

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



March 2019

Upcoming Events

March

15 OCC Graduation Applications Due

22-23 OCC Theatre Presents 'The Wizard of Oz,' 7 p.m.

24 OCC Theatre Presents 'The Wizard of Oz,' 2 p.m.

26 Summer & Fall Registration Begins

28-30 OCC Theatre Presents 'The Wizard of Oz,' 7 p.m.

31 OCC Theatre Presents 'The Wizard of Oz,' 2 p.m.

April

18 Last Day to Withdraw from 16-week Spring Semester Classes

College Visits

March 14 Franklin University, Representative Nicole Jackson, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

March 27 Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, Representative Mike Harbin, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tables will be located outside Student Services.

April 17 Grand Canyon University Online Nursing Representative Meg Clark

Tables will be located outside the Nursing Classrooms.



Rehearsals are underway for *The Wizard of Oz*, which will feature the new dual projection system in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

OCC Theatre completes first phase of updates

The first phase of the Olney Central College Theatre's three-year, \$50,000 fund-raising campaign is now complete with the addition of a new dual projection system in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

"The new equipment was installed just prior to our *Frozen* Sing-Along Movie Night, which was extremely successful," said OCC Theatre Director Jon Wright. "The kids had a lot of fun and we are looking forward to presenting more events like this in the future."

The new equipment was purchased with donations and grants including \$5,000 from both the Olney Arts Council and the Carrie Winter Charitable Trust. Contributions from OCC Theatre alumni alone have totaled more than \$6,500 since the

See Campaign, Page 7

Conference brings nationally-known experts on Kennedy, King assassinations to OCC

The nation's foremost experts on the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. will gather April 4-8 for a conference at Olney Central College.

Sponsored by the JFK Historical Group, Political Assassinations of the 1960s will explore, in an academic setting, the deaths of these three iconic leaders focusing on new details, which have emerged more than a half-century later. The conference will feature an outstanding array of authors, researchers, historians, educators and college professors, who possess extensive knowledge on the subjects.

"We are excited to bring together a diverse panel of speakers who will shed light on these events," said conference organizer and longtime JFK researcher Professor David Denton. "Enough important events are occurring in these cases which merit closer scrutiny."

A highlight of the event will be Saturday evening's banquet featuring keynote speakers Lisa Pease, who spent 25 years researching her book, *A Lie Too Big to Fail: The Real History of the Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy*, and Ed Tatrow, one of the nation's preeminent JFK assassination researchers. Both will give other presentations throughout the conference.

Pease's book was featured prominently in a recent *Washington Post* article exploring a CIA connection to the assassination of former Attorney General Robert Kennedy during his 1968 presidential primary campaign. The story quotes Robert Kennedy Jr., who believes the intelligence

See Conference, Page 6



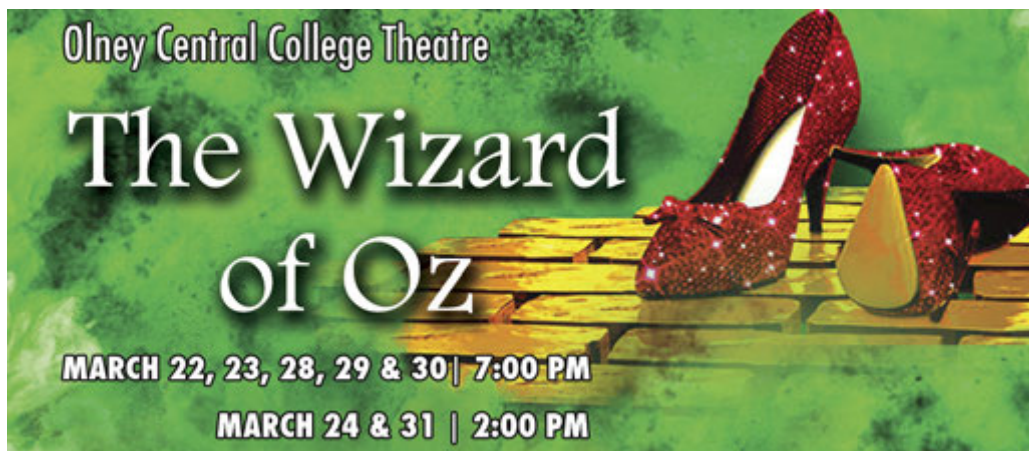
DAVID DENTON

Tickets on sale for OCC Theatre's 'The Wizard of Oz'

Tickets are now on sale for the Olney Central College Theatre's production of *The Wizard of Oz*, sponsored by First National Bank in Olney.

