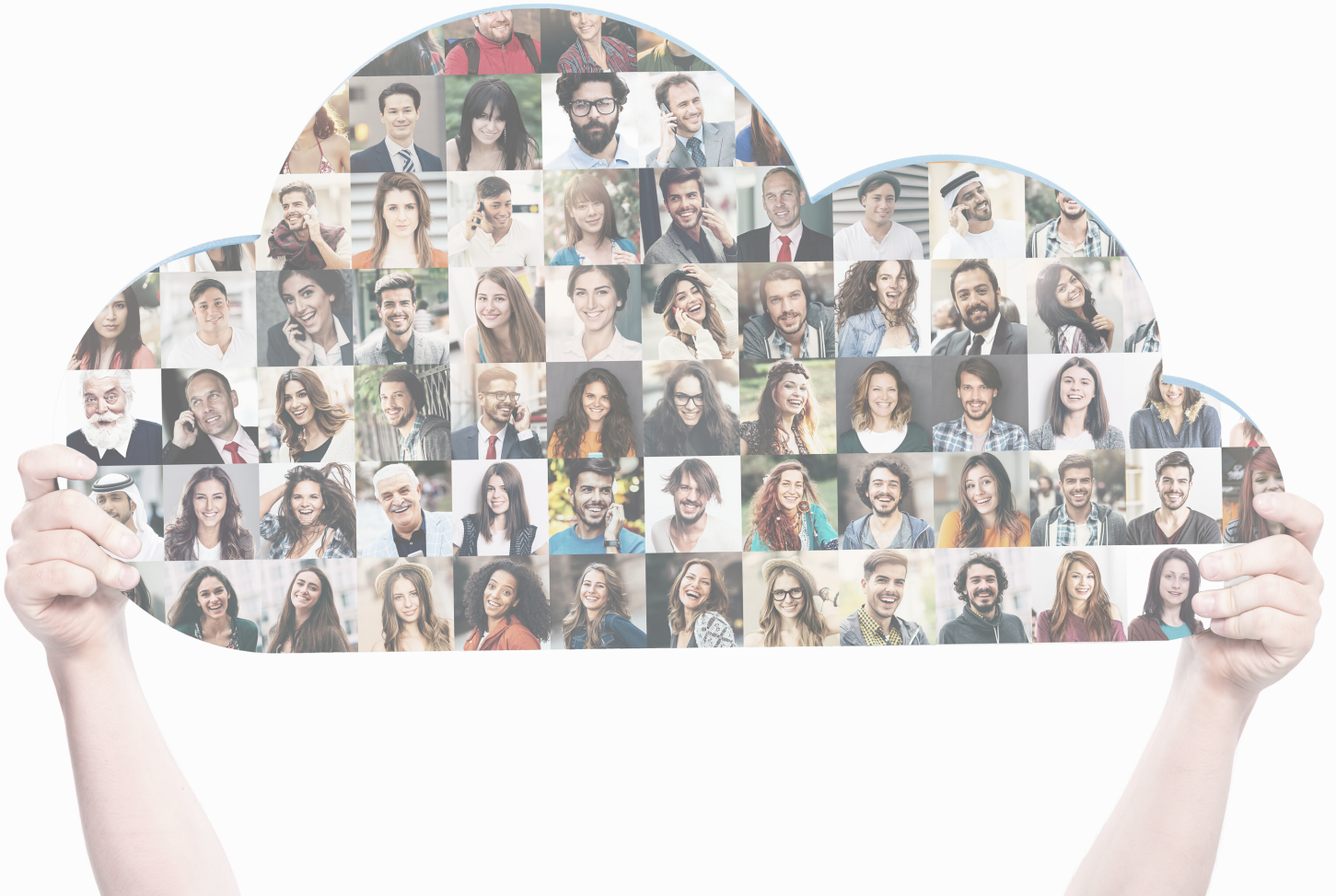


VIEW FROM THE VALLEY



WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE





Community is not just a place, but a feeling of belonging, support, and connection that enriches our lives.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Editor's Note

02

Upcoming Events

03

Warriors #2 in the Nation

05

Adventures of Tom Sawyer

06

Faculty Spotlight

07

Backyard Bash

08

Gallery

EDITOR'S NOTE



Ah, Summer—long nights, dreamlike sunsets, bonfires, s'mores, and an excuse to eat ice cream and popsicles all day, right? So far, I have been enjoying my summer. I hope you, reader, are liking your summer, too!

