

# Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



MAY 2022

## CALENDAR MAY

9-12 - Spring Final Exams

9-12 - Spring Textbook Buy-back, OCC Bookstore, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

13 - Last Day of Spring Semester

13 - Commencement, OCC Gym, 7 p.m.

16 - Intersession Classes Begin

27 - OCC Foundation Golf Outing, Richland Country Club, 11:30 a.m.

30 - College Closed - Memorial Day

## JUNE

3 - Last Day of Intersession Classes

6 - Summer Classes Begin

6 - Last Day to Pay Summer Semester Tuition & Fees

10 - Last Day for 100 Percent Refund of 8-week Summer Classes

10 - Last Day for Summer Semester Textbook Refunds

30 - Summer Semester Mid-term

## JULY

4 - College Closed - Independence Day

## Camden Cowger named to PTK All-USA Illinois Academic Team

Olney Central College student Camden Cowger, of Albion, has been named to the All-USA Illinois Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa, the international two-year college honor society.

Cowger was recognized for his accomplishment, receiving a medallion and certificate at the annual Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Illinois awards banquet last month at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield.

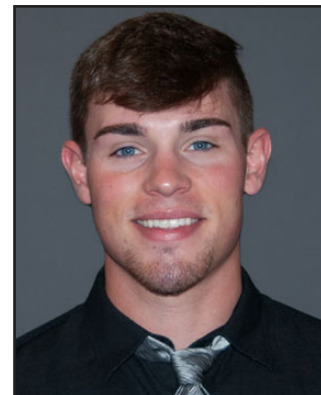
Cowger was selected from among community college students across the state on the basis of academic achievement, volunteer work, campus activities, honors and awards. Students also must submit a short essay explaining why they chose to start their higher education at a community college and to describe their most significant academic endeavors thus far in their college lives.

“Hearing I was selected for the All-USA Illinois Academic Team was a thrill,” said Cowger, a member of the OCC baseball team. “Academics have always been important to me as I was also the salutatorian of my graduating high school class. To put in countless hours studying and sacrificing sleep while also keeping up with sports is a relief as well as an honor to see the hard work pay off. I am very humbled to receive this achievement and hope this will help inspire other student-athletes that your academic life is just as important as your athletic career.”

After graduating, Cowger plans to transfer to either Murray State University or the University of South Florida in hopes of pursuing his dream career in the medical field. He plans to major in exercise sciences with a minor in nutrition.

“I’ve always wanted to be an orthopedic physician to work with and help athletes, although over the past few years becoming a trainer has intrigued me as well,” he said. “Attending a university, becoming more educated, and discovering what all opportunities are available will help me decide which course I would like to take. I grew up playing sports

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## OCC Commencement Exercises May 13

Olney Central College’s 58th annual commencement exercises will begin at 7p.m. on Friday, May 13 in the OCC Gymnasium. Friends and relatives of the graduates are invited to attend.

Dean of Instruction Dr. Michael Conn will give the welcoming remarks. This year’s commencement speech will be given by Chelsea Rude, president of Rude Financial and a 2008 OCC Alum. Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Board of Trustees Member Brenda Culver will confer degrees and certificates. She also will give the “Charge to the Class.”







## New trees planted at Frank C. Gibson memorial site

A memorial grove of redbud and dogwood trees will once again bloom on the Olney Central College campus after being restored this spring.

Erected at the entrance to the North Parking Lot, the site honors Frank C. Gibson, of Olney. The 24-year-old concrete worker was fatally injured in an accident on Sept. 7, 1972, during construction of Wattleworth Hall's third floor.

The memorial, which includes a stone monument, was established through the OCC Foundation's Frank C. Gibson Fund.

O&M Team Leader Clay Atkins said the original trees had died in recent years, necessitating their removal and replacement. The new saplings, which include two redbuds and one dogwood, were planted in mid-April.

## Complete math requirements in just six weeks

OCC is offering three summer hybrid math courses students can complete in just 6 weeks.

MTH 1105 Trigonometry will meet from 8 to 8:50 a.m. and MTH 1102 College Algebra will meet from 9 to 10:50 a.m. MTH 1103 Liberal Arts Math, which meets math requirements for graduation, will be held from 11

to 11:50 a.m. All three courses will meet Monday through Thursday, from June 6 to July 19, with Instructor Lisa Benson.

