

# Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



AUGUST 2022

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST

11 - Faculty/Staff Workshop

12 - IECC Fall Faculty Professional Development Workshop

18 - Fall Semester Classes Begin

18 - Last Day to Pay Fall Semester Tuition and Fees

27 - OCC Theater Presents Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe Live and In Person, 7 p.m.

31 - Last Day for Fall Semester Textbook Refunds

31 - Last Day for 100-Percent Refund of 16-week Fall Semester Classes

### SEPTEMBER

5 - College Closed — Labor Day

6 - Last Day to Enroll in Fall 2022 Tuition (3) Payment Plan

## BOOKSTORE HOURS

August 8-17

7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

August 18

7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

August 19

7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

August 22-24

7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

August 25-December 9

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

August 31

Last Day for Fall Refunds

## OCC Professor Rob Mason presents paper at national conference

Olney Central College Physics Professor Rob Mason presented a paper at the American Society for Engineering Education's 2022 Conference in Minneapolis, Minn.

Mason's work, "A Path to Computational Thinking and Computer Programming Through Disciplinary-Based Problems," explores the benefit of presenting students with familiar problems as they engage in programming to reach the expected answers.

Mason, who is pursuing a doctorate in computational material physics at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, developed the paper with his advisor Dr. Thushari Jayasekera, a professor in the School of Physics and Applied Physics. He co-authored the work with Dr. Hansika Sirikumara, a physics and engineering professor at Marian University's E.S. Witchger School of Engineering in Indianapolis, Ind.

"It was actually Dr. Sirikumara who informed us of the conference and the paper matched perfectly with the computers in education topic," Mason added. "During the presentation, I talked about the approach I will be using in the classroom."

Mason said programming has become an essential element in the skills set needed by today's engineers. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for workers with computational skills is expected to increase by 19 percent over the next four years.

"Professional societies are stressing the need for computational skills in the future," Mason added. "Other STEM areas are echoing the same thing. In a perfect world, I would get students that have a fundamental background in programming. But, for many students their first exposure to programming is in the first year of college."

Applying computational programming to familiar problems provides a bridge to the new concepts.

"Students have a good idea of what the results should be and can focus on the ability to program," Mason said. "We start out with a scaffolding base and build skills that apply to different problems. The problems will be approachable from a wide range of entry skills. A lot of students will still be challenged, but those with minimal backgrounds in programming will still find the problems approachable."

Students in Mason's courses will be working with the Python program language, as it is open sourced and can be used with Excel and C++.

During the conference, Mason also had an opportunity to attend other sessions on a wide variety of topics in education and to explore best practices.

"I was able to meet with and interact with faculty members from other community colleges who understand the unique challenges at a community college," he said.



# Amy Tarr new Director of Instructional Services

Amy Tarr has been named the Director of Instructional Services at Olney Central College.

The Newton native brings a variety of experiences to the position. She taught six years at North Clay High School before serving as a K-6 administrator for 11 years. Prior to joining Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, Tarr was the National Program Director at the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship, which partners with businesses, schools, and community leaders to establish CEO Programs in interested communities.

“I love working in education,” Tarr said. “As a teacher, I especially enjoyed working with juniors and seniors. They were so hopeful and motivated. I love that age group and I’m looking forward to being around those students again.”

In her new position, Tarr will oversee the dual-credit programs at Richland County, Newton Community, Clay City and Red Hill high schools. She also will work closely with OCC’s adjunct faculty and build the semester class schedules. Along with her other duties, Tarr is serving with Jodi Schneider as co-advisors for the OCC Student Senate.

Tarr received an Associate in Science Degree from Lake Land College and completed a bachelor’s degree in Ag Communications and Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She earned a Master of Science Degree in Education – Educational Administration from Eastern Illinois University.

Tarr’s passion for community colleges began as a student at Lake Land. A member of the Student Activities Board, she also served as the student representative to the college’s Board of Trustees.

“It was a great opportunity,” she said. “I saw the inner workings of the community college and it was something I really enjoyed. I am a huge proponent of community colleges. Community colleges are such a gem. They are such a resource providing community education and workforce education training. Working at a community college is super appealing to me and I am excited about the opportunity.”

Tarr resides in Newton with her husband, Travis, who is an ag teacher at Newton Community High School. The couple has three children, Marshall, who graduated from Frontier Community College in May; Meyer, a high school junior; and Marlee, a seventh-grader.



