

THE VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

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Former WVC professor, Dr. Patricia Owens, quoted in new publication about Yellowstone

When retired Yellowstone historian Lee Whittlesey told his longtime friend Dr. Patricia Owens, a former Wabash Valley College professor, that he wanted to use her work in a book project he had been working on, she was surprised.

As a way to stay connected, Mr. Whittlesey and Dr. Owens often exchanged works they had published throughout the years.

“Sending him the article was just an exchange of writings, as we have often done. What was surprising was that my words filled a gap for him – helped him find the perfect way to begin chapter one and introduce the book,” Dr. Owens said.

The quote that Mr. Whittlesey used is from an essay Dr. Owens wrote in 2015 for the Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous entitled “The Buffalo Trace.”

“It was the theme-essay printed and distributed by George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Vincennes, where I am a volunteer,” said Dr. Owens. “I sent Lee a copy of the essay, and he told me that my words were just what he had been trying to develop for the book’s introduction.”

The book Mr. Whittlesey was working on is “The History of Mammals in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, 1796 – 1881: A Multi-Disciplinary Analysis of Thousands of Historical Observations,” which Whittlesey co-authored with Sarah Bone.

According to the book itself, it “attempts to tell the stories of all known travelers who recorded

their observations of animals while on trips to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—including Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park—during the period 1796 through 1881....

[The] authors spent nearly thirty years finding the sources, inputting them into a huge, NPS-owned computer database, analyzing the data with the help of the database, writing the conclusions, producing 71 illustrations, having the book reviewed by numerous scientists at Yellowstone National Park in the NPS’s Yellowstone Center for Resources, and finally causing the book to be reviewed by three other, professional, paid historians.”

Of Mr. Whittlesey and Ms. Bone’s work, Dr. Owens said, “These two volumes are outstanding, and I am honored to be quoted in the first paragraph of the first chapter.”

Dr. Owens worked for Mr. Whittlesey during the summers of 1998 and 1999 at the Yellowstone National Park archives. In total, during her time at WVC, Dr. Owens spent five summers working at Yellowstone National Park.

According to Dr. Owens, the American West has always been of interest to her and has been the focus of her studies.

“As a child, and as an adult, I have traveled widely in the West,” said Dr. Owens. “In many ways, it is home. Home is where the heart is.”

Dr. Owens is an expert in the 19th-century American West, Lincoln and the Civil War and has studied historical interpretation, park planning and management extensively.

During her 35-year career at Wabash Valley College, Dr. Owens taught a wide range of courses: American History, Western Civilization, World Geography, American Government, Introduction to Asian Culture, Introduction to International Relations, Native American History, Frontier History, American Character, America During the ‘60s, Environmental History, History of Illinois, and Composition.

She was voted Teacher of the Year eight times by WVC’s student body.

During her time at WVC, she also published several articles and hundreds of book reviews, presented numerous papers, served on the Editorial Board of Journal of Illinois History, received the Yellowstone Peer Award-Branch of Cultural Resources, and was a member of the T. A. Moulton Centennial Celebration Steering Committee-Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

She also sponsored the WVC Student Senate, Peer Counselors—a program she founded—and the Model United Nations program.

Dr. Owens continues to serve in various positions with distinction. She currently serves as volunteer archivist at George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Vincennes. In 2015, she won the George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Individual Volunteer for the Midwest Region of the National Park Service for her impressive work organizing and indexing the park’s vast archives; she was one of seven national winners.



Dr. Patricia Owens

She also continues to publish articles in academic journals, such as Journal of the West and Annals of Wyoming. She also continues to do book reviews for Library Journal and School Library Journal and various state historical societies.

Since retiring from WVC, Dr. Owens has traveled extensively. She has been to China to see pandas, been on safari in Kenya, and traveled to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada to see polar bears.

Adisyn Coffey drafted in third round by Chicago White Sox

For the second straight year, a Wabash Valley College player has been selected in the Major League Baseball draft.

Two-way standout Adisyn Coffey, a 6-foot-2 sophomore from Muncie, Ind., was selected in the third round by the Chicago White Sox with the 83rd pick overall. On the mound, the righthander worked 3.1 innings and registered one save. At the plate, the outfielder hit .286.

"We're very happy for Adisyn," said veteran WVC baseball coach Rob Fournier. "It's great to see an organization do such an outstanding job of scouting as well. Adisyn is

an electric athlete with a bright future either as a position player or on the mound, where I think he will throw a 100 someday."

In 2019, Warrior pitcher Antoine Kelley was taken by the Milwaukee Brewers in the second round.

Wabash Valley was 17-2 and ranked No. 1 in the country when the season was halted in March due to the coronavirus. That marked the second straight season the Warriors had finished atop the final poll of the NJCAA Division I season.



**ROUND
3**

**PICK #
83**

TEAM



Adisyn Coffey, a Louisville commit who transferred to WVC from Arizona State, is expected to be used as a hurler in the White Sox organization. In fact, the club used all five picks in the pandemic-shortened MLB draft to select pitchers.

Fairfield team takes top spot in WVC high school bass invitational

A Fairfield team won the title at the first annual high school bass invitational, sponsored by the new Wabash Valley College bass fishing team, held on Saturday, June 20, at East Fork Lake in Olney.

Anglers Austin Holtgrave and Nate Kiefer topped the scales at 13.94 pounds for their maximum-allowed catch of five bass. They elected to share the individual honor for the single biggest catch of the day, weighing in at 4.25 pounds.