High school graduates can enroll in the courses and get a jump on math requirements needed for their degrees. The classes also are ideal for students who are home for the summer and

want to pick up a math class that will transfer to their current college.

Successfully completing the Trigonometry and College Algebra courses during the summer will prepare students to take Calculus I in the fall.

An 8-week online REM 0422 Math Literacy course is also available.

To register, call 395-7777.

# Glash returns as Men's Basketball Head Coach

Jim Glash is back where his head coaching career began with Olney Central College men's basketball.

"This is very much like coming home," said Glash, who coached the Blue Knights for nine years. "The community here is amazing. So many people care about Olney Central College and the men's basketball program. It's something I loved being a part of the first time I was here and something I'm looking forward to now. This is where I started as a head coach at the collegiate level and this is where I want to end my coaching career. I feel like I have come full circle."

Glash coached the Blue Knights from 1996 to 2005, finishing with an overall record of 160-121 and 74-54 in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference. OCC captured the 1999-2000 conference title and Glash was named GRAC Coach of the year in 2000. During his tenure, OCC had eight consecutive years of upper division finishes in the GRAC.

Glash's biggest victory at OCC happened on Feb. 15, 2001, when the Blue Knights defeated No. 1-ranked Wabash Valley College, 71-69. The Warriors would go on to capture the NJCAA Division I national championship later that year.

Glash brings 30 years' coaching experience to OCC, including a combined 19 years at OCC and NCAA Division II Missouri University of Science and Technology at Rolla. Glash spent 10 seasons with Missouri S&T after being named acting head coach during the second half of the 2008-2009 season.

While at Missouri S&T, Glash coached the NCAA Division II Capital One 2013-2014 Academic All American of the Year Bryce Foster. Glash's biggest win with the team came on Jan. 5, 2012, as the Miners defeated NCAA Division II No. 2-ranked University of Southern Indiana, 62-55.

Glash entered college coaching in 1982 at NCAA Division I University of Illinois at Chicago. He served assistant coaching stints at North Park College,



Kennedy-King College and Columbia College. Glash recently spent two seasons as an assistant coach at Vincennes University before returning to OCC.

"I am so excited to be back with the Blue Knights," he said. "We had a tremendous run. My nine years here I thought we really did a good job at putting academics first, basketball second and molding good, socially responsible people always. We want to live those priorities."

Under Glash, the program touted a 93 percent graduation rate and had 39 players receive full athletic scholarships to four-year institutions.

"I feel like I had the greatest influence on the lives of student athletes here more than anywhere else," Glash said. "The players during those nine years, some

of them have gone on to have tremendous success stories. I would like to bring those former students back here so they can share where their OCC education led them in life."

Since assuming his new duties on April 25, Glash has been busy actively recruiting players, with trips to Chicago, St. Louis, Kentucky and Florida.

"I want to get young men who will help us be successful at Olney Central College and who want to be coached," he said. "We want players who will be successful in athletics and academics and have a career beyond Olney Central."

Glash is looking forward to making commitment announcements in the coming weeks as he prepares for the 2022-2023 season.

"I am so appreciative to President Rodney Ranes, Athletic Director Dennis Conley and the community through the application process," Glash said. "There was an outpouring of people in Olney that let me know about the opening and thought it would be wonderful if I came back to be a part of the program again."

He added, "I am so happy to be here. I think I'm the luckiest person in coaching. I get to go back to a place I love being a part of."

## OCC Foundation annual Golf Outing May 27

The Olney Central College Foundation will host its 20th annual golf outing on Friday, May 27 at the Richland Country Club in Olney.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

and tee-off is set for 1 p.m. The event includes 18 holes of golf in a scramble format. Entry fee is \$75 per person or \$300 for a team of four.

Registration forms are available at

[www.iecc.edu/occ/golfs22](http://www.iecc.edu/occ/golfs22). For more information, call 618-395-7777, ext. 2003.

The deadline to register is Friday, May 20.



# Laurel Cutright sworn in as IMACC President

Olney Central College Professor Laurel Cutright is serving as the 48th president of the Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges.