## *TRIO Upward Bound Trip*

TRIO Upward Bound students traveled to Branson, Mo., this summer. Students attended the Dixie Stampede, a theme park and visited the Titanic Museum.





## From Branson and Pigeon Forge: Elvis and Marilyn! Live and In Person at OCC Theater

Olney Central College Theater presents a one-night-only concert featuring Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe live and in person at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center on Saturday, August 27 at 7 p.m. Performers Michael and Samantha Chamblis are bringing their incredible talents as these world-famous legends to the Ruth Henry Stage for a fun and nostalgic concert.

### **Michael Chamblis as Elvis:**

Michael is the 2014 Images of the King World Champion and Lake George Elvis Festival Champion. Michael Chamblis has been a professional entertainer for more than 20 years and has performed on such stages as The Grand Ole Opry, Memories Theater, The Grand Majestic Theater, as well as the world-famous Legends in Concert! Year after year he has been a top finalist at the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest hosted by Graceland.

Michael is a lead vocalist, performing around the world with accomplished Gospel groups. A native of Purvis, Miss., Pigeon Forge, Tenn., is now his home base. His roots are firmly planted in Southern Gospel music, having been a long-time member of the Cumberland Quartet, New Life Gospel, and having performed with the well-known Gaither Family.

### **Samantha Chamblis as Marilyn:**

Samantha's career began in 2006 when she was crowned Miss North Carolina. This honor led to countless television and movie appearances. Samantha is an incredible entertainer who has captured the essence of Marilyn Monroe.

Tickets for Elvis and Marilyn will go on sale at 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 15. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.iecc.edu/occtheater](http://www.iecc.edu/occtheater) or by leaving a message at the OCC Box Office at 618-395-7777, ext. 2408. Tickets will also be available at the door (pending availability).

For more information about OCC theater visit <https://www.iecc.edu/occtheater> or the OCC Theater Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/OCCTheater](http://www.facebook.com/OCCTheater).

## SICA welcomes Sultans of String on September 8

The Southeastern Illinois Concert Association will open its 2022-23 season with the Sultans of String in concert at 7 p.m. on Sept. 8 at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

This is a genre-hopping passport of Spanish Flamenco, Cuban, Gypsy-jazz and Arabic Folk rhythms that celebrates musical fusion with warmth and virtuosity.

Fiery violin dances with rumba-flamenco guitar thrill audiences while the bass lays down unstoppable grooves and acoustic strings meet with electronic wizardry to create layers of depth and sound.

The multi-award-winning Canadian string super-group and their unique blend of global music have captivated audiences and garnered critical acclaim all around the world. The high-energy, highly entertaining show excites audiences, bringing them to their feet with the irresistible need to dance the night away.

Other upcoming shows include Seraph Brass on Feb. 6, Divas on March 8, and Judy Carmichael on April 20.

Season tickets are available for all four performances at the door or by contacting the SICA website - [www.oneyconcerts.com](http://www.oneyconcerts.com).

Season memberships are \$50/adult; \$20/student; \$110/family/grandparent (two adults and all children). Single tickets are available at the door for \$20/adult and \$5/student.

## Lock Vehicles

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

## NURSING AWARDS



OCC second-year nursing student Brianna Ochs receives a \$500 award and an engraved stethoscope from the Carle Richland Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Presenting the award is Debi Phillips.



OCC first-year nursing student Raegan Hires receives a \$1,000 nursing scholarship from the Carle Richland Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Presenting the award is Debi Phillips.

## Knight Kafe offers daily lunch specials

The Knight Kafe offers daily Hot Bar and Express Bar lunch specials.

Menus are updated each week on the OCC TVs in Wattleworth Hall. You can also find them posted on the Knight Kafe website at [www.iecc.edu/knightkafe](http://www.iecc.edu/knightkafe).

Daily soup specials are available October-March.

Looking for a great value? Students can purchase a Dining Dollar Meal Plan. Meal Plan purchases are considered “allowable charges” and Pell eligible. Go to [www.iecc.edu/mealplans](http://www.iecc.edu/mealplans) to learn more.





