

View from the Valley

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OUR MISSION IS TO DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION AND SERVICES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS AND TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES.

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“The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

— Malcolm Forbes

Valley Briefs

WVC Bass Duo Places 6th in Strike King Bassmaster Event

WVC's Bass Club recently competed in the Strike King Lure Company Bassmaster tournament presented by Bass Pro Shops. Drew Gill & Jonah Potts finished 6th out of 250 boats!

WVC Warriors Basketball Dominating Season

The Warriors have advanced to a 15-6 W-L record this season with 8 games to go in regular season. The Lady Warriors have an astonishing record of 20-1 W-L, after playing 3 top ranked teams!

WVC Offering Free COVID-19 Testing

Pursuant to Gov. Pritzker's mandate, WVC now offers COVID-19 testing to WVC & Wabash community. Testing is located by the Art Gallery in Brubeck, Mon-Thur each week.

Solar Savings Update

WVC's new solar array produced >3MWh in January and has saved nearly 85K pounds of CO2 emissions. This reduction is the equivalent of over 640 trees being planted.

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

— Benjamin Franklin

WVC Bass Fishers Drew Gill & Jonah Potts Move into College National Championships



Wabash Valley College (WVC) Bass Fishers Drew Gill and Jonah Potts finished in 6th place in the first of 4 events of the 2022 season of the Strike King Bassmaster College Series on Friday, January 21st. Out of 250 boats, Gill and Potts finished in the top 3 percent - which qualifies them for the College National Championship. Both Gill and Potts detailed their experiences on the WVC Bass Team as such, "Wabash gives an opportunity to freshmen and sophomores that want to fish in college that no other team can. College fishing is a very competitive field because it's not huge like any other mainstream sport where it's a lot of people. [Wabash] gives an opportunity to underclassmen to fish since most four-year schools don't. At Wabash, [freshmen and sophomores] get the opportunity to fish all the tournaments against everyone else. Wabash provides an experience with bass fishing that you don't get at other schools."

While this is Potts' first time qualifying, Gill participated in the Championships in his first year at WVC. Drew explained that he valued the experience of his first time at the Championship. This year he is eager to succeed by making the top three - which enables him to move forward in the bracket. Alongside Gill, Potts mentioned his excitement for the Championship. "I'm pretty much excited," Potts expressed. "I'm excited to see everything; what it's all about—just thrilled that we could qualify for our first match."

Todd Gill, who teaches at WVC, is the Bass Team's coach. Dr. Gill enjoys coaching the Bass Team and watching the fishers form bonds, grow, and succeed. Dr. Gill added, "I enjoy providing young men and women an opportunity to travel and express their passion for fishing. A lot of life skills come out of this—[the fishers] have to be very disciplined. They put in long days of practicing to prepare for events, they make decisions, and they learn how to manage those decisions. I enjoy helping the kids grow, deal with failure, find opportunities to meet people, and put forth a good effort."

Drew is a second-year student currently studying Business Marketing. Potts is an avid member of the Agriculture program and plans to major in Applied Science. Both Gill and Potts were gifted slide sandals that looked like fish for Christmas last year. To celebrate their accomplishments in style, Gill and Potts wore their fish slides on the stage after catching a 20-pound bag in a tournament.

