



The Knightline

Olney Central College Students & Employees Monthly Newsletter

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Student selected for Congressional internship

Olney Central College International student Mathias Weber, of Germany, has been selected to serve a six-week Congressional internship.

Weber is one of only five students participating in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX) to be selected for the opportunity. He left Jan. 3 for the Nation's Capital where he will be working in the office of U.S. Congressman John Shimkus (R-Illinois-15).

"I am really looking forward to going to Washington and I am excit-



Mathias Weber

ed about the experience," Weber said.

Weber arrived in the U.S. in August and has

been attending classes at OCC this fall. When he returns to Olney in mid-February, he will begin an internship with First National Bank and will continue working there through the end of June.

"I like OCC," Weber said. "It is very different than the University of Munich which has 30,000 students. Here, you know most of the teachers personally. At my university, it was almost impossible to get an appointment with them."

Weber is studying in the U.S. through the CBYX Program for Young

Professionals. Founded in 1983 and annually endorsed by members of the United States Congress and the German Parliament (Bundestag), the program has enabled more than 3,500 young professionals to trade countries with their counterparts to live, study and work for a year in a foreign environment.

The CBYX is designed to strengthen ties between the younger generation of the United States and Germany. The program receives financial support

See Internship, Page 6

Foundation provides funds for Collision Repair equipment

Students in the Collision Repair Technology Program at Olney Central College are utilizing new equipment purchased with funding from the OCC Foundation.

The Foundation provided \$5,500 enabling the program to acquire an aluminum dent puller and nine new parts caddies.

Instructor Mark Fitch said it is essential for students to gain experience using the aluminum dent puller before they enter the workplace.

"The new cars are coming out with aluminum panels," Fitch said. "This will allow the students to work on newer cars and repair panels in our shop. With the new caddies, we can keep the parts together and keep the shop well organized."

See Collision, Page 3



The Collision Repair Technology Program was able to purchase a new aluminum dent puller and nine new parts caddies with funding provided by the Olney Central College Foundation. Pictured, from left, are OCC Foundation President Bartley Zuber, Collision Repair Instructor Mark Fitch and Foundation Members Carrie Hallam and Walter Koertge.

Applications sought for Student Ambassadors

Individuals interested in serving as Olney Central College Student Ambassadors are encouraged to submit an application as soon as possible.

Student Ambassadors are trained student leaders who represent OCC at various college activities. These students act as valuable sources of information and liaisons between students, staff and faculty.

By working with various staff and department faculty, the ambassadors will assist with orientation, recruit prospective students, promote campus-wide events, provide tours to campus visitors and assist

with retention activities and programs.

Students wishing to serve as ambassadors should demonstrate strong written, oral and telephone skills, reliability, leadership initiative and enthusiasm.

To qualify, students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 OCC hours, maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and be a returning student. In addition, they will need to be able to volunteer a total of 225 hours per semester (about 15 hours per week).

Applications are available at www.iecc.edu/occ under Student

Information. The form should be typed and must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation, with no more than one letter being from an IECC employee.

Completed applications and letters of recommendation should be submitted to Vicki Thompson in the Student Services Office. A selection committee will consider academic accomplishments and extra-curricular activities within high school, college and the community. The Student Ambassadors will receive a 15 credit hour tuition waiver for each semester served. The waivers apply to OCC hours only.



SNA Helps Ronald McDonald House

The OCC Student Nurses Association recently collected items for the Ronald McDonald House in St. Louis. SNA members Micah Drummond, Shawna Routien, Ashlee Goss and Elizabeth Funneman are pictured with some of the donations.

OCC Foundation to host Valentine's Benefit Feb. 7

Enjoy a special evening with your sweetheart and support the Olney Central College Foundation by attending its Valentine's Benefit on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Olde Tyme Steakhaus in Olney.

The event will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. and include hors d'oeuvres and

an auction.

The Steve Greenwell Trio will perform.

Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased by contacting Kathy Slichenmyer at 395-7777, ext. 2003.

Tickets also may be obtained from any Olney Central College Foundation Board member.

