

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



Summer 2020

Upcoming Events

July

21 Last Day to Withdraw from 8-week Summer Semester Classes

24 Last Day of Summer Semester Classes

27-28 Summer Semester Final Exams

27-28 Summer Semester Textbook Buyback

27 Fall Semester Textbook Sales Begin

August

13 Faculty Staff Workshop

20 Fall Semester Classes Begin

Gene Duke Memorial Golf Scramble Sept. 12

The OCC Men's Basketball team will host its annual Coach Gene Duke Memorial Golf Scramble on Sept. 12 at the Richland Country Club.

Check-in begins at 11 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded.

Proceeds from the event will go toward student athlete meal plans.

Interim Head Basketball Coach Casey Wyllie said due to COVID-19, this will be the largest fund-raiser prior to the season.

For more information, contact Wyllie at 815-822-4073.

Signal Vine features OCC on its website

Olney Central College's success with Signal Vine is being highlighted on the company's website.

OCC implemented the two-way text messaging platform last year as part of the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Title III Block Grant initiative to enhance academic advising. The Signal Vine platform enables advisors to strengthen communication and better engage with students.

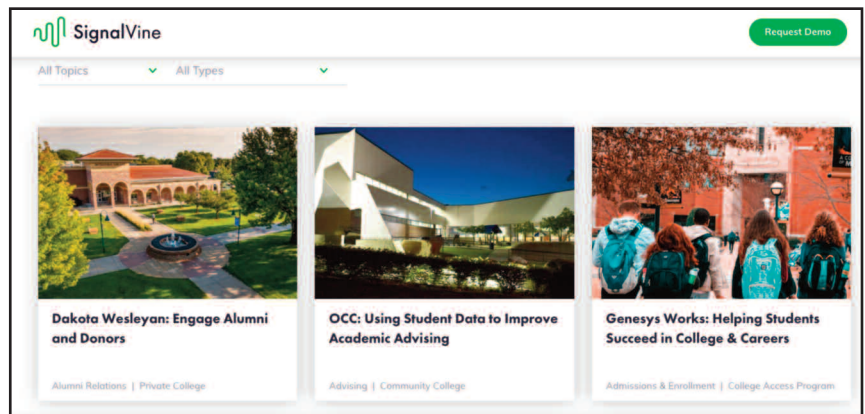
Through Signal Vine, advisors can send both generalized messages to the student body and personal reminders. In addition to communicating with advisors, students can receive texts from Financial Aid and the Retention Coordinator and Recruiter. Students can also utilize the service to text follow-up questions.

"Communication is changing quickly and the staff at Olney Central College are changing with it," said Title III Advising Specialist Ashley Bigard. "Signal Vine has produced transformational changes within Student Services at Olney Central College. With the blended text messaging approach that Signal Vine offers, staff are building stronger relationships with students. I am excited to see what results the innovative platform will bring to Illinois Eastern Community Colleges."

Students are embracing the new platform. A survey sent through Signal Vine to assess changes in advising showed 86 percent were satisfied with the changes, including the use of text messages. Nearly three-quarters of OCC students engaged with the text advising program and advisors reported fewer missed appointments.

"Communication with students has become so easy and is a great time-saver," said Assistant Dean for Student Services Andi Pampe. "Rather than many calls and emails over time, we can text a student and get an immediate response similar to a face-to-face conversation. It saves hours of reaching out and waiting time."

Signal Vine is currently used at all four Illinois Eastern Community Colleges — Frontier in Fairfield, Lincoln Trail in Robinson, Olney Central in Olney and Wabash Valley in Mt. Carmel.



OCC to host 2020 virtual graduation

With the safety of our students, staff, families and community in mind, Olney Central College has made the difficult decision to hold its 2020 Commencement virtually.

The ceremony will be available Aug. 3 on our website at www.iecc.edu/occ and posted to our social media and YouTube channel.



Students named to PTK All-Illinois Team

Olney Central College students Abigail Roark, of Olney, and Natalie Seals, of Noble, have been named to the All-Illinois Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa, the international two-year college honor society.

Roark and Seals were selected from among community college students across the state on the basis of academic achievement, volunteer work, campus activities, honors and awards. The All-Illinois Academic Team initiative honors outstanding Illinois community college students and highlights the high-quality education provided by the 48 public community colleges and the six private two-year colleges in the state.

Recipients are traditionally recognized during the annual PTK All-Illinois awards banquet. This year's event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Roark and Seals will receive medallions and certificates by mail.

"I was honored to be selected," Roark said of being named to the PTK All-Illinois team. "It is rewarding to have my hard work pay off."

Roark plans to transfer to Eastern Illinois University to pursue a degree in mathematics. She is pleased with her decision to begin her studies at OCC.