Evening performances are scheduled for March 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30, with a new showtime of 7 p.m. Afternoon shows will still begin at 2 p.m. on March 24 and 31.

Cast members include: **Dorothy Gale**, Taylor Merritt; **Scarecrow/Hunk**, Keegan Tucker; **Tinman/Hickory**, Andrew Flynn; **Lion/Zeke**, Scott Charleston; **Miss Almira Gulch/Wicked Witch**, Brenna Heidinger; **Professor Marvel/Wizard of Oz**, Andrew Pittman; **Glinda**, Emily Ferguson; **Aunt Em**, Neita Lenear; **Uncle Henry**, Jason Shryock; **Emerald City Guard**, Dylan Reed; **Nikko Commander of Monkeys**, Chris McDowell; **Three Crows**, Greg Eyer, Colby Garrard and Harrison Walker; **Three Trees**, Delaney Shryock, Faith Welty and Taylor Klingler; **Munchkin Mayor**, Carder Burgener; **Munchkin Coroner**, Chase Ackman; **Munchkin Barrister**, Kylie Kocher; **Three Munchkin Tots (Lullaby League)**, Lilah Ferguson, Naleigha Harrison and Makenna Hackney; **Three Tough Munchkin Kids (Lollipop Guild)**,



Jackson Young, Jackson Williams and Levi McDonald.

Also featuring **Munchkins**, Bailey Snyder, Ava Hagen, Skyler Sager, Shyann Turrentine and Kylie Kocher; **Ozians – Group 1**, Ashley Charleston, Gavin Charleston, Cala Charleston, Natasha Benton, James Benton, Heather Ackman, Tim Dunahee and Pat Foust; **Ozians – Group 2**, Amelia Ginder, Sophia Ranes, Taylor Klingler, Megan Hagen, Kenzie Stubbe, Summer Culpepper, Abby Nealis, Mykayla Schilt, Emily Smith, Riley Harrolle, Sean Joyce, Josie Donaldson and Genevieve Carey; **Jitterbugs**, Amelia Ginder, Sophia Ranes, Taylor Klingler, Megan Hagen, Kenzie Stubbe, Summer Culpepper, Abby Nealis, Mykayla

Schilt, Sydney Pitts and Ashton Wesley; **Popikins**, Emily Smith, Riley Harrolle, Austin Vaughn, Sean Joyce, Harrison Hahn, Josie Donaldson, Ashton Wesley, Genevieve Carey, Nyena Graves, Bryce Klingler and Chris McDowell; **Winkies**, Greg Eyer, Colby Garrard, Harrison Walker, Delaney Shryock, Faith Welty, Austin Vaughn, Nyena Graves and Harrison Hahn; and **Monkeys**, Sydney Pitts, Tim Dunahee and Bryce Klingler.

Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased online at www.iecc.edu/occtheater or by calling 395-7777, ext. 2408.

Tickets also will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday at the box office. Any remaining tickets may be purchased one hour before the performance.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT

Mykayla Schilt performs Bastille's "Pompeii" with the OCC Commercial Music Ensemble during the Music Department's Winter Concert on Feb. 22.

