheels scrambled to understand their fate and the future of their operations. Universities across America remain unsure of how this will impact their institutions.

But the truth is, we do not yet know the extent of what the order hoped to accomplish, because there is so little to go off of in terms of its true purpose and direction. While direct assistance such as Medicare, food stamps, rental assistance and a few others remained accessible throughout the scare, that does not mean that they were exempt

from scrutiny or disruption. Following the immediate order, the Medicaid reimbursement portal for hospitals was unresponsive, but has since been brought back online. Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) portals also faced a similar closure under the uncertainty, which have since been brought back online. A direct result of the chaos from this order.

Here is why this is concerning. This sets a very dangerous precedent going forward concerning federal spending and the way our government allocates our public resources. Regardless of your stance on federal spending, what we need to understand is the difference between pruning back, or hacking off entire limbs from the federal tree, with no regard for where they land. Limbs that millions of Americans currently rely on. And one man should not be able to freeze the movement of hundreds of billions of dollars overnight, including money already allocated by Congress. This was unprecedented, and quite possibly illegal, as it violated the Impoundment Control Act. This was an attempt at a glaring violation of the process of due law, and should spark many alarms across Washington.

This is a symptom of a larger threat that is beginning to arise. Between this order, and the federal 'buyout' initiative being rolled out, it is clear the attitude that this administration is taking in their transition: this is a hostile takeover, seen as one business being absorbed into another. If that is the case, who is the market, and who is the product? This is not how America is meant to be run. While the order was blocked and ultimately rescinded, it is important to look at what may have been affected. Reach out to your representative's offices in DC, and explain how important these programs are to your community if they are something you care about, and urge them to defend them on your behalf.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

KEEP RUSTY!

Hi-five to DePauw Basketball Coach Rusty for his fearless leadership. Times may be tough right now, but just know that Wallies everywhere are rooting for him to get a fat contract extension

THE SCRIPT DOESN'T LIE

Hi-five to the Kansas City Chiefs for winning another Superbowl. We're excited to hear about the star-studded wedding this summer!

SUGAR AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING (NOT) NICE

Lo-five to Skyline Chili for announcing an ice cream combining chili spice and oyster crackers. This is why ethics courses should be mandatory curriculum.

TAKE IT TO THE CLASSIFIEDS

Lo-five to Donald Trump for flooding our inbox with almost 40 executive orders within his first two weeks. He would fit in well in the campus listserv, although we think he wouldn't respond well to a "classifieds."

THE BERLIN WALL

Lo-five to campus construction workers for continually restricting student movement with their oppressive chainlink fences. Ask Mikhail Gorbachev, it won't stop us.

The good, the bad and the algorithm



Jacob Ramirez '25

Reply to this opinion at
jdr Ramirez25@wabash.edu

If you were to ask someone 10 years ago if they'd give up TikTok for a day, they'd question what such a name even meant. Nowadays, the deep-rooted grip TikTok and other forms of social media holds on us is truly astounding. While I've been thankful to avoid being drawn into the app, to say I don't use social media in the form of Instagram and others would be a blatant lie, a sentiment a vast majority of Wabash men would agree with. Such use has brought many positive features I've become appreciative of.

While I without a doubt have that "algorithm" of memes here and there to distract me from time to time, I've come to use social media as a source of knowledge to expand upon my interest. I immerse myself in content where accredited individuals use social media to offer their share of experiences on matters I find interesting, such as the field of

healthcare, allowing me to stay up to date on imperative news regarding the health industry. What I learn in the classroom I'm able to quickly see on social media and form connections to expand my learning opportunities, a unique bridge that I see as the net positive for social media.

Now, that's not to say social media is a fine tool utilized solely for the intent of educational opportunities. When I see my 11-year-old cousin spending hours on social media and viewing questionable content for someone of her age, I quickly question how and why kids at such a young age are even able to access such content and see why certain aspects of social media would want to be regulated. That net negative of allowing children to be exposed to vast unfiltered content should leave all parents questioning regulation of social media.

