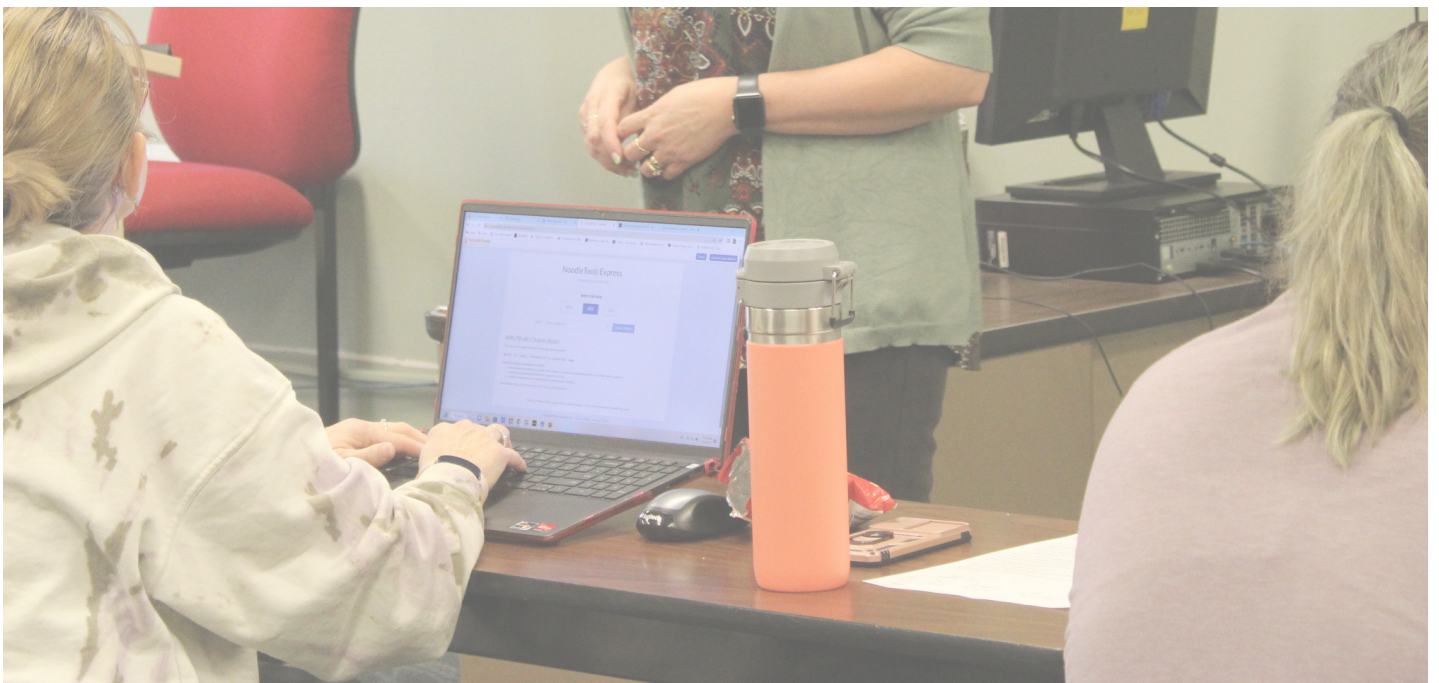


VIEW FROM THE VALLEY



WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE





**Education is not the filling of a
pail, but the lighting of a fire.**

W.B. YEATS



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Every Tuesday, my friend Ni and I will go to Cafe 82:3 in Mt. Carmel for coffee. I love sitting in the peaceful cafe with her and catching up on what's happening in our lives. Usually, she has a microbiology quiz on Tuesdays, so I let her study as I work on my homework.

Normally, she gets a super sweet iced coffee or a matcha. For me, my drink order changes. A chai latte, a hot black tea with lavender, a blended lemonade with peach syrup, an iced green tea, a peppermint mocha, a chocolate mousse macchiato--in short, my drink order changes all the time. I wish I was one of those people with a defined drink order (which, in my defense, my typical drink order was always a chai latte for about two years of my life), but I like trying everything. Hot coffees are usually my go-to--I'm not a big fan of iced coffee...but I might have to become an avid iced coffee drinker if this humid weather doesn't clear up.