Other members of the ensemble include Kyle Beaman, Anna Miller, James Whitfield, Camilla Helderman, Kelsea Jellison, Sydney Zumbalhen, Trenton Lavarier and Taylor Aldworth. Upcoming Music Department performances include:

- March 17 - OCC Honors Jazz Quartet at Coco's in Lawrenceville for Jazz Brunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- March 21 - Monte Skelton at Bobalou's for Faculty Artist Series Concert
- March 28 - OCC Faculty Group and OCC Student Ensembles at Bobalou's for Faculty Artist Series Concert
- March 29 - OCC Jazz Combo performs for the Richland County Republicans Event at Olde Tyme Steakhaus
- March 30 - OCC Sponsors Tri-Music Musicianship Clinic, 2 to 5 p.m.



OCC students encouraged to complete survey

OCC students! Make your voice count!

Olney Central College wants to hear from you.

Please take a few minutes to complete the FY2019 IECC Student Satisfaction Survey.

The survey was sent via email to students' Entrata accounts on Monday, March 11.

If you have any questions, please contact Student Services. Surveys must be completed by April 12.

Student veterans invited to join Oathkeepers Club

The Oathkeepers Club provides opportunities and services for student veterans and alumni to connect and mentor each other as they successfully transition through college.

For more information, contact Advisor Allan Alldredge at 393-3566, ext. 5806, or email alldredgea@iecc.edu.

Free tutoring

Free tutoring is available to OCC students through the Learning Skills Center.

If you are having difficulties in a class, first talk with your instructor and then contact the LSC.

A Math Lab is available from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday.

The LSC is located in the back of the Anderson Library. If you have trouble locating it, just stop by the library desk and the staff can direct you.



SNA GIVES BACK

The Student Nurses Association participated in the annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake. Above, Danielle Littlejohn, Maci Henby, Abra Levitt, Shelby Padilla and Ashley Young bowled Feb. 17. At right, Chelsea Pitts, Alisha McKay, Amber Sager-Grindle and Maci Henby bowled Feb. 16.



IST Program Information Night April 2

Individuals interested in learning more about OCC's Information Systems Technology Program are invited to attend a free Information Night at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2 in Wattleworth Hall, Room 107.

"We want people to come out and have an opportunity to learn more about the program and what it offers," said IST Specialist PJ Zeilstra. "It would be especially helpful for high school students, who are interested in IT or computer science careers, and their parents."

The IST Program, which begins in August, provides students access to a state-of-the-art lab while preparing them for jobs in areas such as Network Technician, Help Desk Support Technician, Network Administrator, Cybersecurity Analyst, Internet of Things Technician and Data Analyst.

Students can earn a two-year transfer degree, which offers electives and gives students the basics of IST; a two-year degree that incorporates more technology and enables students to enter the workforce right away; and a one-year certificate, which prepares students for entry-level positions in the field. Graduates also will be prepared to take multiple industry certifications through the Cisco Networking Academy.

For more information about OCC's Information Systems Technology Information Night, contact Advisors Vicki Thompson at thompsonv@iecc.edu, and Jodi Schneider at schneiderj@iecc.edu, or call 618-395-7777. No pre-registration is required.

The Information Systems Technology Program is an Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Title III Block Grant initiative. The Title III program is supported in part by a five-year grant awarded to Olney Central College from the U.S. Department of Education effective October 1, 2018. The estimated total cost for all project activities is \$2,506,775 financed by the grant award of \$2,249,968 (90%) and \$256,807 (10%) by Olney Central College.



PJ ZEILSTRA

Sports Schedule

Men's Baseball

March 14 — OCC vs. Lake Land, 3 p.m. at home

March 16 — OCC at Lake Land, noon & 3 p.m.

March 21 — OCC at Shawnee, 3 p.m.

March 23 — OCC vs. Shawnee, noon & 3 p.m. at home

March 26 — OCC vs. Rend Lake, 3 p.m. at home

March 27 — OCC vs. Vincennes, 2 p.m. at home

March 28 — OCC at Rose-Hulman JV, 4 p.m.

April 1 — OCC vs. Lindenwood-Belleville, 1 & 3 p.m. at home

April 2 — OCC at Rend Lake, 1 & 4 p.m.

April 4 — OCC at South-eastern Illinois, 3 p.m.

Women's Softball

March 13 — OCC at Frontier, 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.