Cutright was sworn into office on April 8, following a one-year term as the organization's president-elect. A member of the association for 21 years, Cutright has served three terms on the IMACC Board of Directors.

Cutright noted, "I am the third faculty member from OCC to serve as president, which is pretty awesome. Out of 48 community colleges in Illinois, to have three presidents from OCC — to me that is pretty impressive."

Past presidents from OCC include longtime instructor Lisa Benson and retired faculty member Otis D. Shouse, who was a charter member of IMACC.

Founded in 1975, IMACC is a collection of community college mathematics professionals who attend to the ever-changing education needs of students and is a leading voice in forming policy and curriculum in Illinois mathematics education.

"I like the collaboration with faculty members from other institutions across the state," Cutright said of IMACC. "Keeping up to date on the changes in mathematics education and how other schools are implementing them, is an essential part of IMACC."

As president, Cutright will be watching for any potential legislation that could impact mathematics education at the community college level. Other responsibilities include planning and overseeing IMACC's annual three-day conference, which is typically held in late March. Cutright will schedule guest speakers and organize the event's breakout sessions.

"I'm looking forward to having a face-to-face conference next year instead of on Zoom or Teams as we have had to do in the past because of COVID-19," she said.

Cutright also will serve as IMACC's delegate to the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges' conference in Toronto, Ontario this fall and in Omaha, Neb., in 2023.

"The conference provides a great opportunity to learn new teaching techniques and technologies to implement in the classroom," she added.



## Students attend production at IU

OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman recently took a group of OCC students to Indiana University to attend a performance of the *H.M.S. Pinafore* by the Jacobs School of Music.

"Visually, it was amazing," Pittman said of the production. "The costumes were wonderful and they built a replica of the ship on stage."

While in Bloomington, the students had dinner at Mother Bear's Pizzeria. After the opera, they had dessert at The Chocolate Moose.

Students attending the event were Owen Traub, Taylor Merritt, Jenna Zumbahlen, Madi Fulk and Mason Parrott.





OCC Radiography students attended the 87th Annual Illinois State Society of Radiologic Technologists Conference held April 6-8 in Bloomington. They were accompanied by faculty members Lisa Rauch and Brittany Ochs. During the conference, students had an opportunity to network, participate in dynamic educational sessions and talk about the future of the profession. The OCC students also participated in ISSRT Scholar Bowl. Pictured, from left, are Lisa Rauch, Tayler Wilson, Destiny Walker, Briley Burgenner, Hallie Troester, Lauren Higgs, Karlie Berberich, Emma Weidner and Brittany Ochs.

## OCC student places first in ISSRT eposter contest

Olney Central College Radiography student Karlie Berberich captured first place in the Illinois State Society of Radiologic Technologists' eposter contest.

"I was so surprised when they called my name," Berberich said. "When they said it was someone from OCC, I was wondering who it was. I had no idea it would be me."

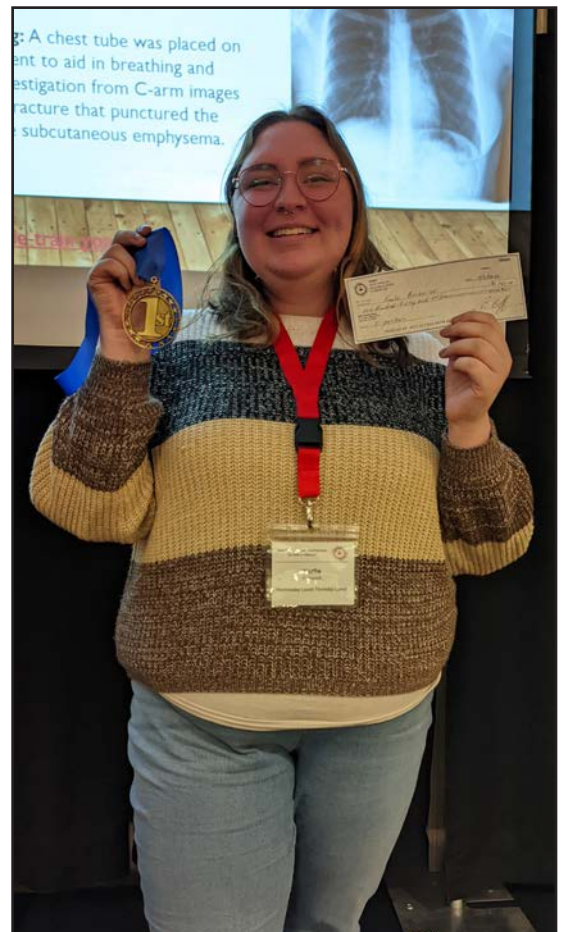
Berberich's entry was selected from more than 30 submissions by radiography students from across the state who were attending last month's ISSRT conference in Bloomington. Participants focused on different pathologies that radiologists can detect in an image.

