

## THE VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

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### WVC Adapts Learning Modalities in Face of COVID-19

Wabash Valley College's students, faculty and staff have settled into a routine of caution and careful consideration of one another now that the schoolyear is in full swing. WVC opened the schoolyear with face-to-face instruction, albeit a bit modified.

In order to continue pursuing our mission to deliver exceptional education, WVC employed several social distancing measures. Foot traffic directional markers and enter/exit signs have been installed in every building; masks are now required everywhere on campus; and a rigorous cleaning schedule has been implemented, all in an effort to improve the lives of our students and strengthen our communities. WVC has also appointed Mr. Isaac Wodajo as the Contact Tracer for the college.

"Students and instructors have been doing a great job keeping me in the loop on things that are going on in the classrooms, as well as on campus," said Wodajo. "Proper social distancing and mask wearing has been phenomenal so far in all of the classrooms and in other facilities. Instructors have sent me the seating charts for every class, sanitized areas before and after class, and contact me if they have a question or concern."

Mr. Wodajo serves as the liaison between the college, its constituents and the Wabash County Health Department in order identify those who have contracted COVID-19, pinpoint who they

have come in close contact with for an extended period of time and take the necessary steps to limit the spread of the virus.

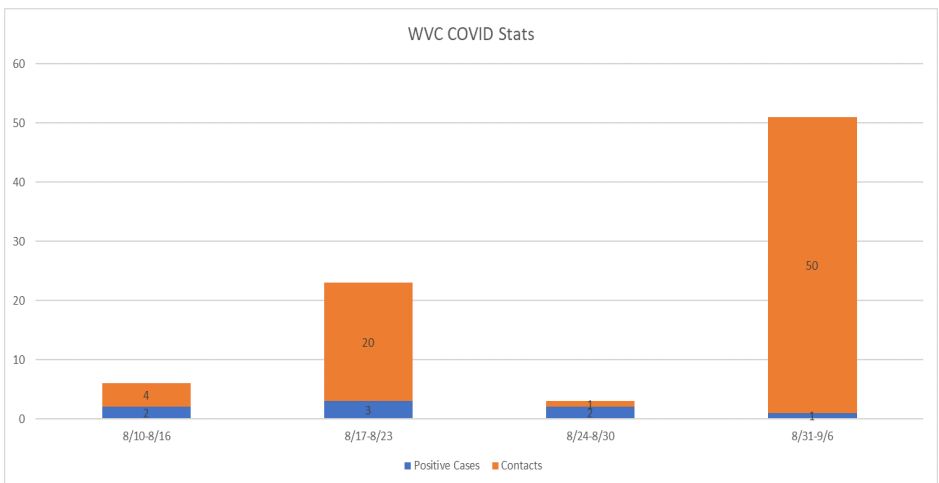
"Contact tracing is an evolving job because it's new for everyone and was started in light of the pandemic, with students and employees coming back to campus," said Wodajo. "The students, faculty, and staff have been cooperative and reach out to me via email, call or text every day with updates or questions. WVC employees and students have been taking this seriously and we must continue to do so to keep our campus and community safe for both our employees and students."

Contact tracing has been effective in limiting the spread of the virus. On Thursday, Sept. 3, the college received notice that an individual at the college's Small World childcare center had tested positive, and due to the quick work of Mr. Wodajo, the health department and WVC staff, a potential outbreak was averted.

While the staff in Small World work diligently to keep Small World students socially distant from one another, they are working with a number of



English professor Brenda Phegley has moved her instruction to inside of the Bauer Media Center. "The students have adapted very well to meeting in the library rather than a traditional classroom. The positive side of this is that they can print their papers right before class. Overall, we will all continue to wear masks, social distance ourselves, and make it through this unusual situation!", noted Professor Phegley.



Through our contact tracing, we can start to see the ebb and flow of people on campus that are either quarantined (orange) or have tested positive for COVID-19 (blue).

families that have kids in multiple age groups in Small World. Many of the kids in one age group have siblings in another age group, so, even though the staff work hard to keep the different age groups from mixing, their time at home or on the school bus creates a tangled web of interaction.

Because of this, the college made the decision that day to close Small World until Sept. 21. All of the parents were notified, and they picked up their children that afternoon.

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Despite closing down Small World, the rest of college remains open and operational. The college is making use of several large, temporary classrooms in order to ensure that students in larger classes are able to be socially distanced this semester. Several teachers this year have had to switch up their teaching styles and modalities due to being placed in one of four temporary classrooms. These classes are taking place in the Brubeck Arts Center Theatre, the Brubeck Arts Center Gallery, the Bauer Media Center and the David L. Hart Student Center.

At top left, students in the Brubeck Arts Center Gallery are seated 6 ft. apart while wearing masks. History/Political Science Assistant Professor Drew McMurray, at right, is lecturing in the David L. Hart Student Center in the former campus Fitness Center.

## WVC Pollinator Field Update

Wabash Valley College's Ag program, in conjunction with Wabash Valley Service Company, IB Executive Turf and Landscape, Wabash Valley Stewardship Alliance and southeastern Illinois Farm Bureaus, saw the planting of a new pollinator plot on WVC's campus earlier this summer.

Wabash Valley Service Company provided the pollinator seed, and IB Executive Turf and Landscape donated the use of their planter and drill.

Wabash Valley Stewardship Alliance provided signs for the area, and area Farm Bureaus: Edwards, Lawrence, Wabash, Wayne, White, Crawford, Gallatin, Richland, Saline, Jefferson and Hamilton counties are providing financial support.