OCC Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

- **Jan. 14** – OCC at Lincoln Trail College, 7:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 17** – OCC vs. Shawnee Community College, 7:30 p.m. at home
- **Jan. 21** – OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois College, 7:30 p.m. at home
- **Jan. 24** – OCC at Southeastern Illinois College, 3 p.m.
- **Jan. 28** – OCC at Kaskaskia College, 7:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 31** – OCC vs. Vincennes University, 7:30 p.m. at home
- **Feb. 2** – OCC vs. Wabash Valley College, 7:30 p.m. at home
- **Feb. 4** – OCC at John A. Logan College, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 7** – OCC vs. Rend Lake College, 7:30 p.m. at home

Women's Basketball

- **Jan. 14** – OCC at Lincoln Trail College, 5:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 17** – OCC vs. Shawnee Community College, 5:30 p.m. at home
- **Jan. 21** – OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois College, 5:30 p.m. at home
- **Jan. 24** – OCC at Southeastern Illinois College, 1 p.m.
- **Jan. 28** – OCC at Kaskaskia College, 5:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 31** – OCC vs. Vincennes University, 5:30 p.m. at home
- **Feb. 2** – OCC vs. Wabash Valley College, 5:30 p.m. at home
- **Feb. 4** – OCC at John A. Logan College, 5 p.m.
- **Feb. 7** – OCC vs. Rend Lake College, 5:30 p.m. at home

OCC winter weather closing policy

It is Olney Central College's policy to remain open unless the weather makes it too hazardous to do so.

When the safety of students and staff is threatened due to inclement weather or other emergencies, OCC will be closed or classes canceled or delayed.

Administration will attempt to notify media outlets prior to the 6 a.m. news on the day of the closing.

Don't assume that if the elementary and high schools close, OCC will be closed as well. If no announcement is made, classes will meet as usual.

Closure of day classes does not necessarily mean that evening classes will be canceled.

Announcements regarding evening classes will be made prior to 4 p.m., if at all possible.

The following radio and television stations will be notified of any cancellations or delays:

- WVLN-AM and WSEI-FM in Olney

- WIKK in Newton
- WAKO in Lawrenceville
- WFIW-AM and -FM in Fairfield
- WNOI-FM in Flora
- WSJD in Mt. Carmel
- WCRC in Effingham
- WVJC in Mt. Carmel
- WTWO and WTHI in Terre Haute, Ind.
- WEHT, WFIE and WTVW in Evansville, Ind.

Closings also will be announced on the following websites:

- www.iecc.edu
- www.weatherclosings.com

Closings also are announced through IECC Alerts. When you create an Entrata account, you will be automatically registered for an alerts account.

Account creation for alerts will take approximately 24 hours.

IECC Alerts will automatically go to your Entrata email account, but you can opt-in for text messages or receive messages at another email account.

To do so, login to Entrata

(entrata.iecc.edu) and select Emergency Alerts. Enter your cellular information under the Text and Voice Preferences section. A phone number is required. The Cellular Provider is optional.

You also may enter another email address in the Email Preferences area under Contact Email. Then Save.

While there is no direct cost for signing up for this text message service, you may be charged a text message fee by your cell phone provider.

Please check your cell phone plan to understand the costs you may incur using this service.

The system will be used to send text messages related to campus emergencies, weather-related closures and test messages.

Students previously signed up with IECC Emergency Alerts should verify contact information and preferences are current.

If you do not have an Entrata account, please contact the Records Office at 395-7777, ext. 2267.

Collision

Continued from Page 1

The equipment is the latest enhancement for the program, which will be relocating to the new Collision Repair Technology Center later this year.

Construction began this summer on the 8,000-square foot facility, which is being built adjacent to the current site. The structure will include 4,400 square feet of classroom and laboratory space.

"The students are looking forward to the new building," Fitch said. "We will have two and half times the space we have now. Students will have more room to work in and the workflow will be better. The shop space is much bigger and we will have more room for projects. It will be a big improvement for the program."

The facility also will feature a new downdraft paint booth, which provides a cleaner paint

job.

Currently, students must mix their paint in one area of the building, apply it in the paint booth and then perform tool cleanup in another location.

Fitch said the new booth will include an attached mixing room allowing students to perform all tasks in a single area.

Construction of the new Collision Repair building is expected to be completed during the spring semester. The entire facility will be ready for students in the fall.