I'm proud of what WVC and its staff, students, and community have accomplished this summer. I am a huge lover of the arts, and it makes me happy to see WVC creating music and theatre fun for everybody! The WVC baseball team has also impressed everyone—but, we aren't surprised by how amazing the team plays.

The community of Mt. Carmel is treated to multiple summer events, like Walk-Up Wednesdays, Music at the Park, Pride Fest, 4th of July celebrations, Farmer's Market, local shopping, and other opportunities to have fun under the sun. Nonetheless, summer is the perfect time to take some time out of your day to relax and take advantage of the entertainment around you. Whether the entertainment is chilling in front of the TV or taking a walk outside, this summer is your summer—I can feel it!

Now, read on and feel the summer vibes from this edition of VFTV!

Peace!

Maggie Bleyer



As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, summer has a way of slipping through our fingers, leaving us with a mix of emotions. It feels like just yesterday when we eagerly compiled our lists of fun family activities to enjoy during the sunny season. And now, as we reflect on the past month, we can proudly say that we've checked off many of those adventures, and have established some new routines along the way.

At our house, summer is a time for exercise and basking in the sun's rays. Our days are spent outdoors hiking, exploring, splashing, jumping, digging, running, biking, and gardening. This is why it was no surprise my family was at the Backyard Bash from start to finish (see page 07)!

I understand the value of seizing these fleeting summer moments. I strive to prioritize family time, as our children grow up all too quickly. Before we know it, they'll be off joining teams, clubs, and pursuing their own paths. That's why I urge you to embrace the warmth of summer with your loved ones and create lasting memories.

In this issue, we're thrilled to share snippets of what the WVC Family has been up to this summer.

Read on!

Jonathan Leach

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 04, 2023

Campus Closed

July 10-13, 2023

Baseball Camp II

Volleyball Camp

July 26-28, 2023

Music Camp

July 27, 2023

Baseball: Prospect Showcase II

August 16, 2023

New Student Orientation

August 17, 2023

First Day of Fall Semester

2 IN THE NATION

The Bash Boyz have given us a season to remember, filled with triumph, resilience, and the unwavering support of our fans. From the moment our boys stepped foot on the field, they captured the hearts of Colorado, showcasing their skills and winning over countless fans.

In a display of their commitment to the community, the team and staff were honored to attend and assist the Challenger Baseball game, hosted by the Grand Junction nonprofit organization which provides the opportunity to play baseball for all kids. Witnessing the joy on the faces of those kids as they played baseball was a truly heartwarming experience. Our boys went above and beyond, embodying the spirit of the game.

The Colorado fans embraced our boys with open arms, turning into fervent supporters overnight. From the sea of posters and cheers that filled the stands, it was clear that they believed in our team. News Channel 8 even featured our incredible journey on their local news station, spreading the word about the Bash Boyz and our beloved Wabash Valley College. While back at home, our campus had several organized watch parties to cheer them on.

Throughout the season, our boys faced tough challenges, but they never backed down. With every round leading up to the national championship game, they found themselves facing setbacks. Yet, time and time again, they rallied, defying the odds and emerging victorious. It was a testament to their unwavering spirit and determination, leaving no doubt in the minds of our loyal fans that our boys were capable of greatness.

We made history this season, breaking records and showcasing our indomitable spirit. The Bash Boyz achieved the remarkable feat of back-to-back trips to the World Series, a testament to their unmatched talent and relentless drive. In addition, we played the longest game ever recorded at the Juco World Series, further solidifying our legacy as a team that leaves it all on the field.