WVC Celebrates Homecoming with a Pair of Wins



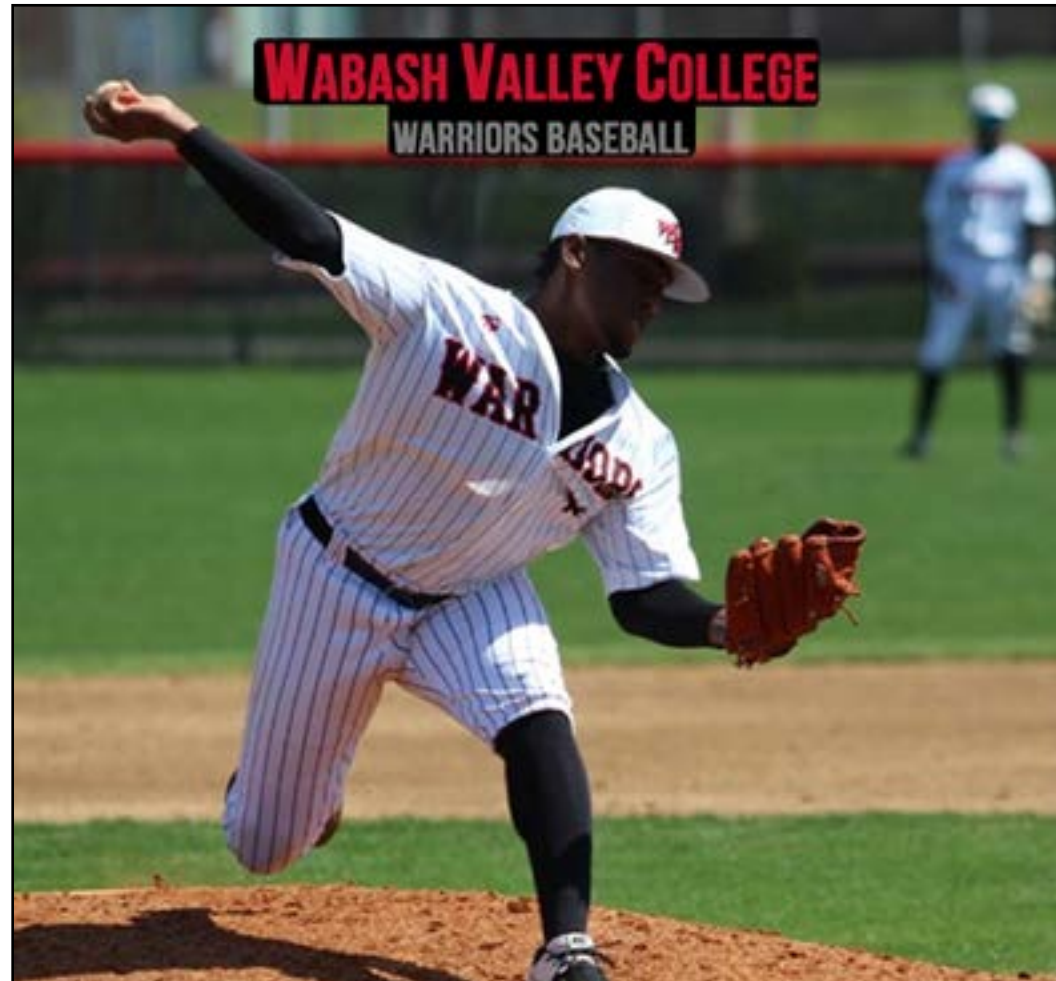
Homecoming winners Isaac Crab, Malena Bixby, and Simon Wilson, seen from left to right.

Both Warriors basketball teams created a powerful sense of spirit and togetherness as the Lady Warriors defeated Kaskaskia College, and the Warriors won a tight game against the Lake Land College men's basketball team. The Homecoming atmosphere was full of students and alumni bursting with pride and excitement.

The Homecoming ceremony occurred during halftime of the Warriors vs. Lake Land game. Many candidates from different clubs were represented this year: Holly Duncan (Agriculture Technology Club) escorted by Conner Smith, Daijah Smith (Women's Basketball) escorted by Aahrek Lamb, Kyndall Elliott (Marketing Business Management Club) escorted by Christian Stuessel, McKenzie Earnest (Cheerleading) escorted by Ryan Johnson, Grace Milligan (Diesel Technology Club) escorted by Jace Hatcher, Mia Marlow (Health Professionals Club) escorted by Simon Wilson (Men's Basketball), Anna Eicke (International Club) escorted by Eduarado Tostado Ramirez, Malena Bixby (Phi Theta Kappa) escorted by Isaac Crab, Mallory Burton (Radio/TV Club) escorted by Eli Grimes, Sara Farmer (Social Services Club) escorted by Christian Flores, Darcy Clodfelter (Student Senate) escorted by Maxwell Zimmerman, Cheyenne Edington (Teaching Our Youth Club) escorted by Jaxson Smiddie, and Mariah Jones (Volleyball) escorted by Jaylin Bross. The 2022 second runner-up for Queen is Anna Eicke representing the International Club, and the 2022 first runner up for Queen is Darcy Clodfelter, representing the Student Senate. Also representing the Student Senate, Maxwell Zimmerman is the 2022 King second runner-up. For the first time ever—because of a tie—there are two King candidates: Isaac Crab representing Phi Theta Kappa, and Simon Wilson representing WVC Mens' Basketball. The 2022 Homecoming Queen, crowned by 2021 Homecoming Queen Katie Halbig, is Malena Bixby representing Phi Theta Kappa.

After the men's game the Student Senate provided games and snacks for all students to celebrate the conclusion of Homecoming. Overall, Homecoming was a success. We were delighted to see so many of our faithful alumni back on campus and appreciated the chance to celebrate our two hard-fought victories with the alumni and students.

WVC Baseball Team Travels to Florida for Season Opener



The WVC Warriors Baseball team kicked off the spring season on February fourth in the Panama City Beach NJCAA Baseball Classic. They faced tough teams, including Chipola College, Wallace Community College-Dothan, Andrew College, and St. John's River State College.

