

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.

Table of Contents

PAGE 3 — Valley Briefs

PAGE 4 — SpringFest/Phi Theta Kappa

PAGE 5 — Phi Theta Kappa Ceremony Cont'd

PAGE 6 — GradFest

PAGE 7 — Student Lounge Completion

PAGE 8 — Campus Life

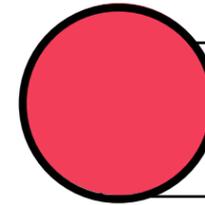
PAGE 9 — Monthly Faculty Bio

PAGE 11 — Giving Information

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

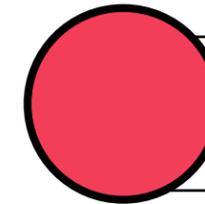
— Malcolm X

Valley Briefs



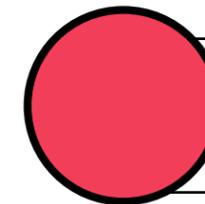
**US Army Visits Campus
With Exciting Display**

On April 18th, the US Army Recruiting team sent a semi-trailer with interactive capabilities to the WVC campus. Visitors to the trailer could run a helicopter flight simulation, be a turret gunner, and more.



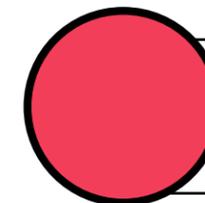
**Brubeck Arts Center
Hosts Several Performances**

The Brubeck Arts Center put on a series of entertaining shows this spring. The play was featured in the last VFTV. Lisa Rock and Reza the Illusionist also gave stunning performances last month.



WVC Recruits Next Class

With the Spring Semester concluding, the Fall Semester will be here before you know it. WVC has more than 85 new students enrolled so far with financial aid lined up for more than 150 total WVC students.



Solar Savings Update

WVC's solar array has now produced more than 70 MWh of energy and saved more than 111,700 pounds of CO2! This reduction is equivalent to nearly 850 trees being planted!

“If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.”

— Derek Bok

Student Senate Hosts SpringFest



WVC Students, Faculty, and Staff all joined together in the Common Area to play some not-so-friendly volleyball during SpringFest. Many students stopped to volley between classes.



Two manly WVC Students show off for a photo-op ... before racing through a bounce house obstacle course. Gary, seen in white, was the victor.

On April 27th, The Wabash Valley College Student Senate threw their annual SpringFest celebration. There were many events and opportunities involved in the Spring celebration of the near-end of the semester. As seen above, a volleyball net and inflatable obstacle course were set up that drew a large crowd. There was also cornhole, a scavenger hunt, and several student organization booths. Clues for the scavenger hunt were provided on Instagram and led to 5 different pennants. The students who found these pennants were awarded prizes at the end of the event.

Also on campus that day were several vendors. Kolb's Culinary Creations offered their usual menu along with chocolate dipped cheesecake! Many students stopped by their stand for a change of pace in lunch items. The ever-famous Diesel Program's homemade ice cream was also available for purchase at SpringFest.

Student engagement at SpringFest was even higher than expected. The weather provided one of the first warm days of the season and students were able to gather outside to celebrate the closing of the semester for the entirety of the morning and afternoon.

Phi Theta Kappa Initiation Ceremony Takes Place

April 28th marked the initiation date for the next class of Phi Theta Kappa initiates at WVC. Among the new members are Christian Flores, Micah Henson, Joyce Lange, Maggee Bleyer, Christan Manning, Kristi Waller, Larissa Bluntschli, Riley Julian, Emma Shell, Katie Wagner, Sarah Kieffer, Emma Westlake, Alexandria Archer, Maxwell Zimmerman, Michael Keneipp, and Anna Eicke. This marks the final year of Brenda Phegley's involvement as the Faculty Advisor to the International College Honors Society. Prof. Phegley is set to retire at the end of the Spring Semester. She has worked for Wabash Valley College for 37 years, more than half the college's existence. During her time at WVC, she has served as the Faculty Advisor for Phi Theta Kappa 36 of those 37 years!



Top left - The new initiates. From left to right in back: Katie Wagner, Sarah Kieffer, Emma Westlake, Alexandria Archer, Maxwell Zimmerman, Michael Keneipp, and Anna Eicke. From left to right in front: Christian Flores, Micah Henson, Joyce Lange, Maggee Bleyer, Christan Manning, Kristi Waller, Larissa Bluntschli, Riley Julian, and Emma Shell
Bottom left - Officers Caterina Martineau, Taya Rush, Mindy Wampler, and Malena Bixby.

There were 16 members added to Phi Theta Kappa at the ceremony. The new initiates come from diverse walks of life. Some are traditional students, some are non-traditional. Some are US natives, others are international students. WVC is proud to have such a diverse, gifted, and involved set of members.

Jessica Wall, a returning sophomore, was the recipient of the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship.



Top right - Brenda Phegley delivers a speech at the beginning of the ceremony. Also pictured are the officers, seated.
Bottom right - Students begin to come on stage to receive their pins. There were 16 members added to Phi Theta Kappa at the ceremony. The new initiates come from diverse walks of life. Some are traditional students, some are not. Some are US natives, others are international students. WVC is proud to have such a diverse, gifted, and involved set of members.

IECC & WVC Throw GradFest Events



On May 3-5th the Warrior Grill at WVC hosted a new event put together by the district called GradFest. The purpose of this event is to generate excitement for graduation, provide an ordered method by which students can pick up their caps and gowns, and incentivise completion of the exit survey created for institutional improvement purposes.

Students were treated to many gift opportunities while they completed the graduation survey. There were snacks and treats (gummy worms, smarties, tootsie rolls, suckers, and more), coupons for the bookstore, alumni gear, and of course, caps and gowns. Students also had the opportunity to play Twister in their caps and gowns! Unfortunately the weather was not cooperative, so the event was forced indoors.

