

KNIGHTLINE

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE



May 2016

Upcoming Events

May

9 *Intersession & Summer Semester Textbook Sales Begin*

9-12 *Spring Textbook Buyback, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. & 5 to 6:30 p.m., Bookstore*

9-12 *Final Exams*

12 *OCC Community Band Concert, 7:30 p.m. May 13, OCC Theater*

13 *Graduation, 7 p.m., OCC Gym*

30 *College Closed, Memorial Day*

June

7 *Summer Semester Begins*

13 *Last Day for 100 Percent Refund for 8-Week Summer Classes*

13 *Last Day for Summer Textbook Refunds*

July

1 *Last Day to Pay Summer Semester Tuition & Fees*

1 *Summer Semester Midterm*

4 *College Closed, Independence Day*

Registration

Registration is underway for summer and fall semester classes.

Schedules are available at www.iecc.edu. You can request an advisement appointment online at www.iecc.edu/rqst_occ.php.

OCC has the No. 1 Nerds in the Nation

OCC can now claim bragging rights as home to the No. 1 nerds in the nation.

Phi Theta Kappa members Bridget Brian and Heather Vaupel of Olney, and Nellie Schalasky of Oblong, defeated top community college students from across the country to win the 2016 PTK

Scholar Bowl during the honor society's annual NerdNation convention in Washington, D.C.

It's an amazing feat considering the team — that won it all — wasn't even scheduled to compete.

Initially, Brian was the only OCC student registered to participate in the event. She had been assigned to a team and was looking forward to meeting the other students as the opening round prepared to get underway.

As time passed, it became apparent Brian's



Members of the NerdNation 2016 PTK Scholar Bowl Championship team included three OCC students. Pictured, from left, are Advisor Amie Mayhall, Bridget Brian, Heather Vaupel (kneeling), Nellie Schalasky, Ahmed Shawhatti, of Henry Ford College in Michigan, and Advisor Laurel Cutright.

Michigan.

"His team had too many members and we only had three, so he said, 'Hey, can I join your team?'" Vaupel explained.

The OCC students quickly agreed and Shawhatti was onboard.

"He was a great help to us," Schalasky declared.

"It was amazing how quickly it came together," Brian added.

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Escobedo receives national and state recognition

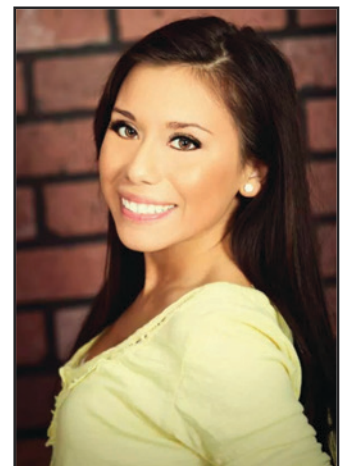
OCC Radiography student Carolina Escobedo is receiving both national and state accolades for her hard work and dedication.

Escobedo is the recipient of scholarships from both the Illinois State Society of Radiologic Technologists and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. The Robinson resident also will be featured on the cover of an upcoming issue of the ASRT journal.

"Carolina has been an exceptional student from the beginning," said Radiography Director Carol Kocher. "She exhibits a focus and dedication to excellence that is in a league of its own. We are so proud of her. The facility that hires her and the patients who benefit from her care will be very lucky people."

Escobedo, who will graduate May 13 with a 4.0 grade point average, was selected from students across the nation for the ASRT Foundation's \$5,000 Varian Radiation Therapy Advancement

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Carolina Escobedo

teammates weren't going to show.

With only minutes to spare, Schalasky and Vaupel, who had come to cheer on Brian, instead volunteered to join her team. They soon gained a fourth member, Ahmed Shawhatti, a student at Henry Ford College in



CAR SHOW

The OCC Automotive Service Technology and Collision Repair Technology programs held their first Car Show on April 23. The event drew 55 entries. Instructor Tyler Boyles plans to make it an annual event.

Nation

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With the members in place, they scrambled to select a name.

“We had 30 seconds to come up with something,” Vaupel said. “I looked down and I was wearing a blue jacket. I said, ‘Blue Jackets’ and that’s how we got our name.”

The Blue Jackets went on to win Division III. In the semifinal round, they defeated the Division IV winners to advance to the scholar bowl championship.

“We were really surprised,” Schalasky said. “We didn’t think we would do that well. When we saw how good we were, we got really excited.”

PTK Advisors Amie Mayhall and Laurel Cutright, who accompanied the students to the convention, were thrilled with their performance.

“The girls performed well under pressure,” Mayhall said. “I was amazed at their composure on stage in front of thousands of people, while I was a proud parent screaming from the front row.”

Schalasky added, “Amie and Laurel were really excited. They were jumping around like moms and taking pictures.”