Coach Rob Fournier is closing in on 25 years serving as the coach for the Wabash Valley College Baseball team. In that time he has amassed nearly 1,000 wins and led the Warriors to countless awards and rankings. The Warriors Baseball team has another 10 games to go in February and looks forward to your support!

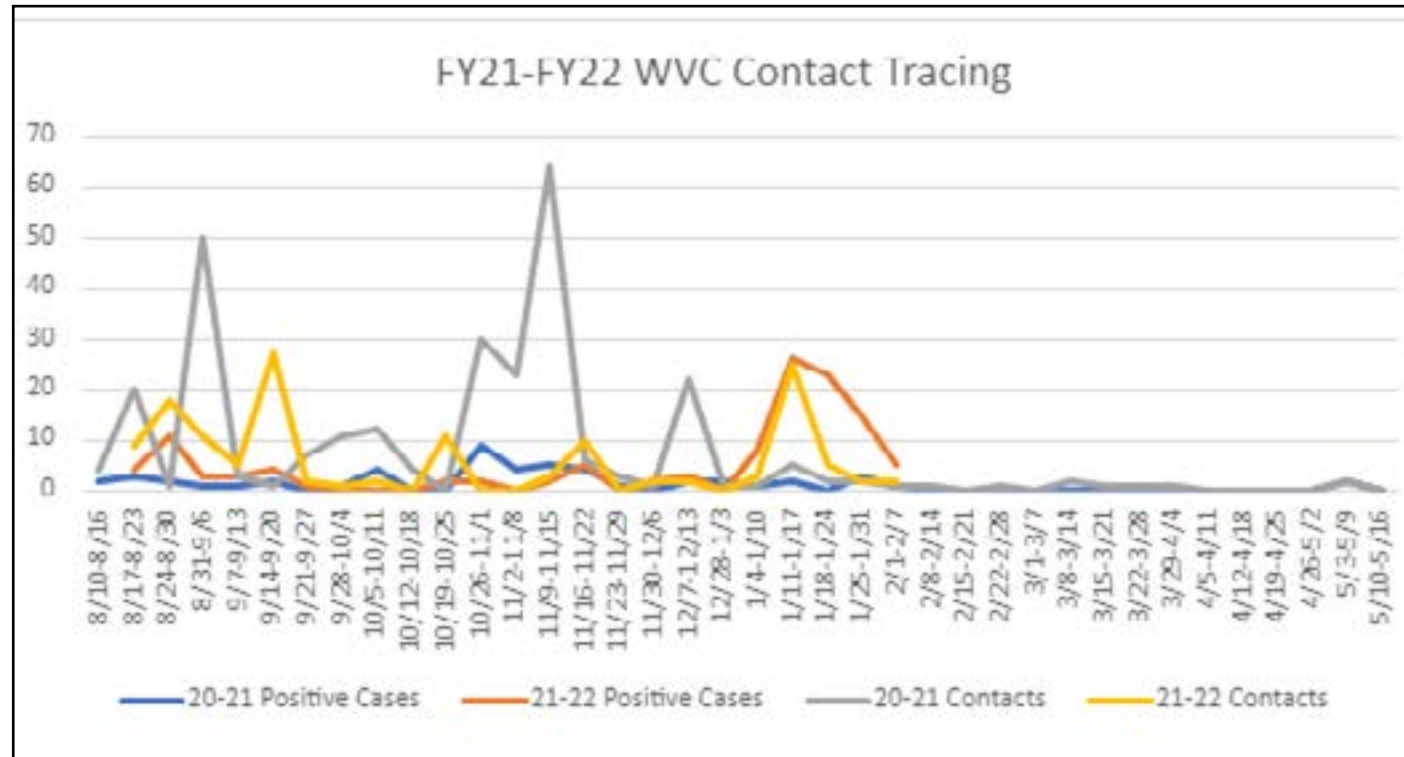
WVC's Red Café Reopens in Partnership with "Frank & Shea's Grill"



After a difficult search, Wabash Valley College is proud to announce their recent partnership with Jason Laws, owner of "Frank & Shea's Grill." WVC students, faculty, and staff were estatic to have the chance to order hand-made, fresh dishes prepared on campus.

Not only does Mr. Laws offer entrees with sides, there are multiple entrees and customizable sides offered at each meal. Students can essentially build their own plate. This is an exceptional service for students who are without convenient travel options, such as those who fly to Illinois to attend WVC each year. The dining service opened during the week of the snow and ice-caused closures at IECC, but the Red Café managed to stay open, which proved essential for many students who live on or near campus. The Red Café is open to the public and saw many visitors from the community in its first week of service. We look forward to a long and productive partnership with Jason Laws and "Frank & Shea's Grill!"