March 14 — OCC at Lincoln Trail, 2 & 4 p.m.

March 16 — OCC vs. John A. Logan, noon & 2 p.m. at home

March 17 — OCC vs. Southeastern Illinois, 1 & 3 p.m. at home

March 19 — OCC vs. Lake Land, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

March 21 — OCC vs. Rend Lake, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

March 23 — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois, noon & 4 p.m. at home

March 24 — OCC at Wabash Valley, 1 & 3 p.m.

March 25 — OCC vs. Brescia & Elgin Community, 2 p.m.; OCC vs. Brescia & Elgin Community, 4 p.m. at home

March 28 — OCC at Kaskaskia, 2 & 4 p.m.

April 2 — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

OCC Service Recognition Awards



Olney Central College recently presented service recognition awards to part-time employees. Above, Bonnie Routh, five years. At right, Nancy Abbott, five years.



Welker new administrative assistant to the Dean

Lynne Welker is serving as the new Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Instruction after working part-time at Olney Central College since July.

"I like working at the college and the idea that I am part of the whole process that helps students earn their degrees," she said. "I am excited about the position and the fact it will enable me to work full-time and stay at the college."

Welker previously served as an assistant in Financial Aid at OCC. She spent five years out of the workforce caring for her mother and granddaughter. Prior to that, Welker was a secretary and bookkeeper at First Assembly of God Church in Olney. Welker attended both OCC and Eastern Illinois University.

"I really enjoy being at the college," Welker said. "I like how everyone works together for the students to help them succeed. Everyone has been very helpful as I have transitioned into my new job."

Welker resides in Olney and enjoys spending time with her three adult children and two grandchildren. She enjoys quilting in her spare time.



ALERTS

IECC ALERTS

The IECC Alerts System notifies students and employees of campus emergencies and closures by email and text message

SIGN UP FOR IECC ALERTS THROUGH ENTRATA

Already signed up? Check to make sure your contact information is current

Jodi Schneider OCC's new advisor/recruiter

Jodi Schneider has joined Olney Central College serving in the newly created advisor/recruiter position.

An employee of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District since September 2003, Schneider worked nine years with IECC Talent Search before joining TRIO Upward Bound as a counselor. She had been the program's coordinator since 2017.

Schneider is a graduate of North Clay High School and OCC, where she was a student athlete playing both basketball and softball for the Lady Knights. Schneider holds a bachelor's degree in education from Eastern Illinois University. She completed her student teaching at Newton High School, where she served as a teacher for three years.

"I am excited to get back into the schools," Schneider said. "In TRIO, I was trying to get students into college and in this job I will get to see the other side when they finish."

In her new position, Schneider will be advising student athletes and those with undeclared majors. As OCC's recruiter, she will visit area high schools, working to increase OCC's profile in the surrounding communities. She also will represent OCC at college fairs and inter-district events.

"I want to get out and learn as much as I can about the schools and their individual needs," Schneider said. "I want to promote our new CTE programs as much as our transfer degrees. We have a lot to offer students and I want them to know everything that is offered and all of the opportunities available to them. I'm really excited and look forward to helping them achieve their goals."

Schneider resides in Claremont with her husband, Doug, and children, Avery, a freshman at Richland County High School, and Braden a seventh-grader at St. Joe. Schneider stays busy keeping up with her sons' sporting activities. She also enjoys following her brothers' MLB teams. Andy Haines, is a hitting coach for the Milwaukee Brewers, and Kyle Haines, is an assistant director of player development for the San Francisco Giants. She proudly notes both are graduates of OCC.



TRIO UPWARD BOUND DONATION

TRIO Upward Bound, Olney Central College and Lincoln Trail College, gave back to the community by donating books to The Big Blue Book Bus on Feb. 23, along with members of the community. Participants also made cards for those in assisted living communities and nursing homes. Feb. 23 was National TRIO Day which is a day of celebration, reflection and action around increased access to higher education for disadvantaged students. A big thank you to the community, TRIO Upward Bound students and staff. The TRIO Upward Bound programs are 100 percent federally funded by the Department of Education for \$328,912 (LTC), \$374,681 (OCC), and \$315,155 (WVC).

