

Class of 1995

Class Agents

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### Classmates:

**Happy Holidays! We hope you and your families are doing well. Here is an update as we close out 2023.**

## Wabash's First Destination Placement Rate Rises

by Richard Paige • December 13, 2023

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Six months after graduation, 99% of the members of the Wabash College Class of 2023 have settled into a first destination—employment, graduate school, or service.

It marks the seventh consecutive year in which Wabash graduates have claimed their first destinations at rates among the highest in the nation. Over those seven years, Wabash graduates have secured first destinations within six months at a rate of 98.4%, well above the 84.1% Career Outcomes Rate as reported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, which is the best current measure for national comparison.

Nearly 70% of the Class of 2023 secured their first destination prior to graduating in May. Further, Wabash's 99% success rate this year was nearly four percentage points better than last year's figure for the Class of 2022. Since 2017, the Wabash first-destination rate has not been lower than 95%.

"Our first-destination rate is proof that a Wabash education adds exceptional value and that our graduates are in demand," said President Scott Feller. "We're proud of our professional development staff, internship program, and alumni network, all of which help produce these incredible results year-over-year."

The nation's second-ranked alumni network and fourth-ranked internship program, according to The Princeton Review, merge with Wabash's outstanding liberal arts education to drive its graduates to high levels of success. Wabash was



ranked No. 9 on the DegreeChoices.com list of Best Liberal Arts Colleges and a Top Performer on Social Mobility by U.S. News & World Report.

Of the 175 members of the Class of 2023, 91 (52%) elected to accept employment or postgraduate educational opportunities in Indiana.

“As an alumnus and dean, I am very proud of the outcomes our graduates achieve each year,” said Steven Jones ‘87, dean for professional development. “I am hopeful they are passionate about further developing their skills and increasing their return on investment even more.”

Through the work of the Schroeder Center for Career Development, students are regularly engaged in programming that keeps them focused on successful pathways after graduation. Weekly “Coffee and Careers” sessions and employment recruiting events are two of the many opportunities for students to connect with potential employers and graduate schools.

Additionally, the Professional Development team works to provide programming that meets the current senior class where they are. During the fall break, seniors had the opportunity to engage in a Professional Immersion Experience (PIE) on campus. Professional Development staff led students through a series of workshops on job search strategies, articulating strengths and experiences, networking, interviewing, and accessing alumni as a resource. The program closed with mock interviews conducted by alumni and friends of the College and a networking lunch to share feedback.

“I am really proud of the tenacity the Class of 2023 showed in pursuing their post-graduate plans,” said Cassie Hagan, director of professional development and the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship. “To land these types of outcomes is evidence that our students are courageous enough to go after highly competitive jobs, fellowships, and graduate programs, or pursue passions in the arts, education, and advocacy work. Wabash is proud of what they have and will accomplish.”

Members of the Class of 2023 showed interest in a number of fields, including commercial real estate, education, entrepreneurship, sports management, and logistics. They were hired by employers like Ernst & Young, Over those seven years, Wabash graduates have secured first destinations within six months at a rate of 98.4%. Eli Lilly, Korn Ferry, Simon Property Group, Welch Packaging, Hometown Logistics, and UKG.

A total of 45 members of the class accepted postgraduate opportunities at institutions like Columbia University, Cornell University, Florida State University, Indiana University,

University of Notre Dame, Purdue University, Wake Forest University, and Washington University in St. Louis. Eight members of the class accepted international fellowships, including the Marshall and Yenching Scholarships, while four others earned Orr Fellowships.

The exemplary post-graduate success rates echo much of the news for the 191-year-old liberal arts college. *The Princeton Review* offers 50 ranking lists, identifying the top-25 colleges nationally (of the 389 profiled) in each of those specific categories. The surveys address a range of topics that prospective students might find interesting or ask about on a campus visit, from academics and administration to amenities, politics, and social life. In addition to Wabash's outstanding internship program, alumni network, and career services, Wabash appeared in 40% of the 50 lists and ranked in the top-10 in 10 of those.