"I chose OCC because I wanted to save money by living at home and spending less money on tuition," she said. "I liked the small class sizes and being part of TRIO Student Support Services."

Seals is currently enrolled at Eastern Illinois University and will complete her bachelor's degree in Digital Media Technology in Spring 2021. She hopes to begin a career in visual effects.

"Initially, I was confused and surprised to find out I was selected," Seals said of the honor. "Now that I've had time to understand the meaning of it, I am very appreciative and flattered. I hadn't even considered that I could be anywhere near accomplished enough to be selected. It was a very rewarding feeling."

Seals also enjoyed her time at OCC.

"When I had first started college, I wasn't sure where I was going, but I knew I was going regardless. My mom was actually the one to convince me to attend OCC, and, realizing that I, a new and nervous driver, did not want to make the commute to another college, agreed. My sister was attending OCC at the same time as I was looking for a place to go, so it made sense that I would join her. I will be honest, it was definitely the short commute from Noble that got me to first attend, and, really, the teachers are what got me to stay."

She added, "I've said it before and I'm pretty sure I'll say it forever — the teachers at OCC are criminally good at what they do. I still remember all of the theories and facts about JFK's assassination thanks to Professor David Denton's U.S. History class. I know probably too much about psychology because of Professor Jason Hortin's engaging and fascinating lectures. And, I will never forget the sincerity and influence Professor John Kendall had for his students including me."



Abigail Roark



Natalie Seals

SNA Donation

The OCC Student Nurses Association donated water and drinks to the Olney Fire Department. OCC Speech Instructor Jessica McDonald gave extra credit to her students who brought in drink donations during the spring semester. SNA began donating drinks to the department during the fall semester and hopes to continue the project in the future. Pictured are firefighter Daron Harmon and Chief Mike Hill. Miranda Harmon loaded and delivered the items.



Gearing Up for the LPN Exit

OCC nursing students took the LPN exit this summer at Clay County Hospital in Flora and Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Ind. They are wearing personal protective equipment to demonstrate how to appropriately don and doff it. Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Theresa Marcotte ordered the kits for students to be able to use the equipment. The students also completed modules and certification from the World Health Organization on respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.



OCC named best Online Community College

Olney Central College has been named the No. 1 Online Community College in Illinois by Optimal's Guide to Online Schools.

The state's community colleges were ranked using several key factors, including retention rate, graduation rates, percentage of online enrollment data, and the number of online associate degrees offered.

Data was based on information collected by the National Center of Education Statistics. In order to be considered for ranking, community colleges must be regionally accredited and offer at least one fully online associate degree.

OCC offers both online transfer and technical degrees. Programs available include Accounting, Health Information Technology, Medical Transcription, MS Office Specialist and Professional Bookkeeper.

Optimal, formerly known as SR Education Group, assists students in finding the best option for their educational needs. The free and comprehensive resource enables students to compare all online colleges in the U.S.

Frontier, Lincoln Trail and Wabash Valley colleges also made the 2020 Best Online Community Colleges List.

Visit www.guidetoonlineschools.com/best-online-community-colleges/illinois to view the complete list.



Register now for face-to-face and online classes

Olney Central College will offer face-to-face classes this fall and is currently registering students for the semester, which starts Aug. 20.

Begin a transfer degree or choose from one of OCC's many career and technical programs including Automotive Service Technology, Collision Repair, Cosmetology, Information Systems Technology, Health Information Technology, Human Resource

Assistant or Massage Therapy.

New for Fall 2020 is the Unmanned Aerial Technology Certificate, which can be completed in less than a year.

OCC also offers online courses and programs.

Apply online at www.iecc.edu/occ or call 618-395-7777 for more information.

Fall schedules are available at www.iecc.edu/occ.

Alum Dylan Schultz's career is soaring with Flying S

Dylan Schultz feels privileged to work at one of the area's most unique employers, Flying S Inc.

A Collision Repair Technology Degree and Welding Certificate from Olney Central College opened the door for Schultz to begin his career at the Palestine company. The firm provides engineering and fabrication services for customers with the aviation and aerospace industry. NASA is among its customers.

"I've worked for Flying S for almost five years now, and while there are a lot of great things about this company, I think the thing I like most about working here is how much freedom we have," Schultz said. "We don't really have a set start time for the day, or set break times. We have the freedom to set our own schedules and do things our own way, so long as it follows company standards. We are also encouraged to offer new ideas for ways to improve the company as a whole, and the owners, David and Penny Shaw, really do listen to our ideas. That really means a lot to us."

The Shaws started the business in a hangar barn in 2001. The small crew originally hired to build and assemble UAV landing gear has now grown to more than 100 employees.