AUTOMOTIVE CLUB ATTENDS ST. LOUIS AUTO SHOW

On Jan. 25, the Olney Central College Automotive Club traveled to the 2019 St. Louis Auto Show, which now features the STL Motorcycle Show. As the largest automobile event in the St. Louis area, the St. Louis Auto Show features more than 500 new cars, pickup trucks and SUVs from over 25 manufacturers all under one roof. The show gave OCC Automotive Service Technology and Collision Repair students a chance to preview the latest models, learn about new safety technology and preview some of the world's most expensive vehicles.



Conference *Continued from Page 1*

organization played a role in his father's death. Kennedy recently appeared on *The Alec Baldwin Show* calling for a new investigation into his father's death and requesting a new trial for convicted assassin Sirhan Sirhan.

Tatro, a dynamic and engaging speaker, was a key contributor to the popular *The Men Who Killed Kennedy* series featured on the History Channel. He will present new and compelling information and evidence regarding the JFK assassination.

The banquet will begin at 6:15 p.m. at The Holiday in Olney with presentations by Pease and Tatro to follow at 7 and 8 p.m., respectively. The cost for the banquet is \$40.

Denton said the National Archives' release in 2017 and 2018 of previously classified documents related to the JFK assassination have resulted in new revelations making the conference a timely event.

"These recently declassified documents open new avenues into investigations. Although some documents remain classified, because of the recent release more information has come to light that paints a clearer picture of conspiracy in Dallas," said Denton, who has taught the course, "Political Assassinations of the 1960s," for 17 years at Olney Central College. "The fact that Robert Kennedy Jr. has gone on the record questioning the official stories of both his father's and uncle's deaths brings renewed significance to these cases. Having this conference in an academic setting, I honestly

believe it will bring forth significant information the public has not been aware of up to this point. In particular, I feel we have one of the best lineups of any conference yet associated with the assassination of RFK."

Calls are also coming for a new investigation into King's death on the balcony of Memphis' Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. On the recent King Holiday, a national petition was circulated requesting the government reopen the case. King's family has been asking since the 1990s that the circumstances surrounding the civil rights leader's slaying be re-examined.

"We believe the timing of this conference couldn't be any better," Denton added. "The conference activities start on the 51st anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr."

Conference events begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4 with a showing of Randolph Benson's film *The Searchers*, winner of the 2017 Tiburon International Film Festival's Orson Welles Award. A question and answer session with Benson, an instructor of film and video at Duke University, will follow. A meet and greet with the speakers will run from 9 to 10 p.m.

The first full day of activities will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 5 with presentations continuing throughout the evening. Speakers will include Casey Quinlan, Brian Edwards, David Knight, Ed Tatro, Mal Hyman, Judyth Baker, Chris Fulton, Damon Ise, Lisa Pease and John Barbour.

The conference will resume at 8:15 a.m. on Saturday, April 6 with featured

speakers Jeff Worcester, Richard Bartholomew, Larry Rivera, Ed Tatro, Kris Millegan, David Denton, Victoria Hawes-Sulzer, Phil Nelson, William Law and Stan Weeber.

On Sunday, April 7, sessions will start at 9 a.m. Speakers include Shane O'Sullivan, Lisa Pease and Ed Tatro. A luncheon and meet and greet with the speakers will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Elk's in Olney.

On Monday, April 8, John Barbour's film *The American Media and the Second Assassination of President John F. Kennedy* will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Barbour is best known as "The Godfather of Reality TV," for creating and co-hosting NBC's trend-setting No. 1 hit, *Real People*.

He was chosen by New Orleans' District Attorney Jim Garrison to be the one to tell his story. *The Garrison Tapes* won the San Sebastian Film Festival Award in 1992 and the sequel, *The American Media and the Second Assassination of President John F. Kennedy*, is regarded as the absolute definitive film on the subject. A question and answer session with Barbour will follow the showing.