If I had to choose a cozy drink to sip on while reading this month's View From the Valley, I'd probably choose a creamy hot chocolate. If it's too hot outside, then an ice-cold lemonade will do. Whatever you would choose, I hope you feel comfortable and refreshed as you read on!

Peace!

Maggee Bleyer



I've been spending a lot of time outside with my family already this season. We have been planting a lot of flowers and finalizing our vegetable garden. Sowing, planting, and tending the soil and plants is something everyone in the family enjoys doing. This makes it incredibly satisfying to see the fruits of our labor and to know that we're doing our part to contribute to a healthier, greener planet.

But that is not the only thing we have going on outside. We have a large bee colony that is already rambunctious! Spying on the hive, from a safe distance, of course, is fun this time of year. Between bike rides, hiking through the woods, drawing with chalk, and picnicking with my family, there's always something fun and exciting happening.

I urge you to get out and enjoy all that spring has to offer. Whether it's sipping on coffee on the porch, tending to your plants, or adventuring in the great outdoors, I hope that you find joy and rejuvenation in the beauty of this season.

Read on!

Jonathan Leach

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 01, 2023

Baseball vs. Lake Land (feat. on ESPN+)

April 02, 2023

Softball vs. Lake Land (feat. on ESPN+)

April 06, 2023

Softball vs. John A. Logan

April 07, 2023

Softball vs. Rend Lake

April 08, 2023

Baseball vs. OCC

April 10, 2023

Baseball vs. Oakland City

April 11, 2-23

Softball vs. Frontier Community College

Baseball vs. Columbia State

April 12, 2023

SpringFest

April 13, 2023

Baseball vs. Kaskaskia

Softball vs. Southeastern

April 15, 2023

Tapestry Unraveled: The Music of Carole King

April 15, 2023

Bass Warriors @ Pickwick Lake

April 17, 2023

Softball vs. Southwestern

April 22, 2023

Baseball vs. Columbia State

Softball vs. Kaskaskia

April 25, 2023

County Legends in Concert

April 26, 2023

County Legends in Concert

April 29, 2023

Softball vs. Shawnee Community

Baseball vs. Southeastern

May 02& 03, 2023

Grad Fest

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

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Rachel Vaughan is a sophomore who is set to graduate in May 2023 with two associate degrees in Applied Science and Arts-Social Services Specialist from WVC. Rachel grew up in Grayville, IL, and graduated from Grayville High School in 1992. She then attended one year of college at Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, WV, before taking a hiatus from her academic pursuits. However, her desire to go back to college and earn a degree never waned. After losing her job in December 2021, she took this as a sign to return to college and pursue her passion for social work and addiction counseling. Rachel continued, "With the support of my husband and daughter, I decided I wanted to not only collect a paycheck but give back to my community by going back and getting an education toward addiction counseling."

Rachel decided to attend WVC because it was close to home, and she knew several family members and friends who had graduated from college with great success. She is currently studying Social Services and is the president of the Social Services Club, as well as a member of the Health Professionals Club. Her career goal is to become an addiction counselor and be involved in policy social work. Although, she dreams of starting a faith-based, nonprofit sober living facility/community in her area. "I love the idea of participating in the improvement of and implementation of new, better social welfare policies and programs to help those coming from the generational poverty and addiction populations that I come from," Rachel said.

As a recovering addict, Rachel struggled to find an inpatient drug treatment program because she was on the medical card. Many of the places she sought help required payment up front to reserve a room. However, she managed to secure a spot in two different centers in 2007 and 2011. After finishing her program, she was hesitant to return to her community due to a lack of sober support systems. "In rehab and 12-step programs, we are told we have to change our playmates, playthings, and playgrounds in order to stay clean and sober. Sometimes it is not possible for someone to just pick up their life and move away. I would like to give a sober living alternative to people from our area. One of the most dangerous symptoms of active addiction is isolation. The opposite of isolation for us is a connection to others who are working in a recovery program. A sober community of support multiplies the chances for long-term sobriety exponentially. I want to be that conduit of hope and change for people who desire a better way of life, a life away from active addiction."

Rachel loves the feeling of belonging she gets at WVC. As a nontraditional student, she was nervous about returning to college after a long hiatus. However, the staff, instructors, and students embraced her and made her feel like she belonged. She feels seen, wanted, and loved at WVC. In the fall, she will be transferring to SIUC for a Bachelor's in Social Work and Masters in Addiction Counseling and Political Social Work.



