



▶ **THREE PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS PURSUING MUSIC EDUCATION**



▶ **PILAND REMINISCES ABOUT HIS TIME AS LTC'S FIRST PRESIDENT**



▶ **BROWN TO CONTINUE COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL CAREER AT UNC-GREENSBORO**

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

Network



HALL CONCLUDES TERM AS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Corey Hall says his experience serving as the Student Trustee on the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Board of Trustees is one that he'll never forget. "The experience was great and I would recommend anyone to do it. It was a one of a kind experience that I wouldn't trade for anything because I got to learn so much from so many intelligent people."

Hall's one-year term ended in March. He says other Board members immediately embraced him when he started his term a year ago. Hall says the other trustees were very nice and nothing but good to him. One of his proudest moments on the board came at his last meeting when he was recognized for his service.

Hall says his term was an opportunity to learn about the inner-workings of higher education in a deep way. "I learned a lot about how everyone works to make sure that we get better campuses, I learned about how they try to improve the educational experience, and I learned about how hard we work to also improve the community."

Hall says he also learned about some of the nuts and bolts of higher ed with things like articulation agreements and the bidding process. One of his most eye-opening experiences was learning about the budget. "I had no idea how much work and money goes into our budget. I didn't know how big of an operation this is."

One of Hall's unique experiences in his time on the board was helping with a transition in leadership. Terry Bruce was serving as CEO when Hall was first seated on the board. When Bruce retired, Hall worked with Interim CEO Marilyn Holt while the board launched a search for a new Chancellor for the District. "I only played a small role in that process, but I was able to give some insight. We all wanted nothing but the best and that's exactly what we got with Dr. Gower. He deeply cares about IECC and education. You can't find anyone else with his background and willingness to put in the work."

Hall says when he first joined the board, other board members immediately started working with him in different ways. He says they are all very intelligent and he learned a lot through his conversations. One board member, in particular, stood out to Hall. "When we traveled to meetings, I got to ride with Dr. Gower and John Brooks. We had conversations about so many different topics and he really taught me a lot."



As Hall became more comfortable on the board, he says he learned that he shouldn't be afraid to speak up. "At first, I was a little uncomfortable to use my voice, but then I learned that there's no bad time to talk and there are no stupid questions. I found that the other board members valued my point of view as a student because I had a different insight."

He says that perspective also carried on to the classroom. "I use my voice more in class. I ask more questions. I might have the same question that someone else has, but they may not be willing to ask. If I ask that question, I'm helping prepare others and myself."

He also believes that his experience on the board will help him in life. He says in the last year, he's learned a lot about leadership and responsibility. "These are traits that I've definitely improved in the last year. I think this experience will help me in a lot of ways and in a lot of areas, not just higher education. I learned far more than I expected and that's prepared me to be more successful."

Even though it is early, Hall says he wouldn't rule out running for office sometime in his life thanks in large part to his experience as the Student Trustee.

As for future students serving on the board, Hall says don't be afraid to speak up and talk as much as possible. "You have more insight than you think. The Board of Trustees appreciates the point of view of students. You're living the student life and that's something you have that nobody else does. There are going to be topics that may not directly affect students, but there are a lot that do and that's when you need to speak up."

As he departs from the Board of Trustees, Hall also thanked a couple of people that influenced him to run in the first place. "When this opportunity first came up, Ms. Boyce talked to me and told me that I should do this. She also talked to Coach Bowers and he talked to me about it too. I'm forever grateful that they helped push me to do this."

THREE PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS PLAN TO CONTINUE MUSIC EDUCATION

Three Lincoln Trail College Performing Arts students will pursue educations in music when they graduate from LTC this year. Braden Hook will attend Eastern Illinois University to study Music Education. Ryan Mikeworth will pursue Music Technology at the University of Illinois College of Fine and Applied Arts. Jordon Rutan plans to study Music Therapy at Saint Mary of the Woods College.

LTC Music Instructor Rebecca Carmack says all three sophomores had to audition to get into their respective programs. She says the auditions involved performing multiple pieces in front of a panel of instructors and administrators where the students showcased their musical skills. They also had to complete an interview. “Preparing for the audition is rigorous and is essentially like taking another class. The students had juries, musical rehearsals, and ensembles to be rehearsing for as well as the rest of their class schedules and managed to find time to complete successful auditions. Our students had to compete against other students from around the nation and I’m very proud that they were admitted.”