*In September, U.S. News & World Report* ranked Wabash 28th nationally as a Best Value School and included the institution in the Top Tier of National Liberal Arts Colleges.

## Lents '95 appointed culinary director

Stephanie Cain  
Posted November 13th, 2023



Alila Napa Valley, the premiere luxury retreat tucked into the heart of Northern California's wine country, [is pleased to announce](#) the appointment of Chef Thomas Lents as Culinary Director. In this role, Lents will oversee all food and beverage outlets at Alila Napa Valley,

providing strategic direction to the property's culinary team and outlets including its signature restaurant, Acacia House, in-room dining and food and beverage program for meetings and events.

Lents holds an advanced placement culinary art degree from the New England Culinary Institute, as well as a B.A. in philosophy from Wabash College in Indiana. While at Wabash he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

## Sexton '95 named an INvolve Outstanding LGBTQ+ Executive Role Model

Stephanie Cain  
Posted November 13th, 2023



Roy Sexton

Roy Sexton, Director of Marketing at Clark Hill and 2023 International President of the Legal Marketing Association, has been named to the [INvolve Outstanding 100 LGBTQ+ Executives Role Model List](#) for 2023.

While at Wabash, Sexton was a double major in English and Theater, was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha, Student Senate, The Bachelor, and the Wabash College Theater.

The Outstanding LGBTQ+ Role Model Lists supported by YouTube showcase LGBTQ+ business leaders and allies who are breaking down barriers and creating more inclusive workplaces across the world. They aim to represent the wide range of impactful and innovative work being done for inclusion across different countries, organizations, and sectors, and celebrate the diverse range of inspiring individuals who have made it their personal mission to make a difference.

INvolve is a consultancy and global network driving diversity and inclusion in business. Through the delivery of advisory solutions, awareness workshops, talent development programs, INvolve drives cultural change and creates inclusive workplaces where all individuals can succeed. They publish annual role model lists recognizing and celebrating business leaders and future leaders who are breaking down barriers at work and inspiring the next generation of diverse talent.

### **Additional news and events:**

For the next virtual After the Bell, Warren Rosenberg H'98, Emeritus Professor of English, will present *Movies and Masculinity: Exodus (1960), Munich (2005), and Me* on Thursday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. EST. Register here: <https://www.wabash.edu/events/afterthebell-rosenberg/>

Wabash College has joined a partnership designed to help students explore multiple disciplines in the tech industry guided by active professionals. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13208>

Wabash quarterback Liam Thompson was named one of 16 finalists selected by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame for the 2023 William V. Campbell Trophy. He's a rhetoric major and film and digital media and Spanish double-minor with a 3.87 cumulative grade point average. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13198>

The Wabash On My Mind podcast talks with Dr. Derek Nelson, the 43rd LaFollette Lecturer and Chair of the Religion Department, discussing the relationship between woodworking and theology and a funny thing about productivity. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13209>

Wabash has long welcomed students who were the first in their families to attend college. Currently, approximately 30% of current students are first-generation. Additionally, 20% of faculty and staff and more than half of its deans were first-generation college students. Here's an interview with a few current first-gen students: <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13203>

Seth Kirkpatrick '24 didn't rest on his laurels as the reigning champion in this year's Moot Court competition, the 30th. He made improvements and won again. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13200>

Chase Breaux '24 has racked up accolades at a pace that easily makes him one of the most awarded students in Wabash's history. Now, the political science major and Black studies minor from Houston, Texas, can add another major accomplishment to his resume: Rhodes Scholarship finalist. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13201>

Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Company continues to provide an excellent pipeline of internships and career opportunities for Wabash men. <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13196>

## Wabash Archives

Interested in Wabash College history? The Wabash Archives tells the story of our alma mater.

The formal name of the Archives is Robert T. Ramsay, Jr. Archival Center. It is located in the lower level of Lilly Library. When you go to the Archives, you will expect to see, and will see, old things. What will bring you joy is that the Archives is overseen by two young men full of knowledge and energy.

