

# VIEW FROM THE VALLEY



**WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE**



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**We make a living by what we  
get, but we make a life by  
what we give.**

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**WINSTON CHURCHILL**





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# EDITOR'S NOTE



As a student, May has always been an odd month for me. May, a time of warmer weather and blossoming flowers, is during the spring season. Spring, in season metaphors, signifies new beginnings. However, May is also a “graduation” month. Whether the newly-graduated students feel sad, happy, or a mix of both regarding their graduations, the “getting-my-degree” accomplishment represents two symbols of life: an ending and a beginning.

On Friday, May 12th, 2023, I graduated with my Associate’s in Applied Science with an emphasis in Radio/TV and Digital Media and an Associate’s in Science and Art. As a graduate, I feel so proud of myself. Of course, the event was also bittersweet because I was saying goodbye to my WVC years. Nonetheless, I was proud of my achievements and couldn’t believe all of the clubs, jobs, Radio/TV work, and friends I made during my two years at WVC.

Although my time as a WVC student has ended, my life as a WVC alumnus has just now begun. So, read on, and enjoy what all there is to offer in this month’s View From the Valley!

Peace!

*Maggee Bleyer*



We are thrilled to present this month's edition, which holds a special significance for us as it embodies the very essence of our purpose. At Wabash Valley College, our primary mission has always been to provide students with outstanding education and support systems, ultimately enhancing their lives and strengthening our community. In this edition, we shine a spotlight on the final weeks leading up to graduation, as well as the momentous event itself. Graduation stands as the crowning achievement of the student's path, where their growth on campus culminates in a memorable finale. This joyous moment commemorated during the graduation ceremony symbolizes the fulfillment of our mission.

In the spirit of celebrating remarkable journeys, I want to invite you to join us on social media for our Throwback Thursday posts; where every week, we will delve into the archives of our campus history. From the students, the timeless traditions, and the remarkable achievements of our alumni. It's a journey that will remind us all of the transformative power of education and the lasting impact it has on individuals and communities. Thank you for being a part of our vibrant community, and we look forward to experiencing the nostalgia and pride with you! Together, let's celebrate the past, appreciate the present, and build an even brighter future.

Read on!

*Jonathan Leach*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

June 05, 2023

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Summer Classes Begin

June 13, 2023

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Baseball: Prospect Showcase I

June 14-17, 2023

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Adventures of Tom Sawyer

June 19, 2023

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Campus Closed

June 19-21, 2023

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Baseball Camp I

Basketball Camp

June 23, 2023

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Backyard Bash

July 04, 2023

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Campus Closed

July 10-13, 2023

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Baseball Camp II

Volleyball Camp

July 26-28, 2023

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Music Camp

July 27, 2023

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Baseball: Prospect Showcase II

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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Donna Sigler attended WVC from the Fall of 1976, graduating in May of 1978 Summa Cum Laude with an Associate in Art degree. Reflecting on her decision to choose WVC, Donna states, "I chose WVC because it was close to home and affordable. I hadn't decided on a career at that time, so a local college sounded ideal to get my college feet underneath me."

After completing her studies at WVC, Donna transferred to Murray State University where she pursued a Bachelor's degree in Spanish. Her dedication and academic excellence led to her achieving Summa Cum Laude status, along with the recognition as the Outstanding Spanish Student. Despite her initial intention to teach Spanish in a high school setting, Donna's path took a different turn as she followed her new husband to medical school.

"I worked for my husband, a physician, for over 25 years before he took retirement due to illness. It was at that point that I returned to WVC, but this time for employment. I started out working part-time in the library, prior to dividing my time between Wabash Valley Arts Council and Learning Skills Center, handling administrative duties."

After a span of approximately forty years, Donna decided to further her education and pursued a master's degree in Theology to enhance her role as a religious teacher. Despite juggling part-time work and managing her household responsibilities, she maintained an exceptional 4.0 GPA. Reflecting on her journey, Donna shares, "Though obtaining my master's degree was challenging, it has given me a profound sense of accomplishment and enhanced my confidence in effectively sharing my faith with others."

Since obtaining her master's degree, Donna has become a full-time employee at WVC. She divides her time between the Physical Therapist Assistant Program and the Wabash Valley Arts Council (Theatre). However, Donna willingly offers her assistance in the library and Academic Success Center whenever they face staff shortages. "Juggling the needs of multiple departments can be challenging at times, but I love the variety. I especially like interacting with faculty, staff, and students on a daily basis. Young people, with their lives ahead of them, exude such an enthusiasm for life, that it cannot help but rub off on me. I look forward to coming to work each day with joy."

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Q: "What was your favorite class at WVC?"

A: "My literature class with Mrs. Della Yates. We dissected "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway and "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck. These stories demonstrated situations that I had never considered with believable conclusions. The class allowed me to broaden my outlook on situations and stories that I would never have considered reading on my own."

Q: "What was your most memorable moment at WVC?"