Braden Hook

Carmack describes Hook as a versatile musician who plays baritone as beautifully as he sings. She says he’s also become a good pianist during his time at LTC while also dabbling in the guitar. Hook performs in a variety of ensembles at the College and has also performed on-stage in the College’s theatrical productions. “I would describe Braden as someone who was born to be a music educator. It runs in his veins. I have observed him teaching lessons in music theory to peers and he has also had the opportunity to go back to Martinsville High School, his alma mater, to help with their band. He will make a wonderful music educator and I am proud that he has LTC on his resume.”

Mikeworth has been a part of LTC’s Performing Arts family for many years. He has been heavily involved in theater at LTC. He’s also been a part of the College’s ensembles and has been a piano and vocal student. “Ryan proved his diverse skill set when he decided to

take music composition lessons to explore that side of music and he has done very well,” says Carmack. “Ryan has always been one of our ‘techy’ guys among the department, so I think that combining his love for music with technology is the perfect fit for him.”

Rutan, who attended high school in Alaska, was initially a Nursing student at LTC. Carmack says when he first came to LTC, he talked with her during New Student Orientation about how much he enjoyed choir in high school. She encouraged him to join the Statesmen Singers. From there, Rutan started taking voice and piano lessons and eventually got involved in other ensembles as well as theater productions. “Jordon is an absolute pleasure to instruct and is a diligent worker. Although he began his time at LTC as a nursing major, he eventually found the music therapy career area and I think it is the perfect fit for him. It combines his love for music with his desire to help people.”



Ryan Mikeworth



Jordon Rutan

Carmack says she carries a sense of pride that LTC helped develop the talent and skill of these three musicians. She says seeing them off to college almost feels like a parent sending a kid off to college. “But more than that I am so pleased to see the work ethic that has formed in these men, the time and care that has gone into what they do, and the poise that they are able to carry. I have found that the arts consistently and effectively develop these qualities in students. These are the life-long skills that will help them succeed no matter what they set out to achieve.”

Carmack says LTC has very talented performing arts instructors who care deeply about the students and she believes that shows in the type of student they can help form. She says students find not only music instructors, but they find guidance counselors, audition coaches, cheerleaders, and eventually lifelong friends and colleagues in LTC’s Performing Arts Department.

LTC’S FIRST PRESIDENT REMINISCES ABOUT COLLEGE’S HISTORY



Lincoln Trail College’s first President, Dr. Joseph Piland, visited campus in March. Piland visited with current President Dr. Ryan Gower and also enjoyed lunch with the “LTC Originals” group made up of faculty and staff from the early days of the College. While he was on campus, Piland reminisced about his time at LTC and the impact the College has had on Crawford County and the surrounding area.

BUILDING A NEW CAMPUS

“One of my favorites [memories] was when we had the groundbreaking for the permanent campus. It happened that the state was concerned about building costs and about how long it took to build a building with all the state contracting regulations that kind of thing. So, they wanted to have an experimental building project in which they would use off the shelf components and what they called fast-tracking. They wouldn’t have the whole campus planned at the time they started building. We volunteered to be that that campus. Also, part of that was to reduce paperwork. That part of

the experiment did not work at all because in most cases ‘we would only require this, but since this is an experimental thing, we need more paperwork.’ We got off to a slow start building here there were several reasons for that. The onsite person for the state didn’t have the authority to expend funds. For example, when we wanted to come in to get workmen and get materials in, we had a gravel road in from Route 1 towards campus about where the driveway is now. And it was



muddy, but it needed to be gravel so we could get things in. But the onsite person for the state of Illinois could not spend those funds to get that done. So, we had some rough spots going but it was an experiment. We knew we had some rough spots but it kind of got worked out. We received got a new young architect that I think did a remarkable job when we were trying to get the campus up and going. He helped get things righted. And it was an exciting time because we were occupying a classroom building over here before the building was completed. The walls weren’t up. We’d had to sweep construction debris out of the way so we could put teachers and students in there because we had outgrown the temporary campus that we had built earlier.”

