



LTC CELEBRATES 51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT



COTTEN RETURNS TO THE HELM FOR MEN'S BASEKTBALL



COLLEGE FOR KIDS RETURNS TO LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE

# LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE



# Network



## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY HONORED

Lincoln Trail College's Alpha Iota Epsilon Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society was recognized at the Illinois Region Phi Theta Kappa Hallmark Awards.

Once again, LTC was recognized as a Five Star Chapter. The recognition is the highest honor a chapter can receive.

"Phi Theta Kappa at Lincoln Trial College has a standard that we require to be met," says chapter co-advisor Kim Schucker. "It cannot be an idle organization and still benefit the students that are members. Everything we offer is to advance our member's personal development in leadership, scholarship, fellowship, and service. This includes giving them opportunities to broaden their horizons by attending PTK events, competing for awards and scholarships, and broadening their network of friends and colleagues. We always have a group of members that want to and are able to gain all they can from Phi Theta Kappa. It's the members that make us such a good chapter and I really appreciate all they do."

Part of the process of achieving the five-star rating is based on projects that the chapter engages in during the year. In the past year, the chapter focused on improving mental health access for students.



Some individuals were also recognized at the Hallmark Awards. Madison Workman ('21) was named as an Illinois Region Outstanding Member and Schucker was named an Outstanding Advisor in the Illinois Region. Meanwhile, rising sophomore Mallory Mundy was formally sworn in as the Illinois Regional Vice President of the Southern District.



*Palesitne High School students visited Lincoln Trail College's Anatomy Lab to learn about the human body.*



*Dr. An Roy talks about the cadavers in LTC's Anatomy Lab with students from Palestine High School.*



*LTC Soccer Coach Blake Ordell talks with prospective soccer players during a camp at Statesmen Park.*



*Spring youth recitals gave kids a chance to perform the music they worked on during the spring semester.*

## STUDENT-ATHLETES COMBINE FOR 3.25 GPA



The Spring '21 semester was unlike any other for community college student-athletes across the nation, but there was one thing that remained consistent at Lincoln Trail College: strong performance in the classroom. For the 15th consecutive semester, LTC student-athletes combined for an overall GPA above 3.0.

“This spring was very different because of the pandemic,” says Athletic Director and Baseball Coach Kevin Bowers. “In the spring, every one of our teams was in action. That was a big change for scheduling and our athletes were able to step up to the challenges in their sports and in the classroom.”

Overall, the athletic department combined for a 3.21 GPA for the spring semester and a 3.25 GPA for the 2020-21 academic year. “There are a lot of people that help make sure our students succeed at Lincoln Trail College,” says Bowers. “We have instructors that care about all of our students and want them to be successful. They offer a lot of one-on-one attention to help them. We also have great staff members that step up and help make sure our students can get the resources they need to be successful in the classroom.”

The golf team led all teams in GPA with a 3.76. The women’s soccer team had a 3.48 GPA, and the volleyball team was right behind with a 3.46 GPA. The softball team had a 3.39 GPA followed by the baseball team with a 3.27 GPA. The women’s basketball team had a 2.9 GPA, the men’s basketball team finished with a GPA of 2.75 and the men’s soccer team had a 2.68 GPA.

For the academic year, the golf team finished with a 3.72 GPA. The women’s soccer team had a 3.49 GPA followed by the volleyball team with a 3.46 GPA. The baseball team had a 3.37 GPA, and the softball team had a GPA of 3.31. The women’s basketball team had a 3.03 GPA, the men’s basketball team had a 2.82 GPA and the men’s soccer team had a 2.78 GPA.

“One of the things I take a lot of pride in is that we place an emphasis on academics,” says Bowers. “We are helping prepare our athletes for not just their sports, but also for their lives and that starts in the classroom.”



# LTC's 51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT IN PICTURES





## COTTEN RETURNS TO STATESMEN



Junsie Cotten is back for another run with Lincoln Trail College. Cotten, who led the Statesmen to a Regional Championship in 2007, was named the head coach of the men's basketball team at the May 18 IECC Board meeting.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be returning to Lincoln Trail College as the head men's basketball coach," says Cotten. "It is a place I'm very familiar with and one that has welcomed me with open arms. I am looking forward to developing lifelong relationships with our players, coaches, and the Robinson community."

Cotten was the head coach at LTC from 2005-2010. After leaving LTC, he served as the head coach at Panola College and most recently was the assistant men's basketball coach at Howard College. In his career, Cotten has served as the head coach at Midland College where he guided the Chaparrals to a WJCAC Championship, a Region V title, and finished 6th in the NJCAA National Tournament. In his two decades of coaching experience, Cotten has also served in assistant roles at the University of Texas at El Paso and Eastern Oklahoma State. He also served as an exceptional needs teacher at Ephesus Elementary School.