Outside of school, Rachel enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter, grandchildren, and pets. She also volunteers her time in surrounding communities; Keensburg Christian Church, The Hope Center, Cowling Community Center, and Safe Haven Christian Homeless Shelter.

Rachel's story is an inspiration to those who have faced setbacks in their education and career but are determined to succeed and make a difference in their community.

"WVC is a great place for anyone wanting to further their education. I love it here and am sad to be moving on. This was the first step toward my future. It is said that the first step is the hardest. I have found in my life that this is so true. I am so grateful that WVC was here for me to continue my education journey and give me the confidence to go even further. Every instructor that I have had here has played a significant part in my success. Mrs. Hockgeiger and Mrs. Trapp have answered all of my questions and alleviated all off my fears at every turn in my WVC career. Dr. Gill and Dr. McMurray

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT CONT.

have both been so informative and kind. Ms. Winter goes out of her way to sit and talk me through her speech class. Mrs. Phegley was always so positive and encouraging last spring in my Comp II class. Coach Scheidecker always welcomed my life experience stories in his health class.

I love learning so I have loved all of my classes. If I had to pick one, I would say it was my policy class. In 1992, I was in the prelaw program. I wanted to be a defense attorney and save the world. This passion was reignited when I took a policy class. I did not know that there was political/policy social work. I love politics. I also love having a voice/hand in fixing our broken welfare systems pertaining to inequalities and injustices in both our state and national socioeconomic class policies.

Also, anyone struggling with the disease of addiction/alcoholism, please reach out. This disease wants to convince us first that we do not have it and second that we can manage it on our own. It wants to isolate us and keep us from connecting to others that can help. I am on campus daily. I can be reached on Facebook, Messenger, and Instagram. I recover out loud so that we do not have to die quietly.

Here are some resources: Alcoholics Anonymous | 212-647-1680 or aa.org, Narcotics Anonymous | 800.539-0475 or na.org, Addiction Hotline | 1-800-662-4357"

50 YEARS AT BRUBECK

AUTHOR: MAGGEE BLEYER

In March, the WVC Arts Council presented "A Musical". Performed by WVC students, children, and other members of or around the Mt. Carmel community, "A Musical" paid homage to Brubeck Arts Center's fifty years of activity.

Directed by Alison Dudley, "A Musical" featured all types of genres, such as Broadway, children's songs, gospel, folk, rock, and country. Some songs included "There's No Business Like Show Business" from "Annie Get Your Gun", "Do Re Mi" from "The Sound of Music", "On The Willows" from "Godspell", "Chicken Fried," and other melodies from different ranges of music. "Country Is", "All Kinds of People", and "Fiddler on the Roof" are a few examples of the multitude of Brubeck Arts Center musicals featured in "A Musical".

"We featured different songs from shows that had been at the theatre," stage manager and WVC student Brady Kolb stated.

Kolb was offered a stage manager position after working with Brubeck Arts Center productions in the past. Kolb took the opportunity because of his passion for theatre and to help him build his resume toward obtaining a Master's in Fine Arts. All his life, Kolb has acted and helped in theatrical performances. Brubeck Arts Center has allowed him to explore a theatre-related career path and become more involved with fine arts.

"[Community theatre] lets you see different sides of people in your community that you may have not realized were there," Kolb explained. "It also helps support local artists that may not get as much recognition as they would if they were in a bigger city."

From magic shows, once-in-a-lifetime concerts, talented plays, catchy musicals, and other fun productions, Brubeck Arts Center will always serve as an artistic and entertaining outlet at WVC.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Joe Judge is a distinguished alumnus of Wabash Valley College (WVC), where he pursued a degree in Electronic Engineering Technology Program from 1992 to 1994. "WVC had the program I was looking for, and since I was born and raised in Albion, IL, WVC was close to home for me."