Fitch is looking forward to utilizing the new building and is grateful to the Foundation for its work in assisting with equipment needs.

"They have definitely helped us tremendously with the purchase of the parts caddies and the aluminum dent puller," Fitch said. "It will make a big difference in our program."

ONLINE PAYMENT

Step 1: Log into your Entrata account with your username and password. Click on the Banner Web icon at the right-hand side of your screen.



Banner Web
Records | Financial Aid |
Transcript

Step 2: Click on Pay Tuition, Fees, and Other Charges Online — Credit Card to make your online Payment.

Student Records

- Account by Term
- Account Summary
- Account Summary by Term
- Degree Evaluation
- Final Grades by Term
- Holds on Your Account
- Payments - Pay Tuition, Fees, and Other Charges Online - Credit Card
- Payment History and Statement
- Select Tax Year
- Student Information
- Tax Notification
- Transcript Unofficial

RELEASE: 7.5

If you encounter problems with making your online payment, please contact the IECC HelpDesk at 618-395-5299 or toll-free 1-855-519-4357.

OCC Service Awards



OCC presented service recognition awards to full- and part-time employees on Jan. 7. Above, Vicki Stuckey and Kathy Slichenmyer receive 25-year awards. Top right, employees receiving 15-year service awards are front row, from left, Kim Wilson, Libby McVicker and Donita Kaare and back row, Jim Tucker, Rob Mason, Deanna Ratts and Kristi Urfer.



Above, OCC employees receiving 10-year service awards are, from left, Kelly Payne, Chad Schuetz, Suzanne Downes and Carmen Jones. At left, Doug Shipman and Reba Stanfield receive 20-year service awards.



Above, Brittany Bass and Jason Hortin receive five-year service awards. At right, Tim Bower and Larry Harbaugh receive 15-year service awards.



TRIO Upward Bound student receives \$10,000 scholarship

Alecis Allen, a participant in TRIO Upward Bound, is the recipient of a \$10,000 scholarship from www.dosomething.org.

During her afterschool Upward Bound session at Edwards County High School, Allen researched scholarship opportunities and websites for several weeks this past semester.

In her search, the ECHS senior discovered www.dosomething.org. This website is one of the largest orgs for young people and social change. The 3.3 million members tackle campaigns that impact every cause from poverty to violence to the environment to literally every-

thing else. Any cause, anytime, anywhere is their motto.

Allen joined the website campaign undertaking several projects. These included leaving anonymous positive post-it notes at school, veterans cards, orphanage cards, suicide hotline flyers, Super Stress Face Pick-Me notes and recycling projects.

By completing the various web listed campaigns, students are entered into a seasonal scholarship drawing for \$10,000. Allen was chosen as the winner for the December Campaign.

Congratulations to Alecis Allen.



TRIO Upward Bound participant Alecis Allen, left, is the recipient of a \$10,000 scholarship from www.dosomething.org. The Edwards County High School senior is pictured with TRIO Upward Bound Counselor Jodi Schneider.



Jerad Eickhoff

Former Blue Knight Jerad Eickhoff added to Rangers' 40-man roster

Former Blue Knight right-handed pitcher Jerad Eickhoff has officially been added to the Texas Rangers' 40-man roster.

Eickhoff is a native of Evansville, Ind., where he attended Mater Dei High School before he came to OCC where he pitched for Coach Dennis Conley in 2010 and 2011. He owns numerous OCC pitching records including most strikeouts in a career.

Eickhoff was drafted in the 46th round by the Chicago Cubs in 2010 after his freshman season, but decided to come

back to OCC for his sophomore year where he set the school record for most strikeouts in a season with 116. The Texas Rangers selected him in the 15th round after his sophomore season and he then decided to begin his professional career.

In four minor league seasons, Eickhoff has a career 32-22 record between five different levels of baseball.

He will attend Spring Training with the Rangers in Surprise, Ariz., where he hopes to get a shot at the big leagues sometime soon.

OCC Music Department to hold Auditions for 2015-2016

The OCC Music Department will host auditions on Monday, Feb. 2, Wednesday, Feb. 18 and Saturday, Feb. 28.

