

VIEW FROM THE VALLEY



WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE



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**The mind that opens to a new idea never
returns to its original size.**

ALBERT EINSTEIN



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Ah, February: the month of sappy love poems, delectable boxes of chocolates, and pink galore. I am a huge fan of chocolate, so I don't mind all the cheesiness that radiates the famous "love month." February is especially a fun month for me because it's my birth month! I am now 20 years old. I have entered a new decade—a decade of the three 'selves': self-identity, self-confidence, and self-discovery. The three 'selves' are not easy to tackle, but I'll take on any challenges that come my way.

The twenties-era, as I have concluded, is as follows: messy, confusing, rewarding, grueling, youthful, diligent, patient, life-changing, crazy, and—above all else—fun! Honestly, I'm excited about this new decade of my life. I'm pumped about university life and seeing where I end up career-wise. Will I be a New York Times bestselling author? A news anchor? A world-renowned chef? An investigative journalist? The President of the United States? All the above? Wherever I end up, I hope there is plenty of success and happiness in my life.

You know, I've heard that you can immediately become a thousand times more successful and happier if you continue reading this amazing installment of "View From the Valley." So, read on, and learn what success and happiness WVC has achieved this month!

Peace!

Maggee Bleyer



This past month has really flown by already! We are already in our second month of 2023, and here I am still writing "2022". As I have gotten older, I have begun to realize how fast the year speeds by. It doesn't help one bit that our culture is encouraging us to always move forward. "On to the next thing," before we have even finished with that other thing. Christmas decor out with Halloween candy. Shelves lined with "Happy New Year" glasses, Valentine cards, vegetable seeds, peeps, and graduation gifts. On the contrary, since I started working full-time and especially since having kids, I have started to embrace this phrase: "the days are long, but the years are short." Since I tend to get goal-focused and task-orientated, this year I want to be the present. I do not want to get to the end of this year and say, "man. every day was long and difficult and the year slipped away. I gained nothing." This year, I want to be in the now. I want to enjoy each day.

Stay warm and read on!

Jonathan Leach

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 09, 2023

Ag Acquaintance Day

February 10, 2023

Health Careers and Cadaver Presentation

February 11, 2023

Lady Warriors Basketball vs. Kaskaskia

Warriors Basketball vs. Kaskaskia

February 18, 2023

Lady Warriors Basketball vs. Olney Central

Warriors Basketball vs. Olney Central

Homecoming

February 20, 2023

Campus Closed | President's Day

February 21, 2023

Baseball vs. Vincennes University

February 23, 2023

International Collegiate Day of Prayer

February 25, 2023

Lady Warriors Basketball vs. Vincennes

Warriors Basketball vs. Vincennes

February 26, 2023

Lincoln in Song FEAT. Chris Vallillo

February 27, 2023

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Transfer Info

Trivia Night

March 03, 2023

Midterm

March 06-10, 2023

Spring Break

March 09, 2023

Baseball vs. Frontier Community College

March 14, 2023

Softball vs Southeastern

Follow us on social media for Student Lounge events or any changes to the schedule!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Christan Manning, now a junior at the University of Southern Indiana (USI), graduated from Wabash Valley College in the fall of 2022. She was awarded an Associate in Arts and Science as well as a degree from our Social Services Specialist program.

Christan grew up in Oakland City, Indiana, and graduated from Pike Central High School. "Even though there were other college options near me, I choose WVC because when I was younger, about 40 years ago now, my daddy would always listen to the Bash radio station. I think it is pretty neat and nostalgic to have gone to WVC now." After moving away from the area, Christan moved to Mount Carmel 11 years prior to starting her program. She began working on making herself a better life, and education seemed like the natural path for her and her family. "I am not too good in big cities or huge crowds, so my main attraction to WVC was the feeling of closeness and family you get. It's the personal time you get with instructors and the close relationships you're able to develop with the people there. It's one big happy family. It's my support system and friends."

Almost 13 years into her own recovery from addiction, Christan's educational and career goal is to help people with substance use disorders and advocate at the national level for change. "My dream job is to own my own addiction center and advocate for those with opioid addictions." Currently, Christan is attending USI in the Social Work program and plans to begin a Master's and Doctorate programs directly afterward.

Q: What was your favorite class at WVC?

A: "My favorites have to be interpersonal communications and human growth and development."

Q: Who were your favorite teachers at WVC?

A: "ALL my teachers were my favorite for some reason. But Mrs. Hockgeiger and Mrs. Trapp have been my support system and are like family to me. I couldn't have done it without them."

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: "I am an old(er), boring person. I am a reader. Something most people don't know about me is I am a huge gamer! I love LOVE playing video games. My favorite is the Bioshock series."

Q: What is your favorite quote?

A: "A part of kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve." -Joseph Joubert

Q: What does success look like to you?

A: "Success, to me, directly equals growth. If we aren't growing and learning, how can we ever be successful?"



