

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE KNIGHTLINE



APRIL 2024

CALENDAR

APRIL

10 — Spring Fling, Student Union & Patio, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

10 — Contemporary Music Ensembles and Brass Band Concert, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.

12 — PTK & TRIO SSS Spring Dance & Event, Student Union, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

18 — Brandon Blackford Memorial Welding Competition, Welding Building, 5:30 p.m.

18 — The Rice Brothers, South-eastern Illinois Concert Association, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.

19 — Last Day to Withdraw from Spring Semester Classes

19 — Spring 2024 Graduation Applications Due

24 — Big Band and Concert/Community Band Concert, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.

College Visits

April 16 — University of Southern Indiana Representative Simone Payne will be at OCC from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 24 — Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Representative Jennifer Harbaugh will be at OCC from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jorri VanDyke to serve as IECC Student Trustee

Olney Central College freshman Jorri VanDyke will be seated as the new Student Trustee for Illinois Eastern Community Colleges during the Board of Trustees meeting on April 16.

Elected by the OCC student body on March 19, VanDyke is eager to represent students across the district, giving them a voice in the decision-making process.

"I am excited and looking forward to this opportunity," VanDyke said. "It's a great way to be informed about what is going on in the district. As student trustee, I want to help bridge the gap between students, administration and the board."

A graduate of Richland County High School, VanDyke has been active in Future Farmers of America serving as chapter vice president and holding the regional office of Section 23 Treasurer. As an office holder, VanDyke assisted with event planning and activities.

VanDyke is on course to receive the prestigious American FFA Degree later this year. The highest degree achievable in the National FFA organization, only 1 percent of members earn this honor. It recognizes the effort members apply toward their supervised agricultural experience along with the outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement exhibited through their FFA career.

"It requires a considerable investment of time both in and out of the classroom," VanDyke added.

While attending RCHS, VanDyke played softball, volleyball and basketball and was active in Student Council, Pep Club and Travel Abroad Club. A member of the Builders of the Future 4-H Club, she held numerous offices including secretary, reporter and currently president. She also is serving as president of the Richland County 4-H Federation.

"I think it is good to get involved," VanDyke said. "In high school, I would encourage younger students to make connections with others and to try new things. I'm hoping to do the same as Student Trustee."

At OCC, VanDyke currently serves as a tutor and is the manager for the women's basketball team. She is pursuing a transfer degree in science with plans to become a large-animal veterinarian focusing on livestock.

"I grew up showing pigs and sheep and loved it," VanDyke said. "I had an opportunity to job shadow at Three Rivers Veterinary Clinic. I talked with Makenzie Michels there, and she helped me out a lot with my decision to pursue this field."

VanDyke says beginning her studies at OCC was an easy choice.

"OCC is less than 3 minutes from my house, and I was impressed by the excellent science program here. Chemistry instructor Dr. (Aaron) Lineberry's class has pushed me to be more focused and is challenging me."

OCC Advisor Jodi Schneider encouraged VanDyke to run for Student Trustee and believes she will do an outstanding job.

"Jorri demonstrates leadership abilities inside and outside of the classroom," Schneider said. "She has demonstrated her ambitions and strengths not only in academics, but also in many extra-curriculars. As a representative of Olney Central College, I know Jorri will be a strong voice for our students, community and college district with her variety of experiences and insight."

VanDyke is the daughter of Jessica and Jamie VanDyke of Olney.



Student captures 2nd place in welding competition

Olney Central College student Landyn Piercefield was among the top finishers in last month's Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center Welding Competition in Evansville.

The OCC sophomore captured second place in the Apprentice Category, which is open to those ages 18-22.

"I really enjoyed the competition," Piercefield said. "It shows you where you stand in comparison to other welders your age. I like seeing where I stand and trying to improve my skills."

During the event, competitors were tasked with performing 1G Mig and 3G stick welds within a 45-minute time limit. Entries were then judged by Certified Welding Inspectors.

OCC Welding Specialist Maverick Fisher is proud of Piercefield's accomplishment.