"Lincoln Trail could not have made a better decision than to hire Coach Cotten to lead their program," says Indiana Pacers Vice President of Player Personnel Ryan Carr. "He had success in his previous tenure and will undoubtedly have even more in the coming seasons. If players want to get to the next level, Coach Cotten will give them the tools on and off the court. He is as good as it gets."

"I've known Coach Cotten for over 25 years. He is one of the brightest basketball minds I've ever known!" says University of Pacific Associate Head Coach Leonard Perry. "But the intangibles he brings to every community he works in are invaluable and the community of Robinson can attest to this with the relationships he has continued throughout the years. As good a Coach as he is, he's an even better person."

Cotten played two years at the College of Eastern Utah and earned First Team All-League and All-Region honors as a sophomore when he led the conference in scoring at 21.1 points per game. He finished his college playing career at Utah State University. He started his coaching career as a student assistant in 1994 under Larry Eustachy.



## LOLL TO LEAD LADY STATESMEN

Southern Illinois native Zach Loll has been named as the new head coach of the Lincoln Trail College Women's Basketball team.

"I am extremely excited to be joining the LTC family," says Loll. "I want to thank Dr. Gower, Mr. Eddy, and Kevin Bowers for the opportunity to lead the women's basketball program at LTC. I look forward to developing a program that will strive for excellence daily. We will focus on improving daily and controlling the things we can control. Our family is thrilled to join the Robinson community and we look forward to be involved."

Loll comes to Lincoln Trail from Dodge City Community College, where he spent five seasons coaching the Conquistadors. Before that, Loll compiled a 146-70 record in seven seasons at Wabash Valley College. He won four Great Rivers Athletic Conference titles, a Region 24 title, and had an NJCAA Tournament Sweet 16 appearance. He was named the GRAC Coach of the Year four times. He coached three NJCAA All-Americans at WVC and three Academic All-Americans. The Salem, Ill. native started his coaching career at Kaskaskia College, where he was named the Region 24 and GRAC Coach of the Year in his final season when he led the team to a fourth-place finish in the NJCAA Tournament.



"Lincoln Trail College is getting a basketball coach who is dedicated to succeeding, both on the court and off," says retired Dodge City Community College Athletic Director Casey Malek. "He will bring both enthusiasm and drive into the work to get the job done. I wish Coach Loll, Andrea and the boys all the success. LTC made a great hire."

"Zach is an outstanding coach that values culture, character and academics," says Neosho Community College Women's Basketball Coach J.J. Davis. "He has a proven history of building programs to another level as a junior college coach! He is a great hire for Lincoln Trail College! He will take Lincoln Trail to a different level as a Women's Basketball program."

"Coach Loll is a proven winner who has done that at each college he has coached. He is a disciplinarian who commends and gives respect to his student/athletes who is not only concerned about their play on the basketball court but, in the classroom and off the court!" says John Spezia, Notre Dame de LaSalette Athletic Director, and Boys' Basketball Coach.

Loll will reside in Robinson with his wife Andrea and their twin sons Blain and Cooper. Loll's education includes a Master's of Science in Physical Education from Eastern Illinois University and a Master's of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Illinois-Champaign.



### THREE STATESMEN HONORED IN POSTSEASON

Three Lincoln Trail Baseball players earned postseason honors. James Jett, Max Palmieri, and Joey Perkins were all named to the All-Great Rivers Athletic Conference team and Jett was Co-Freshman of the Year.



Jett (left) appeared in 49 games for the Statesmen and had a .315 batting average. He tied for the team lead in homeruns with 10 and was second on the team with 40 RBI. Jett had an on base percentage of .432 and a slugging percentage of .560.

“He is a constant threat,” says Statesmen Coach Kevin Bowers. “He can hit for power and for average and that’s why he was one of the top freshmen and top players in the conference.”

Palmieri appeared in 34 games for LTC and finished second on the team with 13 doubles while batting .392. He added 33 RBI with six homeruns. Palmieri had an on base percentage of .479 and a slugging percentage of .735. The latter led the team.

“Max had a really outstanding season considering he battled a hamstring injury that made him miss about half of the league season,” says Bowers. “I’m really proud of what he was able to do in that time, especially since his numbers compare well to players that had played in all of the league games.”

Perkins put up a 7-0 record for the Statesmen with a 2.33 ERA. He struck out 64 batters in his 58 innings pitched.

“Joey was able to battle through some tough injuries,” says Bowers. “He rehabbed through injuries during the COVID year and decided to give it a go this year and was one of the best pitchers in the league.”



Max Palmieri



Joey Perkins



## AKERS EARNS POSTSEASON HONORS



Lincoln Trail College softball player Jayley Akers was named to the All-Great Rivers Athletic Conference Team and All-Region 24 Team.