RADIO/TV RECOGNIZED

AUTHOR: MAGGEE BLEYER

The WVC Radio/TV Program has received three national finalist nominations in the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System's annual award program. News Channel 15, being the sole finalist for the Nation's Best Community College TV Station, has allowed all of the Radio/TV students to become finalist nominees. As for specific students, sophomore Maggee Bleyer is a finalist for Best Radio Commercial and Best TV Commercial/Production.

"The nominations are a direct reflection of the effort these students put in," Broadcast Services Specialist Eli Grimes remarked. "It's so impressive that the work submitted is worthy of achievement, but not specifically intended to win awards. The work they do every day is quality and to be nominated for an award is further proof of that. As for the program, it's further evidence that this department time and time again brings out the creative aspects of students while also helping prepare for a successful future in this industry."

In the past, the Radio/TV Program received several nominations and awards including Best Sports Report, Best Sports Program, Best News Report, Best Graphics, Best TV Promo, and other categories. News Channel 15 has won the Nation's Best Community College TV Station award multiple times. Two of those times were in 2020 and 2022. "Every year, it seems someone in the program is nominated for a different award which speaks to all the different avenues one can take [in the Radio/TV Program]," Grimes stated.

College and university students across the country submit content to the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System every year. Out of the massive amounts of students that submit work to the awards program, only around five students are nationally nominated as a finalist for each awarded category.

"I often say I will put the amount and quality of the work our students are asked to produce up against any college in the country," Lead Instructor and Director of Broadcasting Kyle Peach said, praising the program's students and their work. "Receiving these nominations from a reputable national organization like the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System confirms that our students and the training we provide are among the best in the country. It's equally impressive that our students aren't just competing with other community college students, but with students at quality university programs, yet their work is deemed to be equally as impressive."

The Intercollegiate Broadcasting System will announce the final awards in late February. "To me, WVC is a special place," Peach expressed. "I am a former WVC student, now a teacher and employee. To be able to see our program nationally recognized warms my heart. It is further proof of the excellence we provide for our students and community."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Lesley Hipsher attended Wabash Valley College in the early 2000s. "I was awarded an academic scholarship while attending WVC. It made the first two years of college more affordable."

Lesley graduated with an Associate's in Science before transferring to the University of Southern Indiana (USI). "Having the associate's degree saved me from having to take a lot of core and elective courses when I moved on. I was able to focus more on the classes I needed for my Business Degree. I also was able to work all through college so my time at WVC saved me money and made it obtainable for me to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree with no student loans. My Dad also helped me obtain this goal that was so valuable as a young person just starting out. WVC for me was the best choice." Lesley was a commuter student and still lived in Wabash County while attending USI. While attending university, she was able to work and gain experience at Mount Carmel Stabilization Group. "It was a great learning experience of what I thought was a little company in little Mount Carmel but was really a nationwide leader in their sector. They were, and still are, top-notch!"

Currently, Lesley is the Executive Director at the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce right here in Mt. Carmel. "I have the pleasure of working with Wabash Valley College students, employees, and administration on a regular basis. Some of my fond memories from WVC seem to be from more recent years, but I accredit that to working with so many of the wonderful WVC team. One of my favorite WVC people is Louise Acree. She is the First Lady of WVC and has been with them since their beginning. She is a Life-Time Member of the Chamber, a Past Chamber Board of Directors Member, and a wonderful friend of mine. Mrs. Acree is a delight to know and makes you feel better just speaking to her. She has a way with words and made everyone she came in contact with at WVC have a better day and outlook. My other fond memory from Wabash Valley College is when the past President, Dr. Benson would come to the convenience store I worked at in the evenings to buy fried chicken and potato wedges. We would have nice chats while he was there and I always looked up to him for his kind nature. I was happy to find this photo of him giving me my diploma at my WVC Graduation Ceremony."

"I had a great experience at WVC, but I continue to have a great experience with WVC in my career."

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: "In my free time I enjoy traveling and checking out local shops and eateries. There are a lot of hidden treasures in the little towns we live in and those that surround us. Other than that, my hobbies pretty much revolve around my family. We have two teenage boys that keep us busy with sports and other activities. We are the house that everyone likes to come to. I try to have good food and snacks, but sometimes with teenage boys, that is a full-time job!"

Q: What is your advice for students completing high school or college?

A: "Enjoy what you do, work hard to prove your worth, and everything is figureoutable."

Q: What has kept you from moving away from Mount Carmel?

A: "Mount Carmel is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I am proud of my community and all the things we have been able to accomplish here."



TRIO STUDENT PUBLISHES BOOK

High school students with Illinois Eastern Community College's (IECC) TRIO Upward Bound program had the opportunity to learn from one of their peers at their workshop held on January 21st at Olney Central College.