As college students, I understand taking a few minutes to doom scroll to catch a breather from homework, but if you're relentlessly feeding yourself hours of brainrot for that dopamine release, go touch some grass. Eventually, social media will become a wider topic down the road given technological advancements such as AI, and such conversations will take on more difficult stances. Until then, just be cognizant of which brick you want to lay on the social media you consume.

Clarification for 1/24 issue

The 1/24 issue of *The Bachelor* included a caption that read "Vinny Buccilla '25 dribbles in the paint while Noah Hupmann '25 prepares to set a screen while playing against Kenyon on January 18, 2025, at Chadwick Court. Both athletes already have an NIL agreement with Scarlet Banners Collective LLC."

Buccilla and Hupmann have not entered into a formal NIL agreement but have held discussions about entering a future agreement.

Wally's wall: Social media

The Prompt:

Is social media a net negative or positive on our lives? When should media be regulated?

Walter Campbell '25

I believe that our generation will approach social media like our grandparent's generation did with cigarettes. We will tell our kids it's dangerous, go outside and stay off your damn phone, all the while puffing away at that sweet scrolling dopamine. Like cigarettes, society might shift away from social media as we see our peers slowly killed by it. Social media is still a really new part of our society, occupying critical positions in our daily life. While it has plenty of negatives, unplugging is easier said than done.

Nicholas Green '27

Social media is a net positive on society. The connections and communities made on these platforms have greatly enriched the lives of people that would've never met otherwise. Not all good obviously, but positive when taken in aggregate.

Elijah Wetzel '27

I believe it has had a net negative effect on our lives. It may feed us more information, but it has dulled our willingness to connect in-person and dig beneath quick snippets of content. I don't believe the content of speech on social media should be highly regulated, but companies should have to prove that their models properly mitigate the legion of health and safety risks associated with social media use, especially for kids.

Freedom of speech, but at what cost?



Seth Acero '25

Reply to this opinion at sacero25@wabash.edu

While checking the news this morning, I was surprised at two similar events in Australia and the United States. Last Saturday, a white supremacist group named Patriot Front marched at our nation's capital, advocating for the country's "return" to being a country for those of "original European descent," meaning those of White Anglo-Saxon Protestant blood. In Australia, the group National Socialism Network (NSN), another white supremacy group tied to Neo-Nazis, held a march in Adelaide advocating for a "white-only" Australia, claiming that multiculturalism was a threat to their country.

The difference? Australian police immediately arrested NSN, and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned the action, claiming there was "no place for this hateful ideology in Australia." Patriot Front, however, was allowed to march on in D.C. with police protection and no condemnation from Donald Trump.

Some would claim that the Patriot Front was protected by the First Amendment and their freedom of speech, which mirrors a new effort by the President to allow for less restrictions on people's first amendment. Still, I disagree, for what they advocate calls for the subordination of about 80% of the population as second-class citizens. Protecting this ideology calls for a serious re-examination of what freedom of speech means.

We know it is within our constitutional right to speak our minds and express our thoughts openly. Still, we are all well aware that the First Amendment does not protect any freedom of speech meant to infringe on the population's well-being. Usually, this is attributed to those who tend to immediately cause a riot or panic, such as the analogy "shouting fire in a crowded theater." Never has this been used for ideas that rely on acts of violence to take shape.

But how does this relate to the Patriot Front? After all, they covered their mouths with neck gators and walked around the capital without speaking about their mission, only handing out flyers to those watching around them. It relates to the underlying meaning of their intentions. To make America for the "original European descendants," like Patriot Front wants, it would require reverting the country to Pre-Civil Rights, and possibly even before the emancipation of the slaves.

This would mean that millions of Americans would be subordinated to second-class citizens, exploited, expropriated, or, at the very worst, lynched and massacred for their existence. In essence, what they advocated for, regardless of whether it was by pamphlets or spoken, is a danger to the existence of those from non-European backgrounds or to those with mixed-race blood, such as me and many others on this campus.

Here, the idea of free speech needs to be critically re-examined. Does free speech look like what Donald Trump says it should, where all speech regardless of intention or what it stands for should be allowed without censorship, or does it look controlled so as not to allow those who seek to infringe on the general public with their cause?