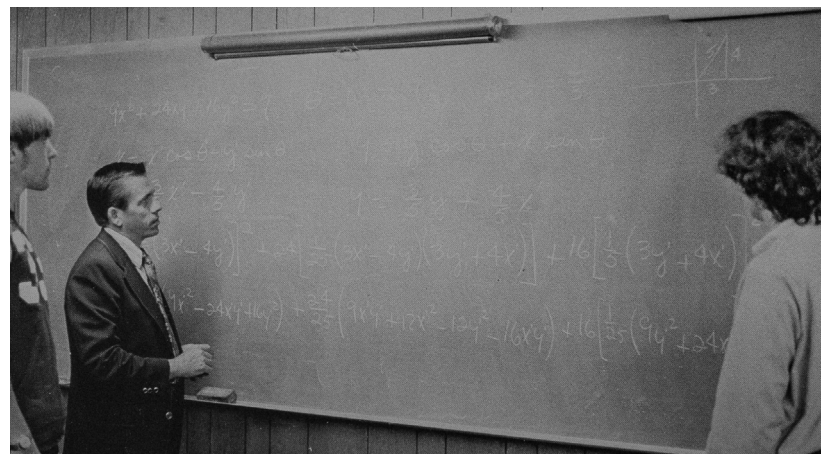
FAVORITE MEMORIES



“When our basketball team went to the National Championship. Our golf team I think got ninth in the nation one year. Our foundation was recognized as the most effective foundation in the state for the amount of funds that they had raised. That was course was at the time that we had the fundraising to build the natatorium. So there were several of those things along the way. It was an exciting time. A lot of things happened, and we reached the goal of, well wasn’t the goal really, it just happened. But we were the largest Petroleum Technology program in the nation. In fact, the graduates that we produced were about half of the national production of Petroleum Technology students. Our students were in high demand. The jobs were plentiful for them and they made good salaries. It was recognized nationally by the oil companies as a good training spot for students.”

PROUD ACHIEVEMENTS

“To take something from the very beginning and then develop it to the point where you felt you had left a quality institution for the betterment of this community. This community was very good to me and my family while we lived here, and I had a lot of support from the community and getting this college going. I say I had support, the college had support, of getting the college up and going. We consistently were





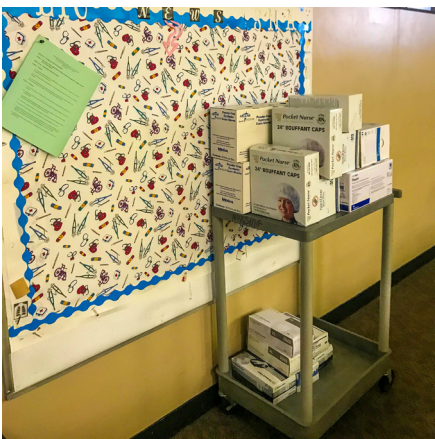
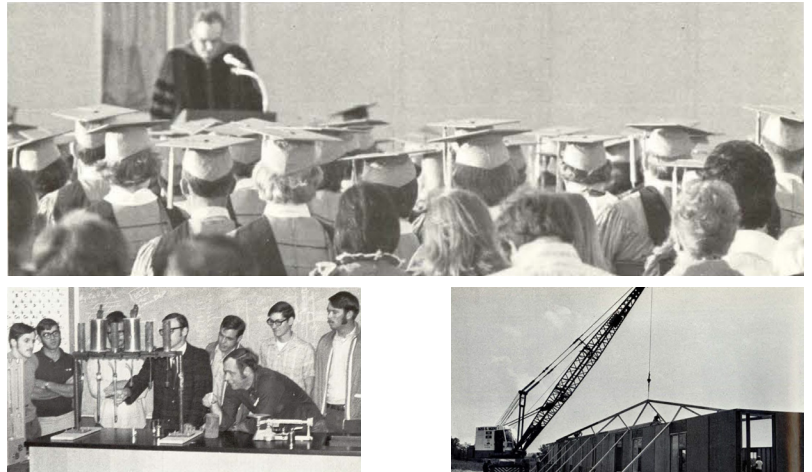
at the top of the list at Eastern Illinois University for grade point average of our students who were transferring there. Most of our students went there. We also were at the top of the list of several others, of course, we had fewer students going to the others, but Eastern did seem to be the primary one where we had more graduates going. Their grade point average was above their native students. The fact that we had a quality and we had a tremendous Petroleum Technology program that was nationally recognized. Our program was recognized as a real significant part of petroleum education. A lot of that was due to our instructors, specifically Ed McKay.”

THE LEGACY OF LTC

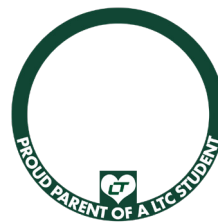
“I just want to say a big thank you for the way that you accepted me and my wife and the way that you have supported this college. The best legacy that anyone could leave is for the community to continue to support this college. It is important to Crawford County and this eastern part of Illinois that Lincoln Trail be a significant resource for the educational, cultural, and aesthetic development of this part of the state.”

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE
Memories
 WITH DR. JOSEPH PILAND
 LTC'S FIRST PRESIDENT

Listen to Dr. Joseph Piland talk about LTC and see more historic photos. Watch the LTTV video:
<http://www.youtube.com/LincolnTrailCollege>



The Nursing Program at Lincoln Trail College donated PPE supplies to Crawford Memorial Hospital, including masks, gloves, and caps to aid in the hospital's response to COVID-19.