Finishing in second place were Peyton Rose and WVC-recruit Holden Kauble, from Flora, with a total catch of 13.6 pounds. Drew Gill and Chevy Wood of Mt. Carmel, also Warrior recruits, were third with a total catch of 13.13 pounds.

The top five rounded out with Konor Book and Evan Stone of Breese Mater Dei with a catch of 13.03 pounds, and Laindree Richardson and Lucas Weilt of Benton in fifth with a catch of 12.42 pounds.

"In the first 45 minutes, we had our full limit just about," said Holtgrave, who along with Kiefer graduated on Friday from Fairfield High School in a unique drive-thru ceremony. "We started off pretty

shallow, then towards the middle of the day we started moving out a little deeper. Everything went pretty well – we got a good bag."

The top five finishers all received awards and prizes. Holtgrave and Kiefer, by virtue of their first-place finish, were also presented with scholarship offers to join the bass fishing team at WVC.

Professor Todd Gill, Warrior bass coach, thanked the groups and individuals who helped stage the event.

"For being our first time hosting this event, I felt like things went very smoothly," he said. "The kids had pretty decent weather. Out of 27 teams, 21 weighed in their limit. So, I was happy they were all catching fish."

The six-hour long invitational began at 5:30 a.m. with a controlled start. Each of the 27 boats were released one at a time from the launch area. An adult coach was on board to accompany the two-person fishing team.

As a bonus, the top weigh-ins remained in special "Hot Seats" until they were replaced by new leaders. Holtgrave and Kiefer, who interestingly-enough were



As for the winners, Gill said, "I'm happy for Austin and Nate for pulling it off. Hopefully, they'll decide to come to WVC and fish for us."

Those interested in learning more about the WVC bass team can visit wvcwarriorathletics.com, click on Club Teams and select Bass Fishing or by following them on Facebook and Instagram @WVC Bass Team.



on the last boat out in the morning because of a draw held days prior to the event, took their special seats with about 10 teams left to be weighed in. They never left.

11 TRIO students to graduate from WVC

TRIO students Kaitlynn Bennett, Lucas Bissey, Joseph Bogard, Jesarey Caalim, Felicia Dilley, Haley Hart, Kane Jones, Alexia Joyn-er, Addison Seifert, Marylee Snyder and Samantha Odom Wil-son are graduating from WVC this July.

TRIO Student Support Services Academic Counselor Tayna Smith stated on WVC's TRIO website, "This has been one of the most unusual years that I have had in my 26 years of working in the college arena. I hope that you can all come back in July and attend the graduation ceremony."

TRIO Student Support Services is a federally funded program, free to students, and has been at the IECC colleges for 25 years. It is a program that serves first-

generation and/or income eligible students who may or may not have a disability which affects learning. The program offers its students a variety of services, such as: helping students select classes, helping students chose a major, loan students a laptop or other equipment, taking students on trips, help with FAFSA, helping students find and apply to a transfer school, helping students avoid loans, helping students find scholarships, helping students balance a budget, helping students get involved on campus, helping students become a leader and helping students meet new people.

On WVC's TRIO website, Smith commended the soon-to-be gradu-ates on their accomplishments, stating, "Congratulations! I am so proud of each and every one of you! ... I do hope I get to see you



WVC TRIO students are pictured at the "Learning to Succeed" seminar held at the beginning of each academic year with TRIO Academic Counselor Tayna Smith. The seminars are comprised of several sessions each day giving the students valuable information to help them be successful during the school year.

again and celebrate with you for your hard-fought accomplishments. If you ever need anything, please contact me! My very best wishes for all your success!"

Five Warrior Athletic Teams named NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year

Lady Warriors Softball Team Posted Highest Team GPA in Nation



WVC Lady Warriors Softball Team pictured at the beginning of the season.

The NJCAA has announced the 2019-20 Academic Teams of the Year with the Lady Warriors Softball Team earning the prestigious recognition of NJCAA Softball Academic Team of the Year for their success in the classroom.

NJCAA Academic Team of the Year honors are given out to teams that finish with a team average of 3.00 GPA for the entire

school year. A total of 182 NJCAA softball programs posted a 3.0 GPA or higher as a team during the 2019-20 academic year, with the Lady Warriors Softball Team posting a 3.71 cumulative team GPA, which was the highest in the Nation. This is the third time in school history that WVC has been named the Academic Team of the Year.

2019-2020 TEAM GPA'S	
Volleyball	3.49
Soccer	3.20
M Bkb	3.12
Softball	3.71
Baseball	3.22

All named NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year

The Lady Warriors are coached under the direction of first-year Head Coach Asa Deffendall, who began his 18th season at Wabash Valley College for the 2019-20 year.

Four additional athletic teams have been named to the NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year, namely, Volleyball, Soccer, Men's Basketball and Baseball. Each athletic team attained a GPA over 3.00 to qualify for the national honor.

The WVC volleyball team finished in the Top 35 nationally, with a GPA of 3.49, the best in Region 24. The Warrior baseball team was next at 3.22, followed by women's soccer at 3.20, and men's basketball at 3.12.

The men's basketball team, coached by Mike Carpenter, made the list for the fifth time in his seven years at the helm. The Warrior baseball team, ranked No. 1 in the NJCAA Division I poll at the end of the season for the second year in a row, continued their winning streak in the classroom as well, by being named an academic team of the year for the ninth consecutive season.