During his time at WVC, Joe played intramural baseball and basketball. Communications, with Gary Shaw, was his favorite class, but he also remembers professors Pablo Lopez and Bob Effland fondly. While working hard in the classroom, Joe also began working at Spartan Engineering Products. He continued to work there even after graduation. In 1997, Joe married, and two years later, he permanently moved to Mount Carmel with his new family. In 2004, Joe attended the University of Southern Indiana for a Bachelor's in Applied Engineering Management. Currently, Joe is working on a Master's in Public Administration at Ohio State University

After obtaining his Bachelor's degree, Mr. Judge's professional journey led him to work for Champion Lab, an automation house in Evansville, and River City Design before assuming his current position as the Regional Vice President of Flodraulic Group, where he has been employed for the past 24 years. In his current role, Mr. Judge manages customer relations and problem-solving.

In addition to his professional career, Mr. Judge has served as the Mayor of Mount Carmel for the past four years. Joe is also the Chair of the Board for the Greater Wabash County Regional Commission, and he was recently selected as one of the 36 Illinois mayors attending the Congressional Delegation of Mayors in Washington D.C. Joe's favorite part about Mount Carmel and WVC was working with people and helping them turn their ideas into reality. He enjoys brainstorming ideas and working in economic development in his mayoral position. Projects like renovating the "kiddie playground" and adding bathrooms to the park were among the highlights. "I enjoy working with people, helping them take their ideas and really making them happen," said Joe. Outside of work, Joe enjoys spending time with his family, hiking, and adventuring at places like Garden of the Gods and Saint Mary, Montana.

Q: "Did you receive any training for your position as mayor?"

A: "I had a lot of informal training and gained a lot of wisdom from Rudy Whitman. I have also attended the Illinois municipal league to receive professional training and networking."

Q: "What is your favorite quote?"

A: "Live Simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God." -Ronald Reagan.

Q: "Do feel like college prepared you for the workforce?"

A: "Yes I feel like my education prepared me for the workforce and he was more prepared to handle the job."

Q: "Advice for students preparing for college and/or the workplace?"

A: "Invest in yourself and get at least an associates degree; learn a trade or skill so you have a way to make money. A degree shows that you are teachable. But in the workplace, communication is key. Speaking in front of people, you will do it everywhere."

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



AUTHOR: MAGGEE BLEYER

Chase Bramlet is an English Instructor at WVC and teaches classes, such as Composition I, Composition II, Creative Writing, and multiple Literature courses.

Born and raised in Mt. Carmel, Chase grew up going to baseball camps and playing in basketball tournaments at WVC. After high school, he attended Wabash College located in Crawfordsville, IN for four years. Chase went back home thereafter and took online and evening classes at WVC to build his academic resume. Later, he began and completed a two-year degree at Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE). During his years at graduate school, SIUE chose Chase for a Teaching Assistantship.

Chase's deep love for literature and his respect for his past teachers inspired him to become an English/Literature instructor. "Shakespeare inspired my love of literature (and Hawthorne, among others, cemented it)," Bramlet explained. "The beauty of passionate instructors at my Alma Mater inspired my strivings to become an instructor myself." After graduating from SIUE with his Master's in Arts, Chase taught at Oakland City University for two years. He moved onto WVC in 2021 in a marketing-based career. After one year in his marketing profession, Chase took the opportunity to apply for a WVC English Instructor position. He began teaching at WVC during the fall 2022 semester.

Chase's teaching style is mainly hands-off and full of discussion.

"I prefer to have meaningful dialogue with students so they can discover new information and techniques for learning and writing on their own, when possible," Chase described. "Sometimes those discussions lead to distractions, but that's part of the learning process too. [...] Any chance I get to encourage (or sometimes force) students to think critically to problem solve, you can bet I'll take advantage of that chance." Furthermore, Chase hopes for each of his students to enhance their writing skills by taking his classes. "My hope is that each student leaves my classroom a better writer than they were when they entered," Chase said. "If nothing else, I hope they recognize situations that require formal writing! Writing aside, I try to teach students the world is not something you can view through one lens. Any well-informed and intelligent person should form opinions after considering what things might look like to someone else."

Q: What is your favorite band?

A: Led Zeppelin

Q: What do you do outside of WVC?

A: "My wife and I enjoy almost anything involving athleticism and/or the outdoors. Rock climbing, tennis, and hiking national parks are probably our top 3. I love my family more than anything. Spending time with my son (and soon sons) is more precious to me than any activity or hobby out there. I'm also an avid hunter and love creating new dishes from the game I hunt and the forest offerings I forage."



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