A: "Human Anatomy and Physiology with Mrs. Judy (Saltgaver) Williams. We did not have access to human corpses at that time. Instead, we studied anatomy using cats. I clearly remember taking home a dissected cat in a plastic bag to study with a group of friends, including Mrs. Brenda Phegley. No other mother, at the time, allowed us to bring such a specimen into their home. My Mom only agreed if it was kept in the basement and away from her kitchen."

Q: "What is your favorite part about Mount Carmel?"

A: "My favorite part about Mount Carmel is the small-town atmosphere. I enjoyed the slower pace and the familial connections that go back hundreds of years. It is not unusual to slow traffic to say a quick Hi to someone you haven't seen in a while, then pulling over to have a longer conversation. I really enjoy the very patriotic feeling that residents have and don't hesitate to express it with lots of flags and parades."



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Q: "What do you do in your spare time?"

A: "I like nothing better than to read a good book. After all the theology books I have read recently, I turn to the mystery and crime detective genre for balance. When not reading, I enjoy visiting with family and gardening. Strange how I don't mind getting dirty in the garden but hate housework!"

Q: "Any advice for students?"

A: "Don't limit yourselves to traditional jobs but be open to new vocations. It is especially important to maximize your computer expertise since AI will gain more importance in the coming years. When I approached adulthood, my options were limited to teaching, nursing, secretarial work or homemaking. Counselors in my day did not suggest radiology, physical therapy assistants, electricians, automation, medical coding, welding, etc. as possible career choices. The field is wide open for anyone who seeks a challenge in life."

Q: "What is your favorite quote?"

A: "My favorite quote would be 'Don't wait for the perfect moment. Take the moment and make it perfect.' In other words, don't wait for the perfect moment to start achieving it, but make the moment happen, because there is nothing you can't do when you try."



## FINALS WEEK

To kick off the last week of the 2023 Spring semester, GradFest provided students with a chance to collect their caps and gowns. The event was not just about picking up regalia but also a celebration of the student's achievements. A 2023 WVC Graduation themed photo booth, adorned with balloons and photo props, allowed students to capture memorable moments with their friends and classmates. Students were also given the chance to win Warrior swag items and grab plenty of snacks.

With a focus on rejuvenation, the Warrior Grill generously provided free breakfast burritos to fuel students for their first day of finals.

Recognizing the importance of mental health and well-being, a local therapy dog named Roscoe stole the spotlight at the finals week events. As the day progressed and temperatures rose, students were treated to a cool and refreshing surprise. Free popsicles were handed out, offering a delightful way to beat the heat and provide a sweet reward for their hard work.

By providing a range of activities, Wabash Valley College demonstrated its commitment to the holistic well-being of its students. The finals week events were carefully curated to encourage students to fuel up before their exams, relax and recharge afterward, and ultimately foster a sense of pride and celebration for their graduation accomplishments.

# GRADUATION

AUTHOR: MAGGEE BLEYER

Friday, May 12th, marked a special day in the Wabash Valley College (WVC) Class of 2023 students' lives. Class of 2023 students—now officially WVC alumni—graduated with Associate's Degrees, certificates, and, overall, honor.

The graduation was held in the Spencer Sports Center. People stood in appreciation as the WVC students marched toward their seats during the Processional performed by pianist Marcia Woodcock and trumpeter Bill Hudson. Two graduating students assisted with the beginning of the graduation. Micah Henson, Co-President of Student Senate, gave a heartfelt prayer before Maggee Bleyer, Co-President of Student Senate, sang the Star-Spangled Banner. After both the prayer and the banner, the graduation began.

Dean of Instruction Robert Conn, WVC President Dr. Matt Fowler, WVC Foundation President Brooke Slater, and International Program Director Cassandra Goldman commented on several academic scholarships/honors, faculty awards, staff awards, and foundation scholarships. Several WVC staff/faculty, students, and the two Honor Marshals—Brooklyn Mays and Lainey Moore—stood for applause for their achievements.

Thomas Allen III was the Charge to the Class. He gave the students eight pieces of advice and advised them to keep moving toward their goals. Bleyer was chosen for the Student Response. In her speech, Bleyer spoke about the idea of “the unpredictability of life.” She reflected back on the unpredictability of her life while at WVC and motivated the graduating class to venture toward the unpredictability of their lives as well.

The graduating baseball players, who were held back at an ongoing home game, finally arrived at the graduation just in time to clutch their degrees and certificates. With all degrees and certificates passed, the WVC students were officially named graduates and exited the gym with their tassels on the left side of their caps. The graduation night ended with lots of picture-taking opportunities, drinks and snacks at the WVC tent, and a satisfying feeling of accomplishment from family, friends, WVC staff and faculty, and, of course, from the graduated Class of 2023.





# SUMMER CAMPS

Are you ready to take your skills to the next level? Look no further than Wabash Valley College's exciting lineup of Summer camps. With a variety of options available, our camps provide a premier training opportunity for young athletes and music enthusiasts alike. The campus has already witnessed the success of two engaging camps: Theatre Camp and Art Camp. But there's more to come! In the coming weeks, we will be hosting Baseball Camp, Basketball Camp, Volleyball Camp, and Music Camp.