Akers led the Lady Statesmen with 18 homeruns, which was good for 40th in the nation. She also topped the team in batting average (.432), on base percentage (.506), slugging percentage (.851), and steals (16). Akers was second on the team with 43 RBI.

“Jayley is so deserving of these honors,” says coach Erica Arnold. “She led the team in almost all of the offensive stats. She is a leader on the field and keeps the energy high.”

## COMBS, BAILEY HONORED



Lincoln Trail College volleyball players Tori Combs and Sydni Bailey earned postseason honors. Combs earned All-Region and All-Conference honors. Bailey also earned All-Conference honors and earned the conference’s Sportsmanship Award.

Combs (left) led the nation with 1.54 blocks per set and 81 solo blocks. It was the second consecutive year she led the nation in those categories. Her 123 total blocks were third in the country. Combs added 156 kills for the Lady Statesmen.

“I am proud to have had the opportunity of coaching Tori the past two years,” says LTC Volleyball Coach Dana Goodwin. “She absolutely dominated at the net and provided so much motivation and energy for her teammates on and off the court. Being able to say she led the country in blocks two years in a row is a huge accomplishment and really puts LTC on the map in terms

of volleyball.”

Bailey led the team with 355 digs and 30 aces. She tied for the team lead with 85 sets.

“Syd really stepped up as a leader this season, which is why she was one of our co-captains,” says Goodwin. “As libero, she saw a ton of court time and was able to form great relationships with her setter and hitters by being able to communicate from the back row. I couldn’t think of anyone more deserving of the Conference Sportsmanship Award. Sydni was always the one encouraging her teammates and bringing the ‘hype’ to every game and practice.”



LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE PRESENTS  
CHILDREN'S CHIMNEY THEATER  
MAGIC TREE HOUSE COLLECTION  
**PIRATES PAST NOON KIDS**  
Book by Jenny Laird and Will Osborne  
Lyrics by Randy Courts and Will Osborne  
Music by Randy Courts  
Based on Magic Tree House #4: Pirates Past Noon by Mary Pope Osborne  
Director Tara Gallion  
JUNE 24 & 25 | 7 PM  
ZWERMANN ARTS CENTER THEATER  
Sponsored by Crawford Memorial Hospital  
iecc.edu/lctheater

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE PRESENTS  
**Dear Edwina JR.**  
Music by Zina Goldrich  
Book and Lyrics by Marcy Heisler  
Original New York Production of "Dear Edwina" Produced by Daryl Roth  
Director Tara Gallion  
JUNE 26 • 7 PM & JUNE 27 • 2 PM  
ZWERMANN ARTS CENTER THEATER  
Dear Edwina JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 mtishows.com  
iecc.edu/lctheater



Students in the College For Kids program enjoy arts and crafts with camp counselor Mallory Mundy.



Lincoln Trail College coaches sign autographs for eager students in the College For Kids program.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Lincoln Trail College capped off the academic year with an in-person, on-campus graduation ceremony on May 14th. It was wonderful for our students to be able to walk across the stage in the Zwermann Arts Center Theater and receive their degrees and even more fulfilling to see them celebrate with family and friends after the ceremony in the Triangle.

The end of the semester does not mean things slow down at the college. The popular Children's Summer Theater program returned this summer. Rehearsals are going on now as they prepare for two shows. The younger children are performing *Pirates Past Noon Kids* on June 24th and 25th at 7:00 and the older group will perform *Dear Edwina Jr.* on June 26th at 7:00 and June 27th at 2:00.

College for Kids also returned this summer. This year's program offers kids three different options, including sports and games, an international fair, and a shark tank week that will focus on entrepreneurship. It is great seeing all of the young faces on campus!

LTC is also offering something different for high school students this summer. The LTC Secondary Education Academy is designed to help students earn credits in core high school classes. The program was developed in the wake of the pandemic, which saw many high school students struggle with remote learning. LTSEA offers the students in-person learning and the chance to make up any credits they may have lost

LTC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society earned more recognition. The chapter was honored as a Five Star Chapter at the Illinois Region Phi Theta Kappa Hallmark Awards. Madison Workman was named an Illinois Region Outstanding Member, and Kim Schucker was named an Outstanding Advisor in the Illinois Region. Mallory Mundy, who just completed her first year at LTC, was sworn in as the Illinois Regional Vice President of the Southern District during the virtual event.

The construction of the addition to the Performing Arts Center is nearing completion. Things are pretty much on schedule, but we may see some delays related to the doors. Plans are also underway for a ribbon-cutting and open house for the new addition in the fall.



Finally, I want to thank all of you for the opportunity I had to serve as the Interim President of Lincoln Trail College. It was a great experience and I'm honored to have been given the chance to serve before Dr. Attallah begins his tenure next month. We have many wonderful people that work at Lincoln Trail College, and it was a privilege to work with them this past year. There's no question why LTC is continually recognized for excellence not only in Illinois but across the nation.