Parents, students, alumni, employees, and more have a new way of showing their pride for Lincoln Trail College with new Facebook Profile Photo Frames. Anyone that wants to use the frame can edit their profile photo with a frame and search for LTC to find either of the frames.



ARNOLD PROMOTED TO HEAD SOFTBALL COACH; RODGERS NAMED DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC GROUNDS



Lincoln Trail College Associate Head Coach Erica Arnold has been promoted to head coach of the Lady Statesmen, effective immediately following the retirement of Gary Rodgers from coaching. Rodgers will transition into a new position at LTC, Director of Athletic Grounds.

“Coaching at the college level has been my dream since the beginning of my coaching career,” says Arnold. “I am forever grateful to Lincoln Trail College for allowing me this opportunity, it means the world to me. Also, thank you to President Gower, Coach Bowers, Coach Rodgers, and the rest of the faculty and staff at LTC for helping this transition go smoothly and for accepting me into the Statesmen family.”

Arnold joined Lincoln Trail College in the Summer of 2019 after serving as the head coach of North Central High School. She guided North Central to a 189-62 record. Under her tenure, North Central won five sectionals, three regionals, two semi-states and made two state finals appearances. Her 2015 team won the Class 2A state championship. Her 2018 team finished as the runner-up in Class A.

“I have several goals for the Statesmen softball program but there are two that I feel are the most important. First, I want to ensure that my athletes excel on and off the field, reaching their fullest potential. I want to provide opportunities for them to grow and develop not only as athletes but as people. I will accomplish this by building strong relationships with each athlete and by creating a safe and challenging learning environment. Second, I will work towards building a strong culture. I want the program to be recognized as positive and high performing. There is so much to offer at Lincoln Trail and I am so proud to be a small part of all the wonderful things happening here.”

Rodgers had been the head coach of the Lady Statesmen since 2015 and has been coaching softball for a total of 46 years at many levels including summer recreation, travel softball, high school and college.

“One of the things I take a lot of pride in with coaching is you get to see how players develop,” says Rodgers. “When kids first start playing the game, you never know how far it will take them. I love to see how players grow mentally, physically, and athletically. It’s very good to see the rewards they get from all of their hard work.”

In addition to coaching the Lady Statesmen since 2015, he also coach LTC from 1984-1990. He guided LTC to the NJCAA Tournament in 1988. His 2015-16 team was the NJCAA’s Academic Team of the Year. Rodgers served as the head coach at Olney Central from 2000-06 and was the head coach at St. Mary of the Woods College from 2006-2013. At SMWC, Rodgers set a school record with 187 wins and guided the Pomeroy to two USCAA National Championships, three runner-up finishes, and one third place finish.

Rodgers will take over as the Director of Athletic Grounds for Lincoln Trail College. He’ll be responsible for preparing athletic fields and facilities for practices, games, and special events.

Rodgers says he’s had a passion for working with athletic fields ever since he was a young boy. “I’ve been very aware of athletic fields all of my life. I’ve always thought about the best ways to develop a field, the best ways to maintain them, keep them mowed right, and keep the lines straight.”

One of the first tasks for Rodgers will be the development of Statesmen Park. The first phase of the project will be putting in two regulation soccer fields this year and then adding a new softball diamond in 2022.

“I’m honored to stay on with LTC and develop this project. The soccer fields need to be ready by August. When we’re done, this is going to be a very nice sports complex for the College. We want ours to be as good as or better than anybody else’s and I know we’ll have a nice facility that our kids can be proud to play on.”



BROWN COMMITS TO UNC-GREENSBORO



Lincoln Trail College women's basketball coach Scott Sparks says one of Jaylynn Brown's dreams was to play Division One basketball. Now she'll realize that dream after committing to the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Sparks says they'll be getting a very versatile player in Brown. "I know they need her and I think she's going to bring a lot of success for them. I told their coaching staff there that I know you want her to play the one and she wants to play the one, the point guard spot, but she's so versatile you can literally play her almost anywhere on the floor. They've seen that she can play the point, but they haven't seen the other roles she can play on the court. I think that's going to be a great surprise for them."

Brown led the Lady Statesmen in scoring this past season, averaging 13.7 points per game. She also averaged 6.8 rebounds per game while earning All-Region and All-Conference honors.

Sparks says in addition to her strengths on the court, Brown is a great teammate and a very good student.