Lawrenceville High School (LHS) sophomore, Dakota Sanders, spoke to fellow Upward Bound students about her recently published novel, *A Dead Girl's Diary*. The book, published under the pen name Cheyenne Sanders, was the selected reading for IECC Upward Bound's fall book club. At Upward Bound's January Workshop, students had the opportunity to meet with Dakota and learn about her writing and publishing process. In a survey, one student said, "I am a writer and I found it fascinating how someone my age could publish a book."

Upward Bound students are encouraged to set goals and work hard to achieve them, but seeing a peer accomplish her goal so early in life provided extra motivation for many who attended the workshop; another student wrote, "I love writing, and hearing the experience of a young author who is close to my age is really inspiring."

IECC TRIO Upward Bound is a college preparatory program for area high school students that works to provide the skills and motivation necessary to complete high school and college. Upward Bound provides academic tutoring, course advisement, college/career counseling, cultural enrichment, and social development, among other services, to over 200 students from twelve high schools. All services are free to participants accepted into the program. Services include after-school academic sessions, Saturday workshops, and a six-week summer program.

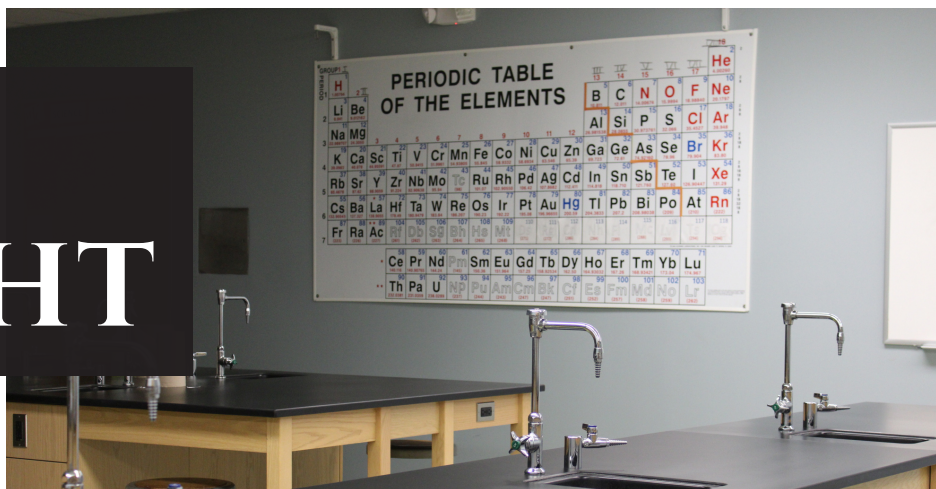
Photos below from top to bottom, and left to right: TRIO students during a STEM workshop course, students learning new coping skills-yoga, the cover of LHS sophomore, Dakota Sander's, book, and Dakota signing her book for other high school students.

The TRIO Upward Bound programs are 100% federally funded by the Department of Education for \$312,480 (LTC), \$361,983 (OCC), and \$297,601 (WVC).



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

AUTHOR:
MAGGEE BLEYER



Benjamin Bomer is the newest addition to WVC. Benjamin, an instructor, teaches Chemistry and Society, Introductory Chemistry, and General Chemistry I.

For most of his youth, he lived in Oblong, IL. He graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 2000 with a Bachelor's in Chemistry before pursuing a Master's degree. In 2007, Ben graduated from Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville with a Master's in Science and Chemistry.

After university, he spent several years working in Korea and China. "I spent four weeks on a work vacation in Malaysia. The company paid for my plane ticket, my housing, my food, and for me to show up and work," Benjamin described. "The first three weeks were amazing. The fourth week was awful! Everyone was panicking and trying to figure out where to go and how to book flights out of the country. It was 2020 so everyone was afraid of the new coronavirus disease. My flight got delayed, but I finally was able to arrive back in the United States."

Since moving back to the states, Benjamin has been working at WVC. He began working at WVC at the start of the 2023 Spring Semester. When he works with his classes, he hopes his students can gain a basic understanding and appreciation for chemistry. When asked about his teaching style, Benjamin stated, "I try to emulate the [past] professors I liked." Benjamin hopes to upgrade some of the equipment in the chemistry lab in the future so students have a better learning experience.

When he is not teaching, Benjamin enjoys ice hockey, gardening, and cycling. When he lived out of the United States, he biked from city to city-in total, he biked hundreds of miles over the course of several nights!

The WVC family welcomes Benjamin with open arms and hopes his first WVC semester of teaching goes well!

Q: What inspired you to become a professor - furthermore, what inspired you to teach the subjects you teach now?

A: "While I was in grad school for Chemistry, I much preferred the student teaching aspect compared to the lab work."

Q: "How long have you been working at WVC?"

A: "Almost two months at this point."

Q: What is your favorite quote(s)?

A: "I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member. -American Comedian, Groucho Marx"

Q: What is your favorite music?

A: "Gary Numan, Muse, and The Smashing Pumpkins."



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