I believe it looks like the latter. After all, America is no longer a country with just one major ethnicity or culture. It is a melting pot, stirring with multiculturalism and people who seek our freedoms to live their lives. As we become a more open, inclusive nation, freedom of expression must be allowed as long as it doesn't threaten the well-being of an entire population. This doesn't just pertain to white supremacists; it pertains to those who seek to make America exclusive to any group, whether it be ethnic, religious or economic class.

Thus, if we are to become the shining light of democracy in the world, the government needs to condemn and control those who seek to oppress others, and it starts with the re-evaluation of what speech looks like. It is not an easy task and will require the willingness and full effort of the people and our lawmakers to uphold this promise.

Even so, America is no stranger to hard times, and we are strong enough to keep pushing forward to make our country more inclusive of those who seek to be free no matter what.

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What to expect for the "Big Four" Grammy Awards



Jacob White '25

Reply to this opinion at jewhite25@wabash.edu

by the duo of Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga. I think this is really close, so I will defer to Polymarket, which has "Birds of a Feather" as an overwhelming favorite to win this award, with a 55% implied probability, far above the runner up "Not Like Us," which I think has almost no chance at winning this award, due to it not fitting the category criteria well. However, my pick is "Good Luck, Babe" by Chappell Roan, which is a touching song that highlights the consequences of living a lie, something we can all relate to in one way or another. Chappell's vocals are also on point, and her emotion is felt throughout, making it an easy personal selection for this award.

My prediction: Birds of a Feather
My pick: Good Luck, Babe

Album of the Year is probably the hardest category I truly believe that all of Short n' Sweet, Hit Me Hard and Soft, The Tortured Poets Department, BRAT, The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess are deserving of this award. However, I don't think Swift's Tortured Poets Department wins as it doesn't stack up to her albums that previously won this award and you can also probably eliminate Chappell Roan's The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess as it produces just a few hits and doesn't quite match up as a collective to the top nominees of this category. You can likely rule out Beyoncé's Cowboy Carter, as it didn't generate as much mainstream momentum outside of its lead single, "Texas Hold'em." While I think it's the best, I also don't expect the committee to give it to Sabrina Carpenter's Short n' Sweet since she already is most likely being awarded Record of the Year and she seems to be known more for her big hits on the album rather than the album itself. That leaves it a 1v1 between

Hit Me Hard and Soft and BRAT. I think Charli XCX's BRAT is unique and has some good hits, but the album as a whole does not match up to Billie Eilish's absolutely breathtaking Hit Me Hard and Soft, and I think the academy will agree.

My prediction: Hit Me Hard and Soft
My pick: Short n' Sweet

Best New Artist, while having eight nominees, is clearly a two-woman race between Sabrina Carpenter and Chappell Roan. Both women have a strong argument for winning this award, but I would be surprised if it isn't awarded to Roan. Her rise to stardom is truly a one-in-a-million story, as Roan climbed from a relative unknown to a national pop star whose hits are played in arenas already in less than a year's time. The Midwest Princess wins this award, both in theory and in my opinion.

My prediction: Chappell Roan
My pick: Chappell Roan



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Sabrina Carpenter's 2024 "Short n' Sweet" was her Platinum-certified album. Carpenter is nominated for eight categories at the Grammys.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Chappell Roan debuted in 2017 with "School Nights," before gaining significant traction with 2023's "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess." Roan is nominated for six categories at the Grammys.

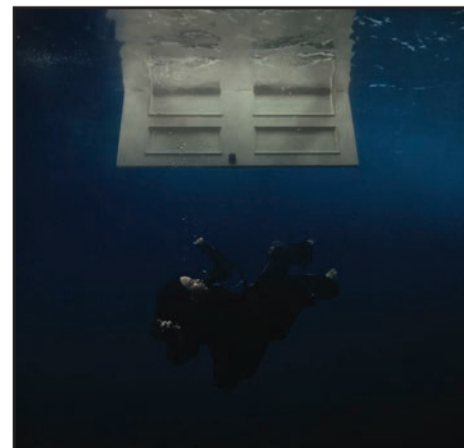


PHOTO PROVIDED BY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Billie Eilish's 2024 "Hit Me Hard and Soft" was followed by an individual release of "Birds of a Feather." Eilish is nominated for seven categories at the Grammys.