COVID-19 Surge from Omicron Variant Begins to Fade



Wabash Valley College is continuing to see minimal amounts of COVID-19 infections on campus despite Wabash County experiencing a recent surge in infections. This is due in large part to the mitigation measures enacted by IECC leadership.

Though the weeks following the holiday break saw one of the worst spikes since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, cases on the WVC campus remained comparatively low. Thankfully, numbers have begun to diminish county-wide. We hold our breath as we wait for further developments in the pandemic response. After nearly two years, restrictions, guidelines, and social isolation have become new standards. Hopefully, the advancements researchers have made in vaccines and virology can be seen as a silver-lining to the difficult situations many have endured in varying capacities.

Omicron remains a prevalent threat, displaying record breaking transmissibility and adaptivity. Therefore, as a continued means of mitigation and pursuant to the governor's mandate, WVC is offering free COVID-19 testing to students, faculty, and staff in the Brubeck Arts Center Gallery Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM–3:00 PM. The WVC testing center has now been expanded to service the Wabash County population at large. Anyone, whether associated with WVC or not, may visit the testing center for Covid-19 testing.

Monthly Faculty Bio

Dr. Todd Gill, Professor of Anatomy



Dr. Gill featured with his family at the signing of his son, Drew. Dr. Gill is seen at right.

Dr. Todd Gill has been among the esteemed faculty at Wabash Valley College (WVC) for nearly a decade. He is a born-and-raised Illinois resident from Robinson, Illinois, where he first began his post-secondary education at Lincoln Trail College. Todd has been involved in the higher education system in one capacity or another for nearly a third of his life (he also attended Logan College and the University of Nebraska for a Doctor of Chiropractic and Master of Science, respectively), but his passion for teaching has always been blended with his love for his family.

Todd and Tracy Gill were married in May of 1998, the same year Todd began his Chiropractic practice in Mount Carmel. Todd spent fifteen years serving the community with his practice until being hired to teach various biology classes (including anatomy and cadaver classes) at WVC. Since his hire, Todd has become a staple of the WVC experience. His cadaver classes have helped educate hundreds of medical workers, but that only scratches the surface. Todd is also the advisor for the Health Professionals Club, a member of the Technology Committee, and the coach of the Bass Warriors (bass fishing club) for WVC. Todd doesn't shy away from taking on new responsibilities and projects, despite he and Tracy having three children at home to care for!

The oldest child, Drew, is a top member of the Bass Warriors, the fishing club at WVC that is ranked 16th nationwide, while Rachel and Rebekah are both promising young softball players. Todd also serves the community as President of the Wabash Mission Softball Incorporation and as a member of the Little League Board. Todd has always made it a priority to focus on his children and family and has done a remarkable job of finding ways to spend time with them while serving the greater community in various capacities. Not only is Todd a father and coach, he also serves as a deacon at First Baptist Church and enjoys running various distances. He has run competitive times in 8 marathons including Boston and NYC! His love for teaching and raising his children crosses over easily into a passion for teaching others.

Dr. Gill believes "Education empowers people to accomplish their goals and dreams in life." His specific focus has always been healthcare because he loves helping people regain health lost or retain and optimize the health they have through preventative strategies. He says "Helping [the next generation of healthcare providers] become passionate about the human body and how it works is my primary goal in teaching at Wabash Valley College." What Todd believes makes WVC specifically a great place to work and a great place for education are the small class sizes that allow him to form deep relationships with individual students, the possibilities opened up by having a cadaver lab (such opportunities and equipment are rare at smaller colleges and Todd has expressed a deep appreciation for those who donate their bodies for scientific study and learning), and the partnership WVC has formed with Wabash General Hospital which allows Todd to bring in healthcare professionals to speak to students on a monthly basis.

You might see Todd running the streets of Mount Carmel with one of his children or his dog Murphy in the next few months or working at a community event. If you do, stop and ask him the state of affairs at WVC, or how his family is doing.

Help Support Wabash Valley College

WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE
Celebrating 60 years of excellence in education



We are able to provide excellence in education and dedicate ourselves to student learning because of our donors.

We would like you to partner with us in that endeavor. We are inviting people to donate \$60 in honor of WVC's 60 years of excellence. Call the college at 618-262-8641 to learn more about donating.

As boundaries that have separated nations, cultures, and individuals continue to dissolve, the role of education has become vital in equipping students for the changes and challenges that lie ahead.

We at Wabash Valley College understand that building a firm educational foundation which meets the demands of our world requires the support of our community.

We would like you to partner with us in that endeavor. Call the college at 618-262-8641 or scan the QR code to learn more about donating to WVC.