While the first two rounds focused only on general knowledge, the championship round also included questions about PTK history.

“We spent the night before studying up on it,” Brian added. “We wanted to be prepared.”

This is the first year the scholar bowl has been held during the convention and the hastily assembled team found themselves vying for the top prize in front of the entire assembly.

“It was cool being on stage, and also nerve wracking,” Brian said.

While both Brian and Schalasky had previous experience competing on high school scholar bowl teams, Vaupel was nervous.

“I was terrified,” she said. “I don’t like to be the center of attention, but I got up there and did it anyway. I’m glad I got to experience it.”

The team’s diversity was essential in helping them capture the win.

“Our goal was to have everyone answer at least one question and we all did,” Schalasky said. “All of our majors are different and we had different specialties. Bridget was science, I was business, Heather knew a lot all-around and Ahmed’s was biology.”

Both Mayhall and Cutright were impressed with the students’ accomplishments.

“I am extremely proud of these three young ladies,” Cutright said. “They were professional, humble and cooperative in the way they represented Olney Central College and the Alpha Theta Eta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. It was so much fun to watch them through all of the scholar bowl matches. My heart about beat through my chest during the championship round, but they were all calm, cool and collected.”

OCC’s 52nd commencement will be May 13

Olney Central College’s 52nd annual commencement exercises will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 13 in the OCC Gymnasium. Friends and relatives of the graduates are invited to attend.

OCC President Rodney Ranes will give the welcoming remarks and Dean of Instruction Dr. Jeffery Cutchin will present candidates for degrees and certificates.

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Board of Trustees Member Brenda Culver will confer the more than 360 degrees and certificates being awarded this year. She also will give the “Charge to the Class.”

Special music will be provided by the OCC Concert Choir conducted by Andrew Pittman, Director of Choral Activities.

Community Band Concert May 12

The Olney Central College Music Department celebrates a milestone with the OCC Community Band 10th Anniversary Celebration Concert that will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 12 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

The band will pay homage to its history in performing works that have proven to be favorites over the past 10 years. Included in this are “A Copland Tribute,” Frank Ticheli’s “Amazing Grace,” and Gustav Holst’s “First Suite in Eb” – a work that the band performed its very first year in existence. Over the years, the band has also performed many works from film scores, and this year it will present music from “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” to continue that tradition. The concert will close with the John Philip Sousa favorite “Stars and Stripes Forever.”

Admission to this concert is free and open to the public.

Get your resume noticed by joining Purple Briefcase

Want employers to know about you? Then sign up for Purple Briefcase.

Through Purple Briefcase, students can post resumes for prospective employers and peruse job openings listed by more than 330 participating businesses. A number of job openings currently are posted on the site.

OCC Career Services Coordinator Allan Alldredge will have a table set up in the hallway from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 9-11. Stop by and he can get you signed up.

“If you are getting ready to graduate this is a good way to stay informed on trends in the job market,” Alldredge added.

“Once they have an account, students can create a resume and access the many career services tools available through the free program,” Alldredge said. “This is an all-around good tool for students to have.”

In addition, students can watch instructional videos, which provide tips to prepare them for job interviews and how to address questions they may encounter. Help also is available for resume writing and composing cover letters.

Alldredge also encourages faculty to check out the software.

“It can keep them up to date on current positions needed in the workforce,” he added.

Students can sign up for Purple Briefcase from their Entrata accounts. Just click on the Career Services link on the left-hand side of the page and fill in the required information.

Nursing honor society induction

The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges/Olney Central College Associate Degree Nursing Program’s Nu Chapter of Alpha Delta Nu held its induction ceremony on April 10 at Wabash Valley College.

Twelve students from Frontier Community, Lincoln Trail, Olney Central and Wabash Valley colleges were welcomed into the national honor society of nursing, which recognizes top associate degree nursing students.

Inductees were: Barbara Fell and Jessica Sterling of Fairfield, Aaron Simms of Mt. Carmel, and Bobbi Dulaney of Flora, FCC; Brittney Quick of Robinson, LTC; Lauren Givens and Jennifer Jackson of Olney, Shelby Seitzinger and Valerie Loudermilk of Bridgeport, and Laura Lawrence of Lawrenceville, OCC; and Rachel Wissel of Albion and Carmen Hauschild of Fort Branch, Ind., WVC.

To be considered for membership, students must have completed their first year of nursing, have attained a 3.0 overall GPA and earned a B or better in the core nursing courses. Students also must have demonstrated conduct on campus and in the clinical areas that reflects both integrity and professionalism.

To be awarded full membership, students must finish their third semester of nursing and complete a group capstone project, which focuses on either recruitment or educational activities.