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '27

Colin Krekeler '27 practices his stick skills in a spring practice. The practice, held on January 28, 2025, at Fischer Field was part of the Little Giants' preseason preparation.

Tougher team, tougher schedule

Lacrosse levels up strength of schedule ahead of the 2025 season

ELIJAH GREENE '25
PHOTO EDITOR

Over the past four years, Wabash lacrosse has had a lot to prove; taking a program that had only five wins and a singular conference win in 2019 to a competitive program in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) was never going to be easy. But now, in Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke's fifth year at the reins, the Little Giants have proven that they are more than worthy to stand among the varsity sports at Wabash as a legitimate, competitive program. Posting a .500 win record for the first time in school history in 2024, the team will look to improve on their past performance and continue to push their boundaries by playing ever tougher competition in 2025, especially in their preseason matchups.

"This year, we bumped the strength of schedule up a bunch," said Burke. "We're playing four or five of the top seven teams in our region. Just to finish 8-8, we have to beat four teams we've never beaten before. So the pressure's on."

The Little Giants have swapped surefire wins against Alma College and Anderson University for games against the likes of Ohio Northern University and Illinois Wesleyan University as a part of their early spring schedule. These two new additions will help forge Wabash in the crucible of stiff competition before they start their NCAC gauntlet of Kenyon, Denison and Ohio Wesleyan later in the season.

"This schedule definitely shows that we're moving up in the world," said Quinn Fitzgerald '26. "We're ready to move past those games because we just don't think that we're going to get as much out of them as we are going to get out of playing teams like Ohio Northern and Illinois Wesleyan, who are far more talented. I think against teams like that, we're going to really find out who we are before we head into our conference schedule."

And it's not just the schedule leveling up, either. Even in Division III, winning seems to cure a myriad of issues, including recruiting. In the last two years, Burke and his coaching staff managed to land significantly larger recruiting classes, both of which contained some of the top talent in Indiana. With high school All-Americans like Will Sorg '27, Charlie Rafalko '28 and Quinn Shefferly '27 on the roster, the in-practice competition has never been stronger.

"We had a really great fall ball—by far the best fall ball that I've been a part of since I've been here," said Fitzgerald. "I think that the tone of this locker room is much different than it has been in years past. Everybody seems to be a lot more bought in, and the level of competition is so much higher. These freshmen are coming in, and they're fitting in right away. A lot of them are going to be rewarded by making a big impact on the field for us this year."

Along with a hungry cohort of young talent, this Little Giants squad is grounded in upperclassmen leadership. With four remaining seniors from before Burke's tenure as head coach, this quartet has been showcasing to the underclassmen just how much work it has been to get to this point as a team, as well as the opportunities available to them this season.

"We've always taught that anybody can be a leader on this team," said Burke. "That's been at the forefront of our culture. But a huge part of this is the experience that the older guys bring to the table. These young guys might be talented, but they still haven't seen that level of play. I think we're doing a decent job of creating an environment where those two things can mix and really push this thing forward."

"I feel like coming in with experience of every stage that this program has been in so far is pretty crucial to help the young guys on this team realize what they have now and where we're coming from," said Luka DiFilippo '25. "The experience of turning this program around helps me set myself apart as a leader; but not only me, it helps the younger guys look up to all of the older guys. They look to us as 'the guys that came before us who built this program to where it is, and now we're reaping all the benefits. Let's make the most of it.'"

The Little Giants will look to open their season strong in Liberty, Missouri where they will play exhibition matches against both William Jewell College and William Penn University on February 1. A Division II and an NAIA team, respectively, coming home with two wins may not be on the table for the Little Giants. But battle-testing the youngsters and solidifying the team's identity against quality opponents could be worth more than two notches in the win column down the stretch.

Volleyball starts 2-0 at home

NATE JOVEN '26
STAFF WRITER

One of the hardest parts of being a new program is building a strong home environment with a new fanbase. However the Little Giants volleyball have come a long way over the past four seasons, and now starting to bring the energy to their home court.

The team opened their 2025 season with a pair of victories in front of fans at Chadwick Court on Saturday, January 25 with matches against Indiana University East and Goshen College.