Schultz was enrolled in OCC's Welding Program in 2014 when he met Penny Shaw at a job fair in Robinson.

"I was able to talk with her about some of the things that they were working on and it was unlike anything I had ever done before," Schultz said. "A few weeks before graduation my welding instructor, Curtis Marshall, asked me if I had given any more thought to applying for a job with Flying S."

Schultz expressed his continued interest to Marshall, who made it a point to reconnect his student with the expanding company.

"He took it upon himself to call and set up a tour for when we would be in the area delivering some things we had been working on in class. I'm still very appreciative of that," Schultz added. "I was amazed at how nice of an environment Flying S is. Everything is clean and organized, the people are friendly, and everything is done in a very professional manner. I had worked in machine shops until then, so it was a completely different world to me."

Schultz currently serves as a composite technician at Flying S. His job enables him to utilize the skills he gained at OCC. His duties include bodywork and painting on new and repair flight parts, bodywork on specialty layout tooling, applying part identification markings and conducting inventory of the bodywork and paint departments. He also assists with testing and research and development projects when needed. In addition, Schultz trains new hires and assists with company events.

"My time at OCC helped me a lot with my current position," Schultz said. "I learned a lot about not only collision repair and welding, but also many other things, related or not, to both fields. My instructors were always willing to teach me anything I wanted to know, even if it wasn't something that I was going to use on a daily basis. That's one of the best things about OCC. Every instructor I had was always willing to go out of their way to help the students succeed. We were always able to have one-on-one time with our instructors, and I think that makes a big difference in learning new skills. I would definitely recommend OCC to people considering going to college."



Casey Wyllie named Interim Men's Basketball Coach

Olney Central College has named Casey Wyllie as interim Men's Basketball Coach following the departure of Mike Burris, who accepted an assistant's position at the University of Indianapolis.

"I'm really excited for this opportunity," Wyllie said. "It has always been a goal of mine to become a head coach one day. We have a great group of guys coming back and I am excited to build on the foundation Coach Burris

has laid over the last 15 years."

Wyllie is looking forward to the upcoming season as he has eight returning players from last year's 24-win campaign.

"It is really rare in junior college basketball to have that many returning players," he added. "Three of the eight started so we have a ton of experience coming back."

Sophomores include Elijah Farr, J.J. Kalakon, Cobie

Montgomery, C.E. Talton, Tucker Hayes, Cayman Hayes, Joseph Dalton and D.J. Haynes.

"We've also signed four players, all from successful high school programs," Wyllie added.

They include Tahj Patterson of St. Louis, Mo., Shilo Bowles of Milwaukee, Wis., Keydrian Jones of Collinsville and Trey Woolsey of Oregon, who scored 1,800 career points in high school.



OCC Student Senate seeking new members

Are you interested in getting involved in campus life and the community? The Olney Central College Student Senate is recruiting new members for fall.

Membership is open to current and incoming students. Those interested in participating should contact their advisor and add Student Government to their fall schedule.

Student Senate President Stormie Hartsey encourages individuals, especially those who were involved in their high school governing bodies or other clubs, to join Student Senate.

“This is an opportunity to be out in the community and to be part of a student-led group,” Hartsey said. “Student Senate provides opportunities to make new friends, volunteer and participate in activities.”

Each year Senate members also travel to Florida to participate in the national Student Government Association Conference.

One of Hartsey’s favorite activities from last year was adopting a local family for the holidays.

“We took them gifts and spent some time getting to know them while they opened their presents,” she said. “I’m really glad I participated.”



Tristyn Troyer, who served as Vice President last year, said the organization provides students the chance to plan and carryout a variety of events.

“Being in Student Senate helped me with leadership skills and to be more prioritized,” she added.

OCC Director of Bands Wade Baker just completed his first year as the organization’s advisor.

“For students, it’s a good outlet to work on leadership skills,” Baker said. “Stormie and I have been talking about the coming year. We want to provide some different things than we have in the past. We want to create more community gatherings at the

college and provide additional activities that will bring students together. But, we need to get more people involved because we don’t have a lot of returning students.”

Individuals who sign up for Student Senate should notify Hartsey at 618-554-4505 so they can be added to the group chat to discuss upcoming events. Students with questions about joining Student Senate can also contact her.

“I’m really hoping freshmen will sign up,” she said. “It would be great to have them with us for a couple of years.”



Alpha Delta Nu Members

The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges/Olney Central College chapter of Alpha Delta Nu welcomed 2020 members Camelia Hurd and Rachel Harvey. To be accepted into this national honor society of nursing, students must maintain at least a B in all nursing and non-nursing courses. Above, Rachel Harvey, left, receives her honor cord, certificate and membership pin from Advisor Anne Hustad. At right, Camelia Hurd, displays her awards.