Though the final game did not end in our favor, our pride in the Bash Boyz remains unshaken. They fought with every ounce of their being, displaying their unrivaled skills and the sportsmanship that defines our team. We may not have secured the national championship title, but our boys have achieved something far greater — they have inspired a community, united us in support, and ignited a fire that will burn brighter in the seasons to come.

As our boys returned to campus, a wave of celebration swept through the community. When they arrived back in town, a spectacular welcome-back parade awaited them. The sidewalks were lined with proud members of the community, clapping, cheering, and blasting our fight song. It was a sight to behold, a testament to the impact our boys have had on our town.

We gathered together to celebrate the team's achievements, handing out well-deserved awards, enjoying refreshments, and relishing in a highlight reel of their awe-inspiring performance. Every moment captured on film stands as a testament to the unwavering spirit of the Bash Boyz, forever etching their names into the annals of Wabash Valley College history.

The Bash Boyz may have fallen short in the final game, but their legacy will endure. They have shown us what it means to fight with passion, dedication, and a united spirit. We are immensely proud of our team, and we eagerly await the next chapter in the exhilarating journey of the Bash Boyz. The future is bright, and together, we will continue to leave an indelible mark on the world of baseball.



ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER

The NEW WVC Originators are thrilled to announce the resounding success of their recent production, "Adventures of Tom Sawyer." Led by Play Directors Carla Cadwalader and Assistant Director Colette Grigsly, alongside Stage Manager Eric Carrol, this enchanting play captivated audiences of all ages.

In a remarkable feat, the production of "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" achieved a flawless fusion of theater and music, immersing spectators in the enchanting world of Mark Twain's timeless tale. The dedication, talent, and unwavering commitment of our exceptional cast and crew brought forth a truly magical experience that left the audience feeling inspired.

Behind the scenes, our extraordinary stage crew, directors, actors, and even some parents worked tirelessly to create breathtaking sets that faithfully captured the essence of the original play. Their efforts ensured that the homestead, creek, cemetery, classroom, church, and even the mysterious cave found their rightful place on the stage of the Brubeck Theatre.

One of the standout aspects of "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" was the inclusion of children actors as young as 5 years old, working alongside seasoned performers. This harmonious collaboration not only provided our young actors with an unforgettable opportunity to explore the joys of imagination and acting but also allowed the audience to witness their exceptional talent and enthusiasm firsthand. It was a testament to the nurturing environment and the commitment of our organization to foster the next generation of theater artists.

The NEW WVC Originators spared no effort in ensuring that the production offered an enjoyable experience for the entire family. The intermission provided a delightful break, where attendees were treated to refreshments and the chance to share their excitement and impressions of the show. "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" truly captured the essence of a quintessential small-town life, transporting the audience to a world filled with wonder, laughter, and heartwarming moments.

The dedication and passion of our young artists were not limited to their performances on stage. They also played an integral role behind the scenes, contributing as part of the stage crew and even serving as waitresses during the optional themed meal.

The success of "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" stands as a testament to the outstanding talent, dedication, and collaborative spirit of everyone involved. Together, they crafted a theatrical masterpiece that will be remembered as a shining achievement in our organization's history.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that we extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Colette Grigsly, our esteemed Assistant Director, who sadly passed away a few weeks after the performance. Colette was an extraordinary individual who dedicated herself to serving our campus, community, and the productions at the Brubeck Theatre. Her exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to the arts will be greatly missed. Colette Grigsly will forever remain an inspiration to all of us.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

AUTHOR:
MAGGEE BLEYER

Trina Dunkel is the Coordinator of Financial Aid at WVC. She is also an adjunct faculty member, teaching classes revolving around Microsoft Office 365 programs and Pathways to Success.

Trina grew up in the Allendale, IL, and Mt. Carmel, IL, area. She graduated from Mt. Carmel High School. Later, she enrolled as a student at WVC and received her Associate's degree. Then, she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern Illinois University.

Trina started working at WVC as a work-study student in 2001. She has worked multiple jobs at WVC.