For her project, Berberich, of Mt. Carmel, presented a case study involving subcutaneous emphysema, a rare condition in which air becomes trapped under the skin.

"It can occur for several reasons including infection and surgery," Berberich said. "In my case study, a broken rib had punctured a lung and air was leaking into the skin."

Berberich's submission included a photo from her case study, which she compared to a normal chest X-ray. She was awarded \$100 and a medal for her first-place finish.

Berberich, who graduates later this month, has been hired as a radiology technologist at Wabash General Hospital in Mt. Carmel.







## High school students compete in Second Annual Brandon Blackford Memorial Welding Competition

The OCC Welding Program held its Second Annual Brandon Blackford Memorial Welding Competition on April 20.

Top-finishers were honored at the end of the evening and included:

- First Place — Calvin Probst of Newton Community High School. He received a \$500 scholarship to OCC Welding.
- Second Place — Matt McCarty of Newton Community High School. He received a \$400 scholarship to OCC Welding.
- Third Place — Will Bookhout of Richland County High School. He received a \$300 scholarship to OCC Welding.

The top three finishers also were awarded a Lincoln Ready Pack, which included a welding hood, welding jacket and welding tools valued at \$500.

The scholarships were provided by the Brandon Blackford Scholarship Fund.

Other top finishers included:

- Fourth Place — Owen Kohn of Full Armor in Louisville. He received a Lincoln Viking 3350 welding hood valued at \$300.
- Fifth Place — Ely Vandyke of North Clay High School. He received a Lincoln Viking 1840 welding hood valued at \$210.



**Scholarships and awards were presented following the OCC Welding Program's Second Annual Brandon Blackford Memorial Welding Competition. Pictured, from left, are Instructor Wes Phillips, Calvin Probst, Matt McCarty, Will Bookhout, Owen Kohn, Ely Vandyke and Instructor Curtis Marshall.**



# OCC students attend Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst

By Robert Wray  
PTK Historian

For the first time in three years, since the onset of Covid-19, Phi Theta Kappa held its annual Catalyst event and conference in the Gaylord Rockies Resort at Aurora, Colo. The venue was massive and beautiful with sweeping ballrooms, indoor fountains, marble colonnades, classy dining and many other wonderful features. PTK members from all over the country attended and excitement seemed to be in the air.

Students attending from OCC were Robert Wray and Taylor Merritt. They were accompanied by PTK Advisor Amie Mayhall.

“PTK Catalyst is always a high-energy, educational conference,” Mayhall said. “I am happy that I was able to attend the conference and get to know Taylor and Robert more.”

The event itself hosted great guest speakers like Dr. Moogega Cooper who works with NASA to ensure that every step of sending a ship to space is sanitary. Dr. Cooper discussed the painstaking labor and love put into launching the most recent Mars rover which was sent out in February 2021 and is not expected back until 2030. The doctor’s team is responsible for making sure that not a speck of biological matter is on the machinery when it is sent away, so if something returns we know that it came from out of this world, an alien life-form.

We also heard from Shark Tank entrepreneur Daymond John who spoke on what it took him to go from broke, living in his parent’s basement to being a business mogul. Daymond was the founder of Fubu clothing and he had to push his friends into wearing the clothes he made himself in his basement. Eventually Daymond got a lucky break and was able to get small local hip-hop artists to wear his clothes in their music videos. One thing led to another and Fubu became synonymous with the hip-hop and R&B lifestyle, it was everywhere in the ‘90s. A big topic of Daymond’s speech was to persevere. Everyone experiences hardships and it is those who push through that succeed.