OCC Alpha Delta Nu inductees are front row, from left, Lauren Givens, Advisor Anne Hustad and Jennifer Jackson. Back row, Laura Lawrence, Shelby Seitzinger and Valerie Loudermilk



SPA DAY

OCC’s Cosmetology and Massage Therapy programs hosted a Spa Day on April 23 at the West Richland Center in Noble. Above, Marissa Robins, of Newton, gives a client a pedicure. At right, Natalie Shryock, of Olney, administers a hot stone back massage.



Students named to All-Illinois Academic Team

Olney Central College students Bridget Brian and Caleb Buscher have been named to the All-Illinois Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa, the international two-year honor society.

Brian and Buscher, both of Olney, were chosen from among community college students across the state on the basis

of academic achievement, leadership and service work. The pair were recognized for their achievement at the 19th annual Phi Theta Kappa Banquet on April 19 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield.

The All-Illinois Academic Team is sponsored annually by Phi Theta Kappa, USA Today and the American Association of Community Colleges. It seeks to honor outstanding community college students who show intellectual rigor in their course of study, demonstrate academic, leadership and civic growth and who extend their community college education to better themselves, their schools and their communities.

To qualify for the All-Illinois Academic Team, nominees must be a member of PTK, have a minimum 3.5 GPA, be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours and actively engaged in their school and community.

Brian and Buscher were nominated by



Caleb Buscher and Bridget Brian have been named to the All-Illinois Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa. Their achievements were recognized during the 19th annual PTK Banquet on April 19.

OCC faculty and completed a vigorous application process. Both received a medalion and certificate at the April luncheon.

“It was an honor to be chosen out of the pool of applicants,” Brian said.

Both students are graduating from Olney Central with honors in May.

Brian will be transferring to either the University of Illinois in Springfield, where she has already been accepted, or to Washington University in St. Louis. After completing her bachelor’s degree, she hopes to enter Washington University’s medical research program. She would like to study immunology or genetic research.

“Being at OCC has been a great experience,” Brian said. “I had considered transferring after my first year, but I’m glad I stayed the extra year to participate in Science Club and PTK.”

Buscher plans to transfer to Hannibal-LaGrange University in Missouri, where he will complete a bachelor’s degree in human resources.

“I enjoyed participating in PTK and being involved in the community events like helping with the concessions at the plays,” Buscher said. “OCC has been a good transition from high school to a university. I’ve had good classes. I think literature class was the best.”

Students gain new ideas at convention for PTK chapter

Olney Central College students Bridget Brian and Heather Vaupel of Olney, and Nellie Schalasky of Oblong, returned from Phi Theta Kappa’s NerdNation convention with an eye on enhancing the honor society’s local chapter.

“I thought it was cool learning more about the other clubs and what they are doing,” Brian said. “It gave us a lot of ideas on how to improve our own organization.”

Vaupel said that includes initiating some new fund-raisers.

“One of the suggestions is inviting individuals to a dinner and asking for small donations,” she said.

The three hope other students will choose to attend next year.

“We want to start working toward becoming a five-star chapter,” Brian added. “The convention was awesome. We hope more members will be able to go next year when it is in Nashville.”

Schalasky added, “I hope more students want to participate in PTK activities because of our experience.”

In addition to the workshops, Vaupel enjoyed the keynote speakers, especially Dr. Paul G. Stoltz, who is considered the world’s leading authority on the integration and application of grit and resilience.

Other featured speakers included PTK International President Yanik Etan, economist Lord John Eatwell, President of Queens’ College Cambridge one of the constituent colleges of Cambridge University, and BBC World News anchor Katty Kay.

DONATION

The April OCC Cares Project collected items for the Richland County Animal Shelter. Donations included 13 rolls of paper towels, 10 bags of dog and cat food, 14 collars, 24 toys and two cases of paper.



Upward Bound receives grant from Wal-Mart

The Wal-Mart Foundation recently selected the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) TRIO Upward Bound program to receive a grant through its Local Community Contribution Program.

Upward Bound West (UBW), located at Olney Central College, received a \$2,000 grant from the Olney Wal-Mart. The grant money will be used to provide essential items necessary for college-bound seniors to be successful in post-secondary education.

TRIO Upward Bound, a 100 percent federally funded college preparatory program through the Department of Education, is designed to provide academic support, counseling and cultural enrichment to high school students who desire academic success in both secondary and post-secondary education.

The program provides assistance to low-income, first-generation (neither parent having earned a bachelor's degree) and/or high school students demonstrating academic need.

Application for admission to the IECC TRIO Upward Bound program is open to students in a specific target area which includes; Crawford, Edwards, Jasper, Lawrence, Richland and Wayne counties. The Upward Bound program currently serves a total of 140 students at seven local high schools. Upward Bound West serves students at the Richland County, Edwards County and Fairfield Community high schools.