"I have worked in a plethora of positions at WVC," Trina explained. "I worked for O&M, I worked for the Assistant to the President, I worked in the Business Office, I worked in the Bookstore, and then I worked as a faculty office assistant in the Applied Arts Building/Diesel Office for fifteen years. In 2017, I made the change to Financial Aid. It was definitely an eye-opening experience, but a good one. I believe that the positions I have held over the past twenty-three years were just preparing me for my current position."

Before holding her present Coordinator position, Trina was a Student Services Specialist in Financial Aid.

"I had been [a Student Services Specialist] for five years," Trina stated. "I loved the interaction I had with students, parents, faculty, and staff. I love that I can help a student reach their goals by offering them some financial assistance for college. I felt that becoming the Coordinator would just enhance that experience."

In the past, Trina and her first Leadership Class group built the Time Capsule bench which is currently located in Main Hall. A year later, she and her second Leadership Class came up with the idea of placing umbrellas throughout different locations on campus. The project, "Borrow an Umbrella," provides umbrellas students can use to walk from building to building during rainy weather. The same Leadership Class also assisted the Student Senate at the beginning of the Student Lounge project. The Student Lounge has been available for students' leisure for two years.

Trina values assisting WVC students and is always present as a helping hand not only in the Financial Office but also on campus. "Being a helpful hand to WVC college students is the most important part of everyone's job," Trina expressed. "Without our students, we wouldn't have jobs. Helping our students should always come first, and it's what makes our jobs rewarding."



"It's amazing how one small decision can literally change your life. I went to college for the first time when my youngest child started kindergarten because I didn't want to be bored at home. Little did I know that my meeting with Judy Neikirk that fateful day would turn into a career. I thought I was just going to do something to take up my spare time, but instead found a place and a career that I love. Over the past 23 years, I have seen a lot of changes to our campus, and a lot of people come and go. I feel privileged to be one of the "seasoned" employees at Wabash Valley College."

BACKYARD BASH

The Backyard Bash, held on June 23rd, transformed our campus into a vibrant hub of laughter, play, and exploration. Kids of all ages bounced with pure delight as they experienced the largest inflatable bouncy house we've ever seen—a farm trailer inflatable complete with an obstacle course and a tractor slide. For the younger attendees, a smaller princess-themed bouncy house and slides provided endless entertainment.

The rhythm of the event was set by lively music, inviting families to dance and groove together throughout the day. Thanks to Warrior Grill, free hotdogs and chips were provided, ensuring that everyone had plenty of energy to partake in the festivities.

The sidewalks were filled with beautiful artwork and children eagerly immersed themselves in the enormous bubbles. Additionally, the Backyard Bash featured a delightful activity of painting rocks, resulting in a colorful array of personalized treasures.

The event catered to the love of reading as well. Families gathered at the library, where stories were read every hour, sparking imagination and fostering a deeper appreciation for books and WVC's community library. In a delightful twist, one of the stories inspired families to engage in a friendly bowling game down the library aisles.

Tug of war, cornhole, hula hoops, jump ropes, and various balls provided endless opportunities for friendly competition and energetic fun. Participants also enjoyed exploring the campus while completing peek-and-find cards, an adventurous scavenger hunt that added an extra layer of excitement.

Despite the weather being pleasantly cool and slightly overcast, guests at the event were still able to enjoy free snow cones provided by Snoshack. The delightful combination of the refreshing treats and the comfortable outdoor atmosphere added an extra layer of enjoyment for attendees of all ages.

Wabash Valley College took great pride in organizing an event that brought families together, fostered connections, and celebrated the spirit of community. The Backyard Bash served as a platform to create lasting memories while emphasizing the importance of play, learning, and togetherness.

The event succeeded in bringing people closer, fostering connections, and creating an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. Wabash Valley College is immensely grateful to all the attendees, sponsors, and volunteers who made the Backyard Bash a tremendous success. We look forward to hosting more events that bring happiness, laughter, and cherished memories to our community.





The Bash



VIEW
FROM
THE
VALLEY