Wabash dominated against IU East, outperforming the Red Wolves on all fronts. As a team, the Little Giants recorded more kills, aces, blocks, assists and digs than their opponents. Wabash defeated IU East three sets to one.

That momentum carried into their next match, which saw Wabash winning the first set over the Maple Leafs of Goshen. Against the formidable opponents, however, the Little Giants fell in the second set. After winning the third set 25 points to Goshen's 21, the excitement in the gym began to rise.

The fourth set developed into a slugfest between two near-evenly matched teams. But when the dust settled, Wabash came out on top, winning 25 to 23. In their second match of the day, the Little Giants delivered their most memorable home opener to date.

Outside hitter Zev Wolverton '27 performed impressively, confirming 20 kills across the four sets.

"I just got in the zone. They switched out one of their starters, matching me up against a smaller blocker," said Wolverton, "Our plan was to feed our outsides, and capitalize on that switch."

In addition to Wolverton's strong attacks at the net, freshman libero Piotr Wolan '28 found success in the back row.

"Coming out as a freshman, I was nervous but I had a really good time," said Wolan, "My favorite moment was making the audience happy."

The Wabash volleyball team improved tremendously last season, yet have continued to improve. Their offseason has been characterized with recruiting strong players and developing the existing team.

"During the offseason, aside from technique training, our primary goal was to accli-

mate our freshman class to the speed of the game, introduce team drills, implement a vigorous strength program and build a strong connection between the setter and attackers," said Head Volleyball Coach Ashaun Baker, who is entering his second year with the program, "In my first year as head coach, I've found that creating meaningful relationships with athletes is vital to achieve consistent success. Whether it's me asking how they are when we circle up before practice or an hour-long meeting (sometimes six hours), I need those interactions to understand how they operate and help them reach their goals."

This year, the volleyball team has added eight new players, doubling the size of the team.

"I'm thankful for all of our new volleyball Little Giants," said Baker, "The freshman class has already exceeded my expectations. They are competitive and caring teammates, and most importantly, they are students of the game."

The addition of these young players provides an opportunity for leadership from the upperclassmen. The two seniors on the team are Will Beikes '25 and Jackson Leeper '25, both are four-year starters.

"Will and Jackson set a high standard for what senior leadership characteristics should look like on our team," said Baker. "They are natural leaders who understand the long-term vision and mission for what we are building."

Built upon the foundation from last season, the Little Giants are set to reach for even greater heights in the season ahead. In their pursuit of the conference tournament, the team will focus on controlling the ball on their side of the court.

"Regardless of the outcome on the scoreboard, we want to be a consistently great serving, passing and blocking team," said Baker. "These goals, along with converting more out-of-system balls, will allow us to remain competitive as we face the toughest schedule in Wabash volleyball history."

In their next outing, volleyball will scrimmage the Butler University club team on January 30th before travelling to Wilberforce Ohio to face the Central State Marauders. On February 1st, the Little Giants will return to Chadwick to play the Pointers of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

On the grind - Little Giants tackle goals at Rose-Hulman



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Will Neubauer '25 and David Adesanya '27 finished in first and second place, respectively in the 800-meter race at the "Friday Night Spikes" meet held at Rose-Hulman Institute for Technology on Saturday, January 25, 2025.

ETHAN COOK '28
STAFF WRITER

Not every week is about breaking records. At the beginning of the season, the Little Giants' focus is on progression and staying on schedule. On Friday, January 24, they traveled to Rose-Hulman for the "Friday Night Spikes" meet with this objective in mind.

While the team put in an impressive performance, placing second out of eight teams, team success was not the name of the game for the Little Giants. Rather, the focus of this meet was to ensure that each participant was on pace to reach their goals for the season while staying healthy.

"The first couple of weeks of the season we really focus on our training," said Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan. "We don't talk about score, winning or any of those things because the meet that we want to score the most points in is obviously our conference meeting."

The Little Giants will look to find a rhythm throughout the year and keep working to qualify for the conference meet. Less important meets, such as the Friday Night Spikes, are the perfect opportunity to gauge what guys are on their way to reaching their goals.

"They are grinding and working real hard," said Morgan. "Our practices have been positive and they have been working hard to get to know each other, which is crucial and is a big part of our culture and team success."