Nolan Eller '11 started in 2021, succeeding the legend Beth Swift. This was like Mickey Mantle replacing Joe DiMaggio. Nolan graduated from Lafayette Jefferson High School. While at Wabash he majored in History and minored in Political. In 2013, he earned his Master of Library Science (MLS) with a concentration in Archives and Records Management from Indiana University's School of Library and Information Science in Bloomington. While working on his degree, he completed internships at historically-focused organizations, including the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County, the Indiana State Archives, Indiana University Archives, Purdue University Archives and Special Collections, and the Tippecanoe County (Indiana) Historical Association.

Before becoming Wabash's Archivist, Nolan served as the Assistant Archivist at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and as the University Archivist and Head of Special Collections at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana.



Evan Miller, left, and Nolan Eller '11 pose in the Archives with some articles.

Evan Miller, Wabash's new Digital Archivist, came to Wabash in 2022. Among other responsibilities, he develops and curates the Archives' digital collections and exhibits. Evan hails from Montgomery County and graduated from Hanover College in 2017 with a major in Computer Science and minors in Art and Design. In 2019, he earned a Masters in History and an MLIS at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He has worked at several Indiana-centric archives, museums, and cultural heritage organizations including the Hanover College Archives and the Butler University Archives.

however, are not limited to physical materials. Nolan and Evan are building upon the College's digital collections and are actively working to expand access to the amazing collections of the archival center.

The Archives consist of tangible items such as clothing and portraits. The Archives,

How do you get access to these digital items? Go to: [library.wabash.edu/archives](http://library.wabash.edu/archives). Navigate to the "Digital Collections" page by hitting a button at the top of the screen. You can then use metadata fields to refine searches.

While the Archives welcomes new acquisitions, they unfortunately cannot take everything. Nonetheless, before donating or throwing a Wabash item away, please contact Nolan at [ellern@wabash.edu](mailto:ellern@wabash.edu).

## News From Campus

**Wabash Basketball.** The Little Giants are predicted to win the North Coast Athletic Conference, but they got off to a slow start at 2-2 and now stand at 7-3 after being ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the country at the start of the season.

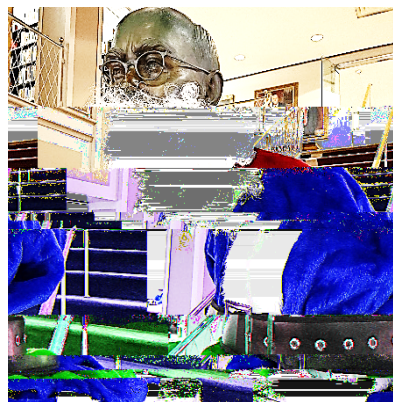
The team has many seniors plus a transfer student who stands 7'2". With about one second left in the game against DePauw on November 29, he guarded the DePauw player who was trying to make an inbounds pass in front of the DePauw bench. The frustrated opponent could barely see the court when he ineffectually made his in-bounds pass. Wabash hung on for a 1-point victory, 62-61.

The Wabash team will be playing in a two-day tourney at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., December 19 and 20. The local alumni group will be hosting pregame gatherings before each game at Brookland Pint, which is near the campus.

**Monon Bell.** Wabash lost the Monon Bell in double overtime against an undefeated DePauw team, 33-30. The Little Giants attempted a winning field goal in the first overtime, but DePauw blocked it. Wabash leads the overall series at 63-57-9. More than 8,100 attended the game.

**Beta Theta Pi** celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary on campus, October 27-28. The fraternity published a new history of the fraternity.

**First-Generation Wabash Students.** According to information from Wabash, about 30% of current students are first-generation college students. About 20% of faculty and staff and more than half of its deans were first-generation college students.



Santa Eli Lilly greets visitors to the library this December. Happy holidays to everyone.

**We wish you a healthy and happy holiday season and best wishes for the new year!**

## Wabash Always Fights!

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P.S. If you haven't yet this calendar year, please consider supporting Wabash students with your gift by December 31. You can give online at [wabash.edu/give](http://wabash.edu/give).