"The main goals of the plot are to provide pollinator species a habitat and educate our students and community about the importance of pollinator habitat for agriculture," said Steve Hnetkovsky, WVC Ag program's Lead Instructor.

Various plants were sown on the pollinator field. Those plants in-



This large informational sign marks the site of the plot along Oak Street in Mt. Carmel, IL. Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce. Learn more at [WatchUsGrow.org](http://WatchUsGrow.org).

clude: Partridge Peas, Purple Coneflowers, Lance-leaved Coreopsis, Indian Blanket, Sunflowers, Lupine, Ohio Spiderwort, Butterfly Milkweed, Showy Trick Trefoil, Lemon Mint, White Upland Aster, Black-eyed Susan, Lavender Hysop, New England Aster, Plains Coreopsis, Spotted Beebalm, Hairy Beardtongue, Eastern Columbine and Gray Goldenrod.

"There are informational signs located along the plot were installed in August and can be

viewed along the Oak street sidewalk and by car as people drive past the college," said Hnetkovsky. "The signs highlight the importance of not only pollinator species but their habitat. I will have students visit the plots and learn about pollinators and their habitat in several of my classes."

Mike Wilson, CCA, from Wabash Valley Service Company, planted the pollinator plot on campus back in May. Professor Hnetkovsky reported that the field faced a pret-

ty major environmental challenge right after it was planted.

"We had a very intense thunderstorm the afternoon we planted it and that affected germination of some of the pollinator seeds, but overall, the plot did emerge, and many species flowered this year," Hnetkovsky said. "Hopefully more species will emerge next year and fill in the plot."

The field didn't just generate a buzz with pollinators, it stirred up some genuine interest with the public.

"We also plan to seed some annual sunflowers again next spring," Hnetkovsky said. "The sunflower species predominated this year and generated interest from the public. Several families from the community stopped and had family/senior pictures taken while the sunflowers were in full bloom."

Many community members have also noticed an increase in bird species using the plot for a food source. Nearly all of the sunflower seed heads have been consumed by birds.



## Warrior Boats Inspected as Season Nears

Prior to the start of the season, a state conservation officer inspected the boats to be used by the first-ever Wabash Valley bass fishing team on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Cory Skelton, an officer with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, conducted a thorough search of all seven boats to be used by the Warrior club team. The program debut will be on Sept. 12, with a club tournament on the waters of Kentucky Lake.

Skelton reviewed general navigational rules for anglers and outlined some of the differences present on larger bodies of water like Kentucky Lake. He stressed the importance of safety to each fisherman.

The club tourney not only serves as the rough equivalent of a pre-

season scrimmage, but it gives the Warriors a sneak peek at Kentucky Lake. They return there the following weekend, Sept. 19-20, to open the championship season at the Bass Pro Shop Big Bass Bash tournament.

During the fall portion of the season, the Warriors will make October stops at Lake Dardanelle, Ark., and Lake Erie for competitions. The season resumes in April, leading to the Boat US Collegiate Bass Championships at Lake Murray, S.C. on May 26-27.

Those interested in learning more about the Wabash Valley College bass team can visit

[www.wvcwarriorathletics.com](http://www.wvcwarriorathletics.com),

click on Club Teams and select Bass Fishing. You can also keep up with WVC bass team news by following them on Facebook

@WVC Bass Team and on Insta-



WVC Warriors Austin Holtgrave, Chevy Wood, Clayton Halbig, Colin King, Colton Bridwell, Drew Gill, Grant Behnke, Holden Kauble, Hunter Michl, James Cole Hess, Josey Ault, Nathaniel Kiefer, Zane Kelly and Zebulon Frasure.

## WVC Introduces Two Archery Warriors

Wabash Valley College's archery club coach, Mr. Earl Lawrence, is proud to introduce two of the college's archery Warriors:

Sydney Jones, of Mt. Carmel, Ill., is a sophomore in the Ag program at WVC and serves as the captain of WVC's archery team. Sydney is the daughter of Jerry and Robin Jones of Mt. Carmel, Ill.

Sydney has been practicing and competing all summer in preparation for the upcoming collegiate season.

In the last few months, Sydney has taken first at the Illinois Archery Shooters Association's state championship, second at the Cullman, Alabama, ASA Pro Am (professional and amateur shoot out), and first at the ASA National Championship in Foley, Alabama.

Sydney was also named ASA Shooter of the Year in the Women's Known 40 class—an archery competition class in which the

shooters know the maximum distance their targets will be placed at, 40 yards, and are able to use rangefinders to determine the distance of the targets.

Dillon Thompson, of Bone Gap, Ill., is a sophomore in the Ag program at WVC. Dillon is the son of Brad and Kenseys Thompson of Bone Gap, Ill.

This will be Dillon's second year competing with the archery team. Dillon has been practicing and competing in numerous tournaments to prepare for the upcoming collegiate season.

He competes in a tough class, Men's Known 45—an archery competition class in which the shooters know the maximum distance their targets will be placed at, 45 yards, and are able to use rangefinders to determine the distance of the targets.

Dillon placed second at the Cullman, Alabama ASA Pro Am



Sydney Jones (left) and Dillon Thompson (right) display their hardware from recent archery competitions.

(professional and amateur shoot out). He also had a second-place finish in the Illinois ASA State Championship and third in the Indiana ASA State Championship.

Dillon is a most disciplined archer. He is always striving to better himself and puts in countless hours of practice.