WVC Student Senate Completes Student Lounge

At right: Students unbox and assemble new items to be permanently located in the new student lounge. Most items were ordered quite some time ago but did not arrive until late in the semester because of supply chain issues.



At left: Students are seen utilizing the Student Lounge during finals week. Video games, a comfort dog named Roscoe, breakfast, a massage chair and more were offered in the lounge during finals.

After months of work, the WVC Student Senate has finally completed the new Student Lounge. There was much work to be done; first the students had to secure funding. They next had to clear the old items being stored in the room. They also had to paint the walls, order furniture, decide on what auxiliary items to include, and design the room layout. The installation process didn't take nearly as long as the renovations. Luckily, the essential items came in time for the lounge to be used for finals week. The Student Senate also hopes to move the FRESH pantry into the spare room attached to the lounge. This project is months in the making, and the Senate did a great job bringing this to fruition. Yet to be installed are the pool table, more tables and chairs, and a large TV. These installations will most likely happen over the summer.

WVC Campus Events Last Month

WVC Archery Hosts Regional "Shoot-off"



The Wabash Valley College Archery Team hosted several schools at the campus to shoot qualification rounds for National entry. There are many classes of shooters involved in these events. Several female shooters on sight were shooting traditional (recurve). Many students shot in varying classes including traditional, bowhunter freestyle, and freestyle, among others. Winners in each category of the competition had the opportunity to move on to the next level in search of a national qualification.

Red Cafe Becomes "Warrior Grill"

With the recent contract agreement with Premium Food Service, the Red Cafe was looking to make beneficial changes for the future. After much discussion, the restaurant has now been dubbed "The Warrior Grill." This doesn't change the menu, provider, or any other key characteristics of the restaurant. It is still open to both the public and WVC Students (meal plan or not), and continues to serve some of the best food in the area. As the renaming process continues, Red Cafe will be swapped out in language for "Warrior Grill."

T.O.Y. Hosts Annual Taco/Karaoke Fundraiser

The WVC T.O.Y. Club held their annual Taco, Karaoke, and Game Night at the Warrior Grill on Friday, the 6th of May. The event was packed to capacity. More than 60 students and several faculty members stopped by to join in the fun. The highlights of the evening were singing, dancing, cornhole, and jenga competitions. The T.O.Y. Club stepped it up this year by providing trophies to the winners. Tacos and lemonade were provided to all patrons.

Monthly Faculty Bio

Hockgeiger/Trapp Tag-Team Social Services Dept.



Pictured is Ronda Hockgeiger. No photo of Danielle Trapp was available.

Full-time instructor Rhonda Hockgeiger and adjunct instructor Danielle Trapp are the two leading psychology and social work instructors at Wabash Valley College. Both Hockgeiger and Trapp provide several different classes for students who are interested in psychology, social work, and helping others.

Hockgeiger is originally from Newton, IL. She began her career studying in the social service program at WVC; after two years of study she transferred to the University of Southern Indiana (USI). From there she obtained her Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, and earned a specialty in school social work. She began working as a Prevention Coordinator and soon found herself working in mental health. She became an adjunct instructor at WVC in 2014. In 2020, Hockgeiger was hired as a full-time instructor. "I've always liked working with people," Hockgeiger answered when asked how she found her calling in the psychology field. Hockgeiger also says advocacy got her into psychology. By learning how to advocate for her son who had a learning disability, Hockgeiger was inspired to help and advocate for other disabled and special needs individuals.

Trapp, an adjunct instructor for psychology and social services courses, is originally from Mt. Carmel, IL. At first, she wanted to be a teacher. When she enrolled at WVC, however, she had an instructor that was a child play therapist. She quickly developed an interest in the potential of a child play therapist career. After WVC, she obtained her Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in social work at USI. In 2020, Trapp began teaching at WVC as an adjunct instructor.

"I always knew I wanted to be in the realm of working with women and/or kids," Trapp expressed when asked about why she enjoys the psychology field. "[When my WVC instructor] talked about his job as a therapist, I thought 'That's it, that's what I want to do.' It just resonated with me."

Both Hockgeiger and Trapp have similar teaching strategies. When Hockgeiger teaches, her goal is engagement. Her classes aim to engage students and incorporate them within different subjects. Hockgeiger brings in modern outside elements to reinforce what her classes are studying. Overall, she pushes for her students to engage, learn, and understand the material. Trapp enjoys having her students engage and share their experiences and opinions in her classes in a seminar styled environment. She aims to understand and learn from her students. Similar to Hockgeiger, Trapp also brings in current elements that will emphasize her lessons.

"I love sharing my experiences with people and hearing their experiences," Trapp said, "and connecting with the students. I like learning about the students and helping them grow."

Both instructors expect engagement, mutual respect, a desire to learn, participation, and smiling faces in their classes. They want to help their students grow and work with them through their learning experiences.

“I like working with young people, non-traditional students—I like helping them get an education,” Hockgeiger stated, “and I like helping them see what the future is going to look like and see them change the world.”

Hockgeiger spends a lot of her time with her children and grandchildren. She and her husband always try to sneak off to the beach whenever they find the time. Trapp, a mother of three boys, loves spending time with her family. Trapp is a fan of the band *Hanson* and Disney. She is a big fan of *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella*, and more Disney movies. Equally, both Hockgeiger and Trapp love thrifting and “Milk and Honey,” a local Mt. Carmel café.

Hockgeiger and Trapp are willing to help anyone who is considering following a career path in psychology, social work, or a career that involves helping people. Their dedication to helping those in need is inspiring and worth a special mention.

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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.



WVC