Along with the general sessions, we also got a chance to attend seminars given by PTK alumni about topics like how to obtain success, or transferring to a grad school. In addition, we were able to go off site a few times. We attended a multicultural center for lunch and the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Reserve to see American bison and prairie dogs galore. We visited downtown Denver and the Molly Brown Museum as well as getting lost in the scenic landscape at the base of the magnificent Rockies. It was a fantastic and educational trip.

“It was a great experience,” Merritt said. “We learned so much on how to become good leaders on our campus, and the foundation on how to live successful lives after college.”

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as I was a multi-sport athlete in high school as well as a college athlete. Sports and fitness are my passion; therefore, I feel this future is perfect for me.”

The All-USA Illinois Academic Team is sponsored annually by Phi Theta Kappa, USA Today and the American Association of Community Colleges.

The All-State Academic Team is

a division of the Academic All-USA Team for Community, Technical and Junior 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.



Cowger enjoys attending OCC and being active in the Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

“PTK has motivated me to work harder and become more dedicated to my academic life,” he said. “It is an honor to even be a part of the club. I also enjoyed how involved PTK is with the college. I believe as a student this helps and motivates me to take leadership and be a role model to other students and my peers.”





## PTK Induction Ceremony

Above, OCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter held its new member induction ceremony on May 3. PTK members are seated, from left, Tice Smith, Mikaela Inskeep, Zoë Alexander and Katelyn Miller. Standing are Gabriell Weber, Robert Wray, Graci Michl, Taylor Meritt, Sam Hanson and Advisor Kaitlyn Weger. PTK is an international honor society for students attending two-year colleges. To be eligible for membership, a student must have a 3.5 GPA or higher.

## Grad Fest

OCC celebrated Grad Fest May 3-4 in the OCC Bookstore. Graduating students picked up their caps and gowns, enjoyed free food and registered for several drawings.







## Active Minds Volunteers

Active Minds at OCC has been volunteering at Claws and Paws in Olney. Seven members recently donated their time and were able to walk all of the dogs at the animal rescue center.

## Music Department Spring Variety Show

OCC students Harrison Hahn, left, and Mason Parrott perform “Agony” from the musical “Into the Woods” during the Music Department’s Spring Variety Show on April 29. The evening’s entertainment included musical selections ranging from the baroque period to Broadway and three one-act plays.







## SNA Donates to Claws & Paws

The Student Nurses Association at OCC visited Claws and Paws in Olney last month. SNA members walked dogs and presented a \$500 donation to the animal rescue center. At top, pictured from left, are Kiersen Brach, Timia Butler, Claws and Paws Director Shelley Brinkley, Lisa Mason and Joanna Burrow. At right, Burrow cuddles one of the rescue dogs.



## Register now for summer and fall classes

OCC is now registering students for summer and fall classes.

Advisement appointments are available. Stop by Student Services or call 618-395-7777.

Schedules are available online at [www.iecc.edu/schedules](http://www.iecc.edu/schedules).

Summer classes start June 6 and fall semester classes begin Aug. 18.

Need help paying for classes? Educational Paychecks can help. Apply online at [www.iecc.edu/edcheck](http://www.iecc.edu/edcheck).

## Lost & Found

If you have lost an item, please stop by Student Services.

## Lock Doors

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

## Wray running for PTK Regional Vice President

OCC student Robert Wray is hoping to become a regional officer for Phi Theta Kappa.

Wray, who holds an office in the local chapter, is running for Southern Vice President. As a PTK regional officer, Wray would assist with planning the national conference and other events. Online voting is underway and will conclude May 15.

"I really enjoy being in PTK," Wray said. "I enjoy that it's a community of like-minded people who want to achieve goals and contribute to the college."

Wray is from Bell Fountain, Ohio and grew up in Columbus. He attended high school in Florida and currently resides in Flora.

A first-year student at OCC, he plans to transfer to pursue a bachelor's and a master's degree in zoology. Wray hopes to work with animals in the field.

Wray is involved in TRIO Student Support Services and Active Minds.

"I like being active in whatever groups I can be," he said. "I really like OCC. It is small so everything is hands-on. The teachers are really helpful."