"It's important to remember that Landyn was in an open competition, so he was not just facing off against other welding students, but experienced welders and fabricators as well," Fisher said. "While any welding placement in competition is something to be proud of, he should be especially proud of himself for placing amongst welders with much more experience than himself, and that weld every day for a living, not just a few days a week in class."

Fisher said competitions are a vital part of the learning process.

"Competition is great for welding students," he added. "They get to feel nerves similar to an on-the-job weld test. They also get a chance to see how their skills stack up against other welders, and sometimes more qualified welders, instead of just their classmates."

This is the second year Piercefield has participated in the Nix Industrial-sponsored event. Last year he and fellow OCC welding student Noah Atwood, captured second- and first-place, respectively. This year Piercefield received prizes including welding supplies, general tools and clothing.

"Landyn has a top-notch work ethic and attitude," Fisher said. "He is very conscientious and detail oriented. I'm not surprised he showed up and placed at an established and high-level competition like he did at Nix."

Piercefield became interested in welding while taking classes at Richland County High School and chose to continue his studies at OCC.

"I really like the fluidity in welding," he said. "There are so many jobs in welding and so many things you can do with these skills."

Piercefield will graduate in May with his Associate Welding Degree. He recently interviewed for a position with a national manufacturer and fabricator of steel products. In the future, he hopes to start his own welding business.

Piercefield encourages others to consider a career in welding and begin their training at OCC.

"One of the things that has impressed me is the knowledge Instructors Curtis Marshall and Maverick Fisher possess," Piercefield said. "They have both been welding since high school and have worked as union welders themselves. The amount of experience they both have is invaluable. It's nice to see someone do perfect welds and then try to mimic it."

He added, "I would like to thank all the welding teachers I've had — Jamie VanDyke at the high school, Curtis and Maverick. They've been great. I've really enjoyed OCC. I truly believe we have the best welding program and it shows when we are in the competitions."



OCC student Landyn Piercefield, far left, placed second in the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center Welding Competition in Evansville. This is the second time he has participated in the event and finished in the top three.

Musical Theater Showcase May 3

Join the Olney Central College Music Department as the Concert Choir and Musical Theater Workshop students present their Spring Musical Theater Showcase at 7 p.m. on May 3 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

"The showcase is a chance for these students to have leading roles and gain experience in performing," said OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman. "Everyone is featured at least once, giving them a chance to shine."

Pittman pointed out this year's showcase encompasses a diverse group of students including several OCC band members, some of whom have never

performed in vocal ensembles.

"This is the sweetest group of kids I've had," he added. "I've really enjoyed working with them."

Featured works span more than a century of musical theater repertoire with selections ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan's 1879 comic opera the *Pirates of Penzance* to 2015's Tony-award winning *Dear Evan Hansen*.

A highlight of the evening will be a cabaret section spotlighting *Maybe This Time* from *Cabaret*, *When You're Good to Mama* from *Chicago* and *Big Spender* from the Tony-award winning *Sweet Charity*.

Students also will perform several songs from Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* including *Johanna*, *Johanna Quartet* and the *Sweeney Todd Finale*.

Other selections will include *Hopelessly Devoted to You* and *There Are Worse Things I Could Do* from *Grease*, *Ten Minutes Ago* from Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, *King of New York* from *Newsies* and *My Defenses Are Down* from *Annie Get Your Gun*.

Admission is free. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Rated PG due to subject matter of Sweeney Todd and Big Spender.



Art Club trip

The OCC Art Club traveled to St. Louis, Mo., last month. Students, accompanied by Advisor Mari Yamato, toured the St. Louis Art Museum, ate lunch at Blueberry Hill and also visited the Third-Degree Glass Factory for a glass-blowing demonstration.



Music Department Band Concerts April 10 and 24

Olney Central College's Music Department will host its Contemporary Music Ensembles and Brass Band Concert on April 10, while the Big Band and Concert/Community Band will perform on April 24. Both performances will begin at 7 p.m. in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

The Contemporary Music Ensembles will feature two separate bands under the direction of adjunct faculty Josh Moats and Trevor Parrent, both OCC graduates.

Moats' students will perform *Why Are Sundays So Depressing* by The Strokes, *All I Wanted* by Paramore, *Christian Woman* by Type O Negative and *Snap Out of It* by Arctic Monkeys.