COMBS COMMITS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-SPRINGFIELD

Lincoln Trail College guard Dante Combs will continue his basketball career at the University of Illinois Springfield. Combs earned All-Region and All-Conference honors for the Statesmen in the 2019-20 season.

Statesmen coach Luke Stuckey says Combs brings a lot of athleticism to UIS. "His best attribute as a basketball player is his ability to score. He's one of those explosive scorers that even when a defense guards him well, if he's hot, he can still score against you. He's an incredible scorer and a very, very good athlete."

Combs averaged 12.4 points per game for the Statesmen as a sophomore and 11.2 points per game as a freshman. Stuckey says off the court, Combs is exactly the kind of player coaches are looking for and he believes that he'll be an excellent fit at UIS. He sees him being an immediate contributor to their program.



Samantha Johnson has committed to Oakland City University where she will play both volleyball and softball. Johnson was a two-year volleyball player for LTC and played softball her sophomore year.



Alex Heath committed to play basketball at Academy of Arts University. Heath averaged 18 points, 5.6 assists, 3.7 rebounds, and 3.0 steals per game for the Statesmen as a sophomore.

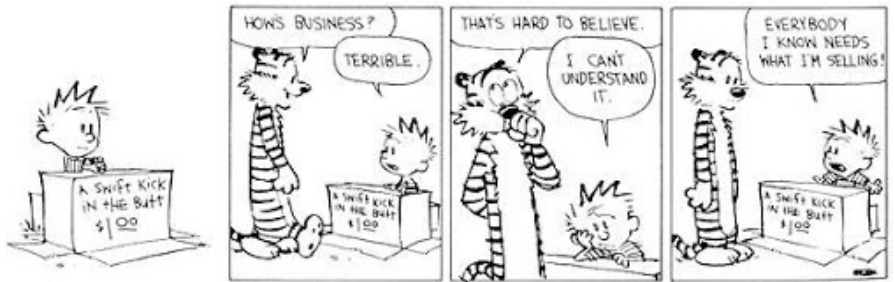
PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Service We Provide.

In December most Americans had not heard of COVID-19. It took just a few months to go from being blissfully unaware to sheltering-in-place and wearing masks when out in public. So many things have changed in just four months, and the changes have been difficult. Albert Einstein once said that *“in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.”* Henry Ford expressed this same sentiment differently when he said, *“Opportunity is missed because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”* I am certain that in the middle of these difficult times there are opportunities for us to find ways to strengthen the College and better serve our students and our communities.

Over the past month, our faculty and staff have worked diligently to find ways to continue our operations in the midst of highly unusual circumstances. There were moments when we were fatigued, frustrated, and perhaps even a little frightened. But the team came together and made the necessary changes happen. Policies, procedures, and practices were revisited and updated where necessary. Calls to our switchboard were transferred and are now being answered from our kitchen tables. Advising appointments are happening via Zoom. Faculty who had never taught in an online environment are finding new ways to use technology to foster student learning. *Apollo 13* is one of my favorite films because it is a gripping reminder of how good teams work through times of crisis to achieve amazing things. At the climax of the movie, some members of mission control are beginning to lose faith and speculate that they are getting ready to witness NASA's biggest disaster. At that moment Gene Kranz (played by Ed Harris) turns to the control room and loudly declares, “With all due respect, I believe this will be our finest hour.” Lincoln Trail College has been working through the crisis, and many educators are worried about the future of higher education. I agree that difficulty lies ahead. *In the middle of these difficult times, there are great opportunities for Lincoln Trail College if we are willing to embrace them. We too have the ability to turn this into our finest hour.*

Why do I have such unbridled confidence in the future of higher education? **Because everyone needs the service we provide.** As educators, our role is to develop a capacity for critical thinking, to enhance problem-solving skills, and to foster in our students an understanding of how their skills can be used for both economic and civic productivity. No pandemic or technological revolution



will ever alter society's need for people with these abilities. We may need to change the way we talk about our service. We may need to change the way we deliver our service. But the need for our service will always be present. I've observed that educators who worry about the future of education are missing the bigger picture. They appear to confuse how we have delivered our service (16-week terms, 50-minute MWF lectures, 8-5 schedules, etc.) with what our service actually is. The landscape of higher education was changing before COVID-19, but the events of the last four months will serve to greatly accelerate these changes. Because of all we have gone through, we know we can change. We know we can change quickly. Now we must ask ourselves if we are willing to sustain this change, letting go of some things in order to embrace new (and potentially better) ways to fulfill our mission.

Forward together,

Ryan Gower, Ph.D.
President
Lincoln Trail College