The cost for residents of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District is \$6.50 per session, \$13.50 per day or \$40 for all conference activities, excluding the keynote banquet.

All events will be held in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center at Olney Central College unless otherwise noted.

Additional information regarding schedules, speakers and other details are available at www.jfkhistorical.com.

Rich-Beard serving as office assistant in Records Office

Brandi Rich-Beard is now serving as an office assistant in the Olney Central College Records Office.

Rich-Beard has been employed part-time in Student Services since April 2017, and has held a variety of office positions. While attending OCC, she served two years as a student worker in Student Services.

“I feel like this position is a good match for the skills set I have,” Rich-Beard said. “I’m a business major and Records involves working with a lot of numbers and looking for errors. I also think the position will give me the necessary work experience I need. I feel like this will round out my time at OCC and afford me time to enhance my skills to help me advance in the future.”

Rich-Beard completed an associate’s degree at OCC in May 2017 and is currently a full-time student at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale through the College of Business online program. She will complete her bachelor’s degree in Business Management & Administration this summer.

“I’m really enjoying meeting everyone formally,” Rich-Beard said of working in Records. “Because I have been working behind the scenes for so long, it’s nice to finally meet people in person. I’m finally putting faces to the names. I’m also looking forward to learning the processes in the Records Office so I can streamline them. I like finding new ways of doing things to save time. I’m big on streamlining and learning as much as I can.”

Rich-Beard enjoyed her time as a student at OCC and is thrilled to continue her association with the college.

“OCC has been great for me,” she said. “I came here as a single mother and I would not have made it as far as I have without the assistance I have received from the instructors and staff. Everyone has been tremendous and they have been very accommodating. OCC has been a crucial part of my success.”

Rich-Beard resides in Claremont with her husband. They are the parents of six children. In her spare time, she enjoys rock painting and singing.



Campaign *Continued from Page 1*

campaign was unveiled last August.

“I am so incredibly proud of the giving from our alumni,” Wright said. “We have asked them for \$10,000 over three years and they are definitely delivering. It shows how dedicated they are to the OCC Theatre.”

Theater-goers will have an opportunity to experience the new projection system as it will be used extensively in the upcoming production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

“This will be a totally new experience for our guests coming to the show,” Wright added. “We are so limited on space with our sets. This has opened up possibilities we have never imagined.”

Performances are at 7 p.m. on March 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 and at 2 p.m. on March 24 and 31. Tickets may be purchased online at www.iecc.edu/occtheater or by calling 395-7777, ext. 2408.

“We have set some lofty goals and as people will see during *The Wizard of Oz* the first year of improvements are on schedule and we can’t wait to start our second year,” Wright said.

Phase 2 will include the installation of backstage audio and video monitors. The planned renovations will conclude the following year with the placement of a modern lighting system.

Wright said updates to OCC’s 43-year-old theater ensure audiences will continue to enjoy professional productions for years to come.

The improvements also will benefit the OCC Band and Choir, Olney Arts Council activities, the Southeastern Illinois Concert Association and area dance studios, which utilize the performing arts center.

Wright is grateful for the support the project has received from the community and the college.

“Throughout all of our growth in the theater in the last few years, our administration has been excellent in supporting us,” he said. “It is so nice to have an administration who supports the arts in our community.”

The OCC Theatre’s importance to the community is evident in the generous contributions it receives from both businesses and individuals.

“We have had tremendous support from our advertisers and sponsors,” Wright added. “First National Bank in Olney is our sponsor for *The Wizard of Oz*, and helped to sponsor our *Frozen Sing-Along*. They also are sponsoring a *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* Movie Night, which will be held on May 4.”

With the updates, Wright plans to increase the number of activities held in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center. Two concerts will be announced later this year and a third movie night is planned for December.

Wright recommends liking OCC Theatre on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OCCTheater for the latest announcements and upcoming events.

If you are interested in donating to the OCC Theatre fundraising campaign, please contact Wright at 395-7777, ext. 2408.