One runner who has had no trouble with finding a rhythm has been Carter Leininger '28 who has already qualified for conference in the 60 and 200 meter dashes respective-

ly. However, Leininger has loftier goals than just qualifying for conference.

"I am on track to achieve my goals for the season," said Leininger. "I want to break the outdoor 200 meter record and qualify for indoor and outdoor conference."

Leininger has had some impressive performances despite just getting started at Wabash - A testament to the efforts of Morgan.

"The transition to collegiate athletics has been smooth," said Leininger. "That is a direct reflection on how well Coach Morgan has set me up to succeed."

The season will require long-term dedication and high spirits for everyone involved. Each meet will provide an opportunity for increasing success.

"I will continue to show up everyday with a winning mentality," said Will Neubauer '25. "I look at the way I race throughout a season as an axe chopping wood, bit by bit."

Not every member of the team has had their desired start to the season. However, there is still plenty of time left in the season and a multitude of chances to bounce back.

"To continue to improve, I just need to show up everyday with positivity and good energy," said David Adesanya '27. "Even though I did not start the season the way I wanted, I still believe and will keep working everyday towards my goals."

Despite still being in the early months of 2025, the Little Giants have been having impressive performances both as a team, and as individuals. The work continues for them as they strive for improvement and work to accomplish the goals that they desire.

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Hot-shooting hospitality sends Dannies home disappointed

Little Giants beat Tigers ahead of "Championship week" matchups

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

A road trip to play in front of the Chadwick Court home crowd is a daunting task for any team – doubly so for the DePauw Tigers. In front of an energized Wabash crowd and absent DePauw crowd, Wabash basketball delivered their sixth-straight win over their rivals.

Gavin Shippert '26 was the hot hand for the Little Giants, sinking six out of 10 threes. Despite a slow start missing his first two threes badly, Shippert was the gap in DePauw's defense and stepped up to exploit the weakness. He knocked down four straight threes through the first half. He finished the game with a career-high 20 points.

"My freshman year, if I missed my first two, I probably would have just not shot the third one until maybe the second half," said Shippert. "But the other guys have confidence in me, so I let the next one rip. I hit four in a row after that. I think the definition of shooting a good shot is one your teammates would want you to shoot."

Shippert also energized the home crowd with a pair of hustle plays, by throwing the ball off DePauw players while in mid-air to save the possession.

"I have a long baseball background and I actually came here to play baseball and basketball," said Shippert. "Anytime I get to throw a fastball somewhere, I take a chance, especially at a Danny."

With blistering accuracy from beyond the arc, the team quickly stacked a 25-point lead on the visiting Tigers.

But with such a hot start, there was only one direction for the Little Giants to go – down. Wabash hit a rough patch of shooting through the end of the first half and beginning of the second. As the Tigers cut the lead to under 10 points, the Wabash team changed tactics, getting into the paint and rebuilding the lead.

It was Vinny Buccilla '25 and Josh Whack '26 who stepped up to keep Wabash on top. Scoring 20 and 16 points respectively, Buccilla and Whack continued their season-long dominance with acrobatic finishes against physical defense.

"That just goes to speak to who our team is," said Whack. "We never give up. We always fight. And that's what we did out there today. We keep attacking when things fall apart, stick to who we are and the game plan and everything will follow."

When the final buzzer sounded, Wabash led DePauw 84-65.

The Tigers collected more than one-third of their points from the charity stripe, where they shot 23



(Top) Gavin Shippert '26 dropped a career-high 20 points against DePauw on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at Chadwick Court. Shippert hit six threes and, alongside Vinny Buccilla '25 led the Little Giants to an 84-65 victory. (Bottom) The "Chadwick crazies" celebrate a made three by Shippert. Chadwick Court hosted 1,039 fans at the rivalry game.

PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

of 29. Little Giants went 6 of 9 from the line as they battled against their striped opponents.

The Little Giants finished the game with 53.3% shooting from the field, nearly 20 points ahead of the Tigers' 35.7% shooting.

Defensively, Wabash was led by the astronomical efforts of Noah Hupmann '25 who sent back five shots against DePauw as he extended his nationally-leading 67 blocks this season.