"Illinois Eastern Community Colleges' TRIO Upward Bound program is passionate about helping our students be better prepared for college. The grant from Wal-Mart will allow us to provide necessary items toward our students college success," said Director Samantha Weidner. "We are grateful of the Wal-Mart Foundation's belief in what we do at Upward Bound and appreciate them awarding us this grant."

For more information, contact the TRIO Upward Bound West office located at Olney Central College, 305 N. West St., Olney, IL, or call 395-7777, ext. 2282. You can also find more information by visiting the Upward Bound webpage at www.iecc.edu/upwardbound.



EXPERIENCING SCIENCE

OCC Instructor Rob Mason conducted several science experiments for the Olney Girl Scouts.

Escobedo

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Scholarship. Varian Medical Systems, which creates technology for treating cancer with radiotherapy, radiosurgery, proton therapy and brachytherapy, established the award. The scholarships ensure radiation therapists and medical dosimetrists can afford education that enhances their clinical practice skills and helps them provide excellent patient care.

Applicants are required to complete a series of essay questions and provide an accompanying letter. Selection is based upon academic standing and the recipients' commitment to their chosen field.

After completing her studies at OCC, Escobedo plans to earn a bachelor's degree in radiation therapy and then pursue a master's degree in medical dosimetry at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

"I'm very thankful," Escobedo said of her selection. "It was perfect timing to say the least."

The latest honor comes just days after Escobedo received the \$500 Elizabeth Bray Regional Scholarship from the ISSRT during its annual convention. The recipient was

chosen based on letters of recommendation and GPA.

During the convention, Escobedo also earned a third-place finish in the ISSRT student electronic poster competition. Escobedo's work focused on the affects of multiple myeloma. Patients with this osteosarcoma, cancer that forms in the bones, have an average life expectancy of three to four years.

"I dedicated quite a bit of time to perfect my poster," she said "I was hoping I'd place and sure enough, I did."

Escobedo will leave OCC well-prepared for the next challenge.

"The program is difficult to ace, as anything medical-related should be," she said. "However, nothing is impossible. I enjoyed it all, for the most part. I specifically love the diverse clinical selection."

She added, "I also liked that my teachers were available to assist with any questions and dedicated their time to assure that I understood the material. Some instructors were so amazing. We have built life-long relations. I honestly couldn't have accomplished so much without the assistance of (Radiography Instructors) Lisa Rauch, Brittany Ochs and Carol Kocher."

PTK DONATION

OCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter collected \$450 worth of items for Helping His Hands' disaster relief kits. Helping His Hands is a short-term mission organization, which specializes in disaster response. The organization provides immediate response to regions and people stricken by natural disasters, followed by continual aid in their journey of rebuilding.



Student Support Services mentor training

Last month, the TRIO Student Support Services program offered mentor training to its first-year students who have both displayed leadership qualities and excelled in the program this past year, both in coursework and program participation. The mentors will provide an extra layer of support to incoming freshmen.

“College mentorship has elements of academic preparation, information gathering, and social integration. The idea is to create a community where the students will not feel isolated.” (Bettinger Study) The TRIO SSS students become their own community and learning environment and oftentimes lifelong friendships are forged.

The group went camping in Shawnee

National Forest on land provided by Bill Holmes, the father of Annie Lankford, one of the group's Academic Counselors.

Once camp was set, the group ventured to Glen O. Jones Lake for lunch and had a round table discussion of “What is a Mentor?” They went to Garden of the Gods and trekked the mountain, and then went to Rim Rock Recreational Trail to explore some more.

Back at the camp, they received FERPA training and discussed mentor duties and the Academic Counselors' expectations of them.

It was a great bonding experience for the students and the trip was praised as one of the best of the year.

TRIO Spotlight: Nellie Schalasky

Nellie Schalasky, of Oblong, has been named the TRIO Student Support Services Spotlight Student of the Month at Olney Central College.



Nellie Schalasky

“I attribute a considerable amount of my success in college to TRIO,” she said. “The support that I receive from the staff and other students in the program is priceless. I have made many friends through TRIO and I will continue to keep TRIO in my life throughout the rest of my educational journey. I am honored to receive this award and I hope that my academic drive, as well as other students' drive continues to be nurtured by programs like these.”

Schalasky will receive her associate's degree this month. She plans to transfer to Eastern Illinois University and major in business.

In addition to TRIO, Schalasky is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the OCC Science Club.

HVAC Program accepting students for summer

Start HVAC classes in June and you can graduate in December.

OCC's heating, ventilation and air conditioning courses cover the installation of new systems and repair to existing HVAC systems for residential and small business purposes. Classes are offered in a hybrid format, reducing the time students are required to be in the classroom.

For more information about the certificate or to register, call 395-7777. Summer semester classes begin Tuesday, June 7.