Our athletic skills camps offer young players the chance to elevate their game by working with our new coaching staff and experienced players from all three sports. These camps consist of a full-skill workout, simulated scrimmages, and written evaluations by the coaching staff. It's a comprehensive training program designed to improve skills, enhance performance, and foster growth.

Volleyball and basketball camps are open for both boys and girls, providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all aspiring athletes. Regardless of gender, participants will have the opportunity to learn, compete, and refine their skills in a supportive and challenging setting.

But that's not all. For the first time ever, Wabash Valley College is introducing Music Camp. This three-day extravaganza is designed for music enthusiasts aged 6 and up, promising an unforgettable experience filled with creativity, learning, and harmonious fun. Music Camp participants will have the chance to explore a diverse range of musical genres, including jazz, bluegrass, folk, country, classical, and Celtic music.

No matter if you're a beginner or an intermediate musician, our expert instructors will provide instrument training tailored to your skill level. From guitar, ukulele, and bass to cello, snare drum, and saxophone, our camp offers instruction on an array of instruments. We even provide training on piano, dulcimer, trumpet, and fiddle! The camp aims to foster a love for music and develop skills through engaging and interactive sessions.

If you're interested in joining any of our camps, be sure to visit our Facebook page or check out our website for more information on registration, cost, and dates. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to enhance your skills, make new friends, and have a summer filled with fun and growth at Wabash Valley College's Summer camps!

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

AUTHOR: MAGGEE BLEYER

Karissa Anderson is the Digital Collections Coordinator for IECC and the Director of Instructional Support Services at WVC. Born and raised in Mt. Carmel, IL, Karissa graduated from Mt. Carmel High School and later earned her Associate's in Science from WVC. While at WVC as a student, she took an interest in Marketing/Business classes. After a long break from classes, she returned to school and received her Bachelor's in Science-Business with a specialty in Marketing from the University of Phoenix all the while working full-time and taking care of her family.

Karissa started working at WVC in 1996 as the Assistant to the Director of Public Information & Marketing when she was a 19-year-old college sophomore. In 2005, Karissa began her work as a Library Technician in the WVC Library. At first, she wasn't sure if she would like her new position—however, she quickly grew to love the book-covered walls of the library. On

May 1st, 2023, Karissa was selected as the Director of Instructional Support Services, which leads the WVC Library/Academic Success Center.

“[...] I had found my place,” Karissa expressed. “I found that the WVC Library/Academic Success Center has valuable resources that are often underrated and forgotten about. As the new Director, I want to be able to enhance the student experience here at WVC [by] providing support for their academic success.”

Karissa's new role involves overseeing and organizing various services of the library/Academic Success Center. This includes managing day-to-day operations, supervising tutors, providing disability services, promoting new initiatives like TimelyCare and Tutor Me, conducting library instruction, and handling the ordering and cataloging of books and resources.

The WVC Library is open to not only students but to community patrons as well. “I want all our patrons to know that the WVC Library/Academic Success Center is the information place on Campus,” Karissa explained. “We want to be the place where students, faculty, staff, and our community feel comfortable asking questions. Need help? Stop by and we will help you find the resources you need.”

“The reason we are here is to help our students,” Karissa stated. “Our students are at a time in their lives where new things are beginning. Whether they are a recent high school graduate, a non-traditional student, or a student who is thinking about starting classes, this is a big transition for them. Let us all be that helping hand in their lives to help them accomplish their goals.”

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Q: What is your favorite quote(s)?

A: “You’re just as happy in life as you want to be. I don’t think people should want for a lot of things – be content – but try to grow in everything you do.” – Thelma Lathrop. Many years ago, I was working on a digital project for the WVC/IECC Digital Archives. For some additional information, I did some searching in the digital archives of the Daily Republican Register (the hometown newspaper at the time). My search retrieved the newspaper from October 4, 1982. On the front page of the paper was a picture of my grandmother, Thelma Lathrop. She was featured in the “Community Spotlight” for her work with a local organization. This was her words of wisdom for others. It was a nice little reminder from my Grandma who had passed away many years before.

Q: What is your favorite book(s)?

A: I’m currently reading Colleen Hoover's books I have read many books that stand out, but one [of] my favorite book[s] is in our children’s section here at WVC. If You Give A Mouse A Cookie, by Laura Joffe Numeroff. It is my go-to book for reading time. It always reminds me that many people live their lives as “What if’s...” But we often forget that “What if’s...” can be the beginning of your next great adventure!

Q: What do you like to do outside of WVC?

A: Spending time with my husband and children. My favorite hobby is [working] on my various cross-stitching projects while watching true crime documentaries.

Q: What is next as the Digital Collections Coordinator for IECC?

IECC currently has 12 collections of digital archives, with new projects being added soon. The collections currently include yearbooks from Wabash Valley College, Olney Central College, Lincoln Trail College, Mt. Carmel High School, and Edwards County High School. It also includes many other publications from the various IECC institutions and the surrounding communities. Check out the collections here: <https://iecc.edu/wvc/student-life/library/iecc-carli-digital-collections>







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