With the regular-season sweep

over the Tigers secured, the team will look forward to the first week of February – which many of the players have dubbed "Championship week."

"We just wanted to get tonight," said Buccilla. "We knew tonight was going to have a lot of motion going towards it. But now we have a huge win at home. We're just taking it one day at a time, and trusting in the process."

Wabash, now 9-1 in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC),

"Championship week" schedule



Wabash will face Denison on Wednesday, February 5



Wabash will face Wooster on Saturday, February 8

Recruiting is half the battle for Wabash swim

Q&A with Coach Will Bernhardt

HAIKEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
STAFF WRITER

With the NCAC Championships just two weeks away, it's the perfect time to reflect on how Head Swimming & Diving Coach Will Bernhardt has built the team he has. By combining in-state recruits with talent all across the country, Bernhardt has constructed a roster of competitive athletes who value a strong team culture.

This balanced recruiting approach has put the Little Giants in a place to challenge the two national-championship level teams in the conference- Kenyon and Denison. This week, *The Bachelor* caught up with Coach Bernhardt to learn how his recruiting process has led to the program's growth and consistency.

Q. On a standard level, what do you look for in prospective athletes when you're recruiting them?

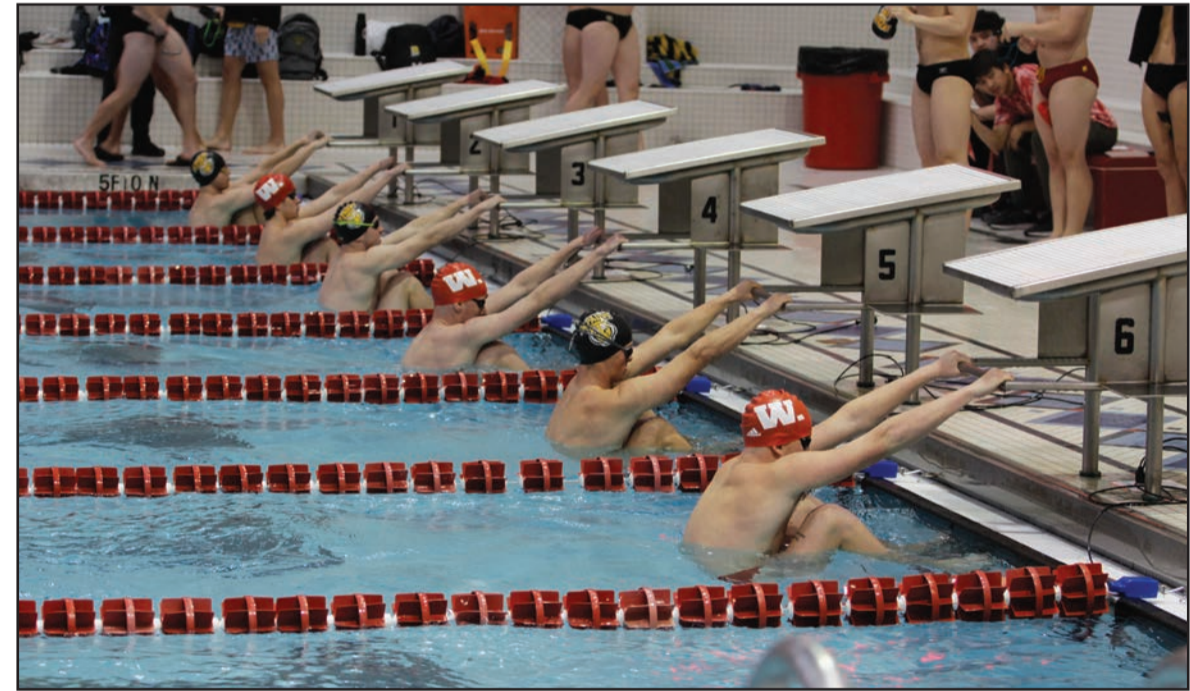
"I think the number one thing that we're looking for is the person they are and how they interact with their teammates, peers and family members. We've gotten to a point where our team culture is in a really good place, and that has been a very conscious effort on the recruiting side of things to really get the right people here with the right values, characteristics and right mind frame of what it means to be a swimmer or diver. From an athletic standpoint, the thing we look for is the ability for an athlete to develop. We've had a lot of success with guys that we can bring in and really push to that next level."