Students interested in participating in OCC's choral and instrumental ensembles must audition in order to be considered for a Music Department Tuition Waiver for the 2015-2016 academic year. Tuition waivers are granted based on the

needs of the OCC ensembles as well as student ability level and commitment.

The Monday and Wednesday audition dates allow students to attend rehearsals of the choral and band ensembles, audition for the OCC music faculty, meet with a faculty member of their chosen major and tour the college.

On Saturday, students can audi-

tion with the OCC music faculty.

All three audition dates provide instrumental students the opportunity to perform with the OCC Cavalier Pep Band at an OCC Blue Knights Basketball game.

For information regarding audition requirements, visit the OCC Music Department website at www.occmusic.org/auditions. You may also call 395-7777, ext. 2251.

OCC hosts FAFSA Night Feb. 9 *College closed*

OCC will offer a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Night from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9 in Room 207.

The OCC Financial Aid staff will be

available to assist students and parents in completing their 2015-2016 FAFSA application. For more information, contact the OCC Financial Aid Office at 395-7777, ext. 2021.

Free tutoring available through LSC

Need help with a class? Olney Central College's Learning Skills Center offers free tutoring in any subject taught at OCC.

Biology study guides are available, as well as videos for Basic Math, Beginning Algebra and Intermediate Algebra.

The LSC also can provide tape recorders, large screen monitors, read-

ers and note takers.

If you have any special learning needs, come and see the LSC staff.

The LSC is looking for tutors for the spring semester. If you have received a B or better in a class, you're qualified to tutor.

The LSC is located in the back of the Anderson Library in Conference Room 4. Stop by to learn more.

Internship

Continued from Page 1

from the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, under the authority of the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961 and the German Bundestag. During the year-long program, students complete an internship in their career field as well as a community service project.

Weber is enjoying the experience of living with his host family, Jeremy and Geneva Forys, and their sons, Dylan and Levi, and meeting local residents. His community service work has included volunteering for the Master's Hands Inc., and serving as an assistant coach for youth soccer and basketball.

"It is fun coaching the kids," he said. "I fell in love with the kids. I have so much fun with them. I have met my 40 hours of community service and now I'm doing it just because I like it."

Weber also is a member of the OCC Student Senate and has played in a recreational basketball league.

"I grew up in Munich which has 1.3 million people. Olney is much different," Weber said. "It is really easy-going here. I like the community and the people. You get an experience that is so different than Munich."

Weber originally planned to stay in Olney only through the end of the fall semester before traveling to New York to complete a pre-arranged internship at a Manhattan bank. But while work-

ing with William Alexander as an assistant coach, the First National Bank employee arranged an interview for Weber with the financial institution and he was offered the local internship.

"I didn't want to leave here or move to Manhattan," Weber said. "I'm so happy I found a job here. I love being able to stay in Olney."

After completing his internship, Weber will return to Germany and finish his degree.

He encourages OCC students to consider participating in the CBYX Program and spending a year in Germany.

"It is a chance to see another country, meet other people and broaden your horizons," he said. "It is such a nice experience. After you begin working, you will never have time so you need to do it now."

Information about the CBYX Program is available at www.cbyx.info.

Weber said he always wondered why his brother-in-law enjoyed returning each year to the small Kansas town where he stayed as an exchange student.

"When I'm talking to my sister on Skype, I tell him, 'Now, I understand. I know why you go back every year. You make friends and you want to know what has been going on.'"

Weber said his experience in Olney is something he will never forget and he hopes to return in the future.

College closed

OCC will be closed Monday, Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Lost and found items

If you have lost an item, please check with the switchboard in the Student Services Office.

Keep vehicles locked

Students utilizing the OCC parking lots are advised to keep their vehicles locked when unattended.

Happy Birthday To:

January

- 2 Wanda Douglas - FCC
- 7 Doug Shipman
- 9 Linda Horn
- 11 Carol Kocher
- 17 Sue Dufilho
- 19 Jill Ginder-Wilson
- 23 Deanna Ratts
- 23 Jason Hortin
- 25 Andi Pampe
- 26 Mary Corry
- 25 Stephanie Ochs
- 28 Brenda Grove - LTC

Knightline Information

Please submit information for the February Knightline to Deanna Ratts by 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 26.

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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