Parrent's students will present *Arabella* by Arctic Monkeys, *Marceline* by Willow Smith, *Mama's Gun* by Glass Animals, *18* by Anarbor and *Kilby Girl* by Backseat Lovers.

The OCC Brass Band, under the direction of OCC Director of Bands Wade Baker, will perform traditional New Orleans brass band music.

During its concert, the OCC Big Band will perform music written and recorded by Duke Ellington, along with selections made famous by Count Basie.

The Concert/Community Band will present newer pieces by American composers including Alex Tedrow, Baker's former student, who now serves as a full-time music arranger for the premier U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own," in Washington, D.C. Also featured will be composer Erika Svanoë, who is from the greater Twin Cities area.

"I really think it's important to play works by female composers and to introduce them to our students, especially the young women who come here," Baker said. "It gives them an opportunity to see what women are doing and to realize that these are avenues open to them."

Baker emphasized that the Music Department is entering a period of exciting growth as the recording studio prepares to move to its new home in the former Upholstery Repair Building. Renovation work is slated to begin on the facility later this month.

"This will create a high-quality studio for student use," Baker said. "We are really excited about the roll out. It is another step in expanding opportunities for students within the department."

Baker emphasized that professional recording studios are a rarity in this area and the new facility will be available to both students and the community.

"We can work with local bands or even record voiceover work," Baker said. "We encourage anyone interested in recording to contact us. I'm proud of the productions we have been turning out and am looking forward to doing even more."

Baker also stressed Music Department Tuition Waivers are still available for 2024-2025. The scholarships are awarded to qualifying students who participate in one or more of the OCC bands and choirs. Students need not be music majors to qualify.

For more information regarding performance or tuition waiver opportunities, contact Baker at 618-395-7777, ext. 2251, or email bakerw@iecc.edu.



Members of the OCC Big Band rehearse a number for their Spring Concert on April 24.

TRIO SSS, PTK receive food pantry donations

TRIO Student Support Services and Phi Theta Kappa are teaming up to maintain OCC's food pantry, ensuring every student has access to healthy meals.

Richland County Scratch and Dent generously donated an LG refrigerator to store perishable foods.

The new refrigerator, located in the TRIO SSS Office in the Student Union, is stocked with a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and meats, available to any student.

Non-perishable items can be found in both the TRIO SSS Office and The Keep Student Lounge on the second floor of Wattleworth Hall.

The groups also appreciate the assistance they have received from the community including, Lacy Demaire from Giving Hope Olney for the generous food donations.

TrustBank donated bags to help students in transporting items.



Phi Theta Kappa & TRIO SSS hosting Spring Dance/ Fund-raising Event

Phi Theta Kappa & TRIO SSS are hosting a Spring Dance and Fund-raising Event on April 12.

All OCC students are invited to the event from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the Student Union. Activities will include a semi-formal dance, refreshments, Mario Kart Tournament, giveaways, and photo op.

Coronation for the Spring Dance King and Queen will be at 8 p.m.

ECE & Behavioral Health Sciences meeting

OCC will be the site of a Town Hall meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on April 16 for the Early Childhood Education and Behavioral Health Services Programs.

This is an opportunity to explore the degrees and meet faculty. Registration for summer and fall classes will be available.

Both degrees offer numerous avenues for careers and employment. For more information, contact ctrappd@iecc.edu or adwaladerc@iecc.edu.

OCC SPRING FLING Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Attention: OCC Students, Faculty, & Staff

Join us for

FREE LUNCH, GAMES, MUSIC & PRIZES

Where: The OCC Student Union & Patio

When: Wednesday, April 10th 10am-1pm

Courtesy of: OCC Student Senate & OCC Foundation



Eclipse 2024

Students from Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School joined OCC faculty and staff to view the solar eclipse on April 8. Students had the chance to explore campus and learn more about OCC during the visit. Professor Dr. Aaron Lineberry shared fascinating insights as the crowd viewed the eclipse.



OCC Theater's *Fiddler on the Roof*



The OCC Theater presented *Fiddler on The Roof* March 15-17 and March 21-24.