Q. You have 12 out-of-state recruits on the roster, notably from Illinois, North Carolina, Texas and recently Arizona. Over the past few years, how have you been able to get these athletes to buy into your culture?

"For out-of-state recruiting, we have to spend a lot more time and effort with those recruits, because there aren't convenient connections. We're spending a lot more time on the phone texting or video chatting with the student and their parents. In a lot of cases the parents can't come up with their son for their recruiting trips, and we ease the mind of the parents saying you can send your son 2,000 miles away and we're going to take care of him. Lots of out-of-state recruits attend our Junior Visit Day in April that we started doing about three years ago. We treat it as a marquee event shrunk into one day where we take them to meet with admissions, meet with us, sit in on a class and attend a swimming & diving alumni panel. This event has been one of the bigger return on investments that we've made, simply because our recruits are getting a great initial impression of Wabash that they compare to all the other places they go, and it just can't match up."

Q. It's cool to see that the guys who've made a big impact are from both in and out of state. How've these guys from all over the country come in and built trust with one another? In what ways have you stepped in to facilitate athlete relationships?

"Regardless of location, our focus is to get quality individuals



Wabash swimming & diving delivered a 194-100 win over DePauw in their dual meet held on December 6, 2024 at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

that want to work hard, get better and be a part of something bigger than themselves. Something we've done for the past few years is a 'big brother, little brother' program where we pair-up every incoming freshman with an upperclassman for the first month of practice. They'll do almost everything together – all of the stuff inside and outside of practice. For this time span, each athlete has a person they can primarily talk to and has really helped our out of state guys get to know the people on the team a lot better, because everyone's going through that similar experience as a freshman."

Q. Kenyon & Denison are the standard in the conference, as they're the only winners of NCAC championships since 1985. To what extent is their dominance a motivation for athletes to come to Wabash and contribute to a championship-caliber team to chase and take down the goliaths of the conference?

"I don't consider Kenyon and Denison being in our conference a negative at all, same goes for John Carroll coming into the conference. They're better than us, so my message in recruiting is, 'you can't be the best without beating the best.'

We spend more time on guys that see the elite competition in the conference as a huge motivating factor. Kenyon dominated Denison in the early years, but at some point, Denison made a conscious effort to catch them and eventually did. We can't catch and beat them without some of the best recruits, not only in the state of Indiana but in the country. We tell the returners that we're recruiting guys faster than you because we as a team have identified the goal of being a top-20 team in the country and catching Kenyon and Denison. We see this as a growth opportunity for the upperclassmen so they stay more focused as they're continuing on

stands in second after their victory. Their next matchup will be Wednesday, February 5 against Denison (9-0 NCAC). Ranked 15th in the nation, Denison is the only NCAC team to have beaten the Little Giants this season.

Three days later, Wabash will take to the road to face the conference's third-ranked Wooster (7-3 NCAC). Although Wabash beat Wooster in their first matchup of the year at Chadwick Court, a February road game against the Fighting Scots offers no promise of a repeat.

After a tough start to the season, Wabash has battled their way through the conference schedule to put themselves in a place where winning the NCAC for the third time in four years is possible. With a six-game win streak on hand and 12 wins in the last 13 games, the Scarlet & White are right where they want to be entering the most crucial week of the season.

"We've got to see where we stand," said Shippert. "So I'm excited. Denison beat us there at their place. But I think the growth throughout the whole season is important. We're not the same team we were at the start of the year. We aren't the same team that lost to Rose-Hulman. And every single game we just keep growing. I mean, seven different people scored 20 points this season, you don't really see that on teams where they got to come here and beat us."

If the Little Giants can clear both teams they will be in a prime position to claim the NCAC championship, as long as they don't get upset later down the road. However, a loss to either will all but end the championship hopes.

"Every time you go out, you have an opportunity to not be playing for first," said Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett. "When Denison comes here, it's for first place. We'll worry about Wooster and then Ohio Wesleyan after we just figure out what happens with Denison. If we win then the next game becomes the biggest game."