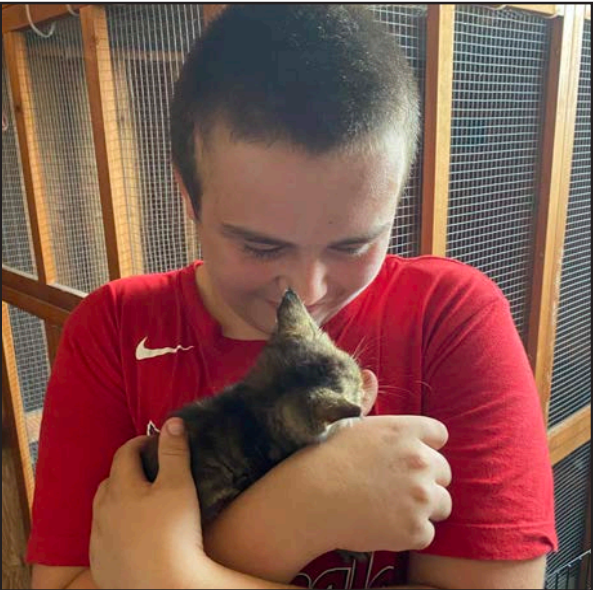
TRIO Upward Bound students learn about OCC's Associate Degree Welding Program while visiting the lab with Welding Specialist Maverick Fisher during a tour of the West Richland Center in Noble.

# TRIO Upward Bound Summer Program

TRIO Upward Bound hosted its annual Summer Program at OCC.

Students spent six-weeks participating in a variety of activities including attending classes, job shadowing, volunteering and listening to guest speakers.

The Upward Bound Program is a federally funded college preparatory program designed to provide academic support, personal/career counseling, and cultural enrichment to participants who have the academic ability for completion of a post-secondary degree.





We are all excited anticipating the start of the fall semester. A campus is simply a collection of buildings, classrooms, labs, parking lots, sidewalks and green space until the students start to arrive. When students are present, it becomes a school. Wonderful life-changing opportunities and experiences happen at schools and OCC is prepared to welcome students this fall as they pursue their hopes and dreams. Whether someone seeks a transfer degree, is in pursuit of a certificate from one of our outstanding certificate programs or simply takes a class to learn, OCC is ready to welcome our students for the 2022-23 school year. After a couple of very challenging years, the start of this particular school year marks a significant opportunity to return to normal for the entire school year and that is part of the optimism I can feel here among the faculty and staff.

Several opportunities for students to become familiar with our campus and programs took place in early August with Student Orientation Days. These were well attended, and our staff did an excellent job of providing students with important information while having some fun as well.

There are new staff members this year at OCC and new administrators and staff members at the high schools OCC serves. Our student services staff and administrators plus several key district office staff invited administrators and guidance officers from area high schools to join us for a meeting to get to know each other on August 8. I am pleased that all our schools attended, and we had a great meeting.

Our faculty workshop was held August 11 with multiple staff development opportunities featuring presentations related to campus safety and threat assessment and student emotional health. In addition, OCC faculty received an assessment update provided by Kelly Payne. We were also fortunate to have Josh Stafford, Superintendent at Vienna High School and a state leader in Career Pathways, speak on "Pathways and Possibilities." Another feature of the workshop was a presentation regarding Synchronous Learning.

Although recent heavy rains have challenged our maintenance crew, they have done an excellent job of keeping up with preparing the inside of our buildings and classrooms as well as maintaining the grounds. Kudos to them for all their hard work. We have multiple campus beautification and improvement and maintenance projects in the works for the 2022-23 school year. While we are excited about these improvements, sometimes these projects cause short-term inconveniences to achieve long-term gains. One such project is elevator maintenance that will take place at the north end of Wattleworth Hall. At some point this fall, the entrance will be closed for maintenance to be performed on the elevator in that lobby entrance. Alternate routes, and an alternate elevator, will be available. Signage will re-route students, faculty, staff, and visitors who might normally use this entrance. We are sorry for this temporary inconvenience.

The OCC Foundation met recently, and I had the pleasure of meeting some of the leadership of that organization. They do so much to provide support to the programs at OCC. I look forward to working with them this year, especially now that some of the limitations and mitigations caused by COVID have eased.

I have enjoyed the first month and a half at OCC and look forward to continuing to meet the faculty and staff in the coming weeks. Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome!



**Roger Eddy**  
**OCC Interim President**