OCC athletes earn GRAC Awards

Olney Central College Men's and Women's Basketball players were recognized by the Great Rivers Athletic Conference for outstanding seasons.



Damarion Walkup



Jakobe Thompson



JT Thomas

Blue

Knight Damarion Walkup, a freshman from Bowling Green, Ky., was named GRAC Player of the Year.

Jakobe Thompson and JT Thomas were both named All-Region and All-GRAC players. Thompson is a sophomore from Racine, Wis., and Thomas is a sophomore from Sandersonville, Ga.

For the Lady Knights, Cortney Dove and Kaedence Gipson were named All-GRAC and All-Region 24 players. Dove is a sophomore from Princeton, Ind., and Gipson is a sophomore from Havre de Grace, Md.



Cortney Dove



Kaedence Gipson

Sports Schedule

Baseball

April 11 — vs. Lincoln Trail, 3 p.m. at home
 April 13 — at Lincoln Trail, noon & 2:30 p.m.
 April 16 — vs. Kaskaskia, 3 p.m. at home
 April 18 — at Southeastern Illinois, 3 p.m.
 April 20 — vs. Southeastern Illinois, noon & 2:30 p.m.
 April 23 — at Kaskaskia, noon & 3 p.m.
 April 25 — at John A. Logan, 3 p.m.
 April 27 — vs. John A. Logan, noon & 3:30 p.m. at home
 April 29 — at McKendree, 1 p.m.
 April 30 — at Millikin, 4 p.m.
 May 2 — vs. Southwestern Illinois, 3 p.m. at home
 May 4 — at Southwestern Illinois, noon & 2:30 p.m.

Softball

April 9 — vs. Kaskaskia, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
 April 11 — at Lincoln Trail, 2 & 4 p.m.
 April 13 — vs. Rend Lake, noon & 2 p.m. at home
 April 15 — at Kaskaskia, 2 & 4 p.m.
 April 16 — vs. Frontier, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
 April 18 — vs. Wabash Valley, 2 & 4 p.m. at home
 April 23 — at Shawnee, 2 & 4 p.m.
 April 25 — at Lake Land, 2 & 4 p.m.
 April 27 — vs. Southwestern Illinois, noon & 2 p.m.
 April 30 — at John A. Logan, 2 & 4 p.m.

FRONTIER COMMUNITY COLLEGE • LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE • OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE • WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE

SUMMER CLASSES

**SUMMER STARTS AT IECC
 CLASSES BEGIN JUNE 3
 REGISTER NOW**

Face-to-face, Online, and Hybrid Options
 View Complete Class Schedule at
iecc.edu/schedules

Rice Brothers Concert April 18



The Southeastern Illinois Concert Association will conclude the 2023-2024 season with The Rice Brothers at 7 p.m. on April 18 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

The Rice Brothers weave classical, gospel, jazz ragtime, and boogie woogie together with anecdotes and humor that bring their performances to life.

Chris and Johnny were both recipients of gold medals at the International Chopin Piano Competition, and have performed in illustrious venues around the world.

Tickets at the door are \$25 for adults and \$5 for students.



SNA provides Easter Baskets

The OCC Student Nurses Association put together and delivered Easter baskets for Head Start students in Olney. Students raised funds for the project through a recent bake sale.

FOR ALL GRADUATES

PICK UP CAPS & GOWNS

GIVEAWAYS

FREE FOOD

TAKE YOUR GRADUATION SURVEY

PHOTO BOOTH

GRAD FEST
OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE

MAY 1 & 2
8:00 AM-4:30 PM
BOOKSTORE

A blue graphic for Grad Fest. In the center is a black graduation cap with a tassel. The text "GRAD FEST" and "OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE" is written below the cap. Surrounding the cap are several white speech bubbles containing text: "FOR ALL GRADUATES", "PICK UP CAPS & GOWNS", "GIVEAWAYS", "FREE FOOD", "TAKE YOUR GRADUATION SURVEY", and "PHOTO BOOTH". At the bottom, the dates and times "MAY 1 & 2", "8:00 AM-4:30 PM" and the location "BOOKSTORE" are listed.