LSC makes changes to Tutoring Program

Learning Skills Center Director Dr. Linda Shidler is initiating changes designed to enhance the LSC’s Tutoring Program. Kara Roberts joined the LSC on Jan. 5 as a learning specialist and will be overseeing the tutoring program, working closely with students and tutors.

“We are going to connect her to anyone coming into the remedial courses,” Shidler said. “She will follow them through the remedial course and onto the next class. We want to give students a person they can contact and feel comfortable with.”

Shidler also is working to place more teachers in tutoring positions and will be utilizing those who are teaching remedial courses. She is looking at outside sources and online tutoring as well.

“I have contacted Eastern Illinois University to get good tutors for the higher-level math and chemistry courses,” she added.

Shidler said the LSC will continue to use student tutors. Roberts will be working with these individuals to strengthen their teaching skills so they can convey information to their peers in a clear and concise manner. Shidler encourages those who are interested in becoming tutors to visit the LSC.

With the new semester just underway, Shidler also urges students to check out the services available through the LSC Tutoring Program.

“We want them to sign up for tutoring at the first sign that a course looks tough or they experience trouble,” she said. “There is no charge or fee and they don’t have to use it if they decide they don’t need it. But, if they do need tutoring, it will be in place.”

Students can contact Shidler at 618-395-7777, ext. 2264, or Roberts at ext. 2269. The Learning Skills Center is located in the back of the OCC Anderson Library in Conference Room 4. If you have trouble locating the LSC, stop by the desk in the Anderson Library and the staff will be happy to direct you.

Kara Roberts joins Learning Skills Center

Kara Roberts has joined OCC’s Learning Skills Center and will be overseeing its tutoring program.

“I love working with people and helping them learn to be successful,” Roberts said. “That is my purpose in life.”

Roberts brings a long history in education to her position as learning specialist.

She served as a third-grade teacher at New Hebron Christian School in Robinson and has taught developmental education classes.

“This experience along with an enthusiasm for helping students succeed makes her a perfect fit for her new role,” said LSC Director Dr. Linda Shidler.

Roberts received a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a minor in creative writing from Murray State University and earned a master’s degree in teaching K-Ninth grades from Greenville College. She is currently pursuing a doctorate of education in transformative learning with a special emphasis in administration.

In her new position, Roberts will be working closely with the LSC tutors to enhance and fine-tune their teaching skills.

“I want to help them feel more comfortable working with the students and to address any areas of concern,” she added.

OCC’s tutoring program is free and open to all OCC students.

“We don’t want anyone to drop out or withdraw because they are having trouble with a class,” she added. “We want you to come in. We will help you.”
Richland County Sheriff Andy Hires talks to OCC faculty and staff following an active shooter drill, which was held during the annual Spring Workshop.

OCC conducts active shooter drill during Spring Semester Workshop

Olney Central College partnered with local law enforcement and emergency management officials to conduct an active shooter drill during the Faculty and Staff Spring Workshop.

“We feel the exercise helped us prepare for an event,” said OCC President Rodney Ranes. “If one occurs, we feel we could better manage our response and assist law enforcement in their capacity as well.”

Those helping coordinate the campus safety event included Richland County Sheriff Andy Hires, Olney Police Chief Kevin Paddock and Kevin Parker, Steve Simms and Adam Croy of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Officers from both the Olney Police and Richland County Sheriff’s Office took part in the exercise along with county dispatchers, city utilities and the Olney Fire Department.

“We want to thank them for their assistance with this project and helping us in maintaining a safe environment for our students,” Ranes said.

OCC was closed and access to the campus limited during the exercise.

“We apologize for being closed,” Ranes said. “We want to thank the community for their understanding and continued support of OCC.”

Tai Chi class being offered this semester

Individuals of all ages can benefit from a Tai Chi course being offered this semester at OCC.

Instructor Kevin Poland said research has proven the health benefits of this centuries-old Chinese form of exercise. The low-impact movements help to lubricate joints and to strengthen muscles while reducing stress and tension and lowering blood pressure.

The class will meet in the OCC Student Union from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class started Jan. 12, but students can still register. The cost is $50.

Students may choose to attend one or both nights. For more information or to register, call 618-395-7777.
Purple Briefcase can assist with job search

Olney Central College Career Services Coordinator Allan Alldredge is reminding students to sign up for Purple Briefcase, especially if they will be graduating this spring.

Through Purple Briefcase, students can post resumes for prospective employers and peruse job openings listed by more than 330 participating businesses. Currently 36 job openings are posted on the site.

“If you are getting ready to graduate this is a good way to stay informed on trends in the job market,” Alldredge added.

Students can sign up for Purple Briefcase from their Entrata accounts. Just click on the Career Services link on the left-hand side of the page and fill in the required information. Students will have to use their Entrata email account for their first visit.

“Once they have an account, students can create a resume and access the many career services tools available through the free program,” Alldredge said. “This is an all-round good tool for students to have.”

In addition, students can watch instructional videos, which provide tips to prepare them for job interviews and how to address questions they may encounter. Help also is available for resume writing and composing cover letters.

Alldredge also encourages faculty to utilize the software.

“It can keep them up to date on current positions needed in the workforce,” he said.

OCC to host Mini Hiring Event Jan. 20

A mini hiring fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 20 in the OCC Banquet Room. Representatives from several area businesses will be in attendance. The event is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Workforce Development, Richland County Development Corporation and OCC.

Those planning to attend the hiring event should bring their resumes and be prepared for an onsite interview. For more information, contact Allan Alldredge at 618-395-7777, ext. 2019.

Nursing applications due Feb. 16

The Illinois Eastern Community Colleges: Olney Central College Associate Degree Nursing Program is currently accepting students for Fall 2016.

Individuals wishing to apply should schedule an appointment as soon as possible to meet with Nursing Program Advisor Linda Horn to discuss program requirements.

Horn may be reached at 618-395-7777, ext. 2246, or call toll-free 1-866-622-4322. The application process must be completed by Feb. 16, 2016.

For further information about nursing at any of the IECC colleges, please visit www.iecc.edu/page.php?page=NURS.

STUDENTS DELIVER CARDS

Students in Amie Mayhall’s Paths to Success class delivered Christmas cards to Burgin Manor.
Tickets for the OCC Theatre’s production of “South Pacific,” sponsored by First National Bank in Olney, will go on sale at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 15. Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on March 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19. Afternoon shows will begin at 2 p.m. on March 13 and 20.

Dinner theatres will be held before the Friday and Saturday shows at 6 p.m.

Set in an island paradise during World War II, two parallel love stories are threatened by the dangers of prejudice and war.

Nellie, a spunky nurse from Arkansas, falls in love with a mature French planter, Emile. Nellie learns that the mother of his children was an island native and, unable to turn her back on the prejudices with which she was raised, refuses Emile's proposal of marriage.

Meanwhile, the strapping Lt. Joe Cable denies himself the fulfillment of a future with an innocent Tonkinese girl with whom he's fallen in love out of the same fears that haunt Nellie.

When Emile is recruited to accompany Joe on a dangerous mission that claims Joe's life, Nellie realizes that life is too short not to seize her own chance for happiness, thus confronting and conquering her prejudices.

Tickets may be purchased from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tickets for the production are $12 for reserved seating for children and adults. Tickets for the meal and show are $24.

Those who wish to reserve tickets may call 395-7777, ext. 2408, during the hours designated for ticket sales. Tickets may be purchased with a Mastercard or Visa.

Reserved tickets will be held for five working days, until picked up in person or a check is received in the mail.

Patrons may send a check with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to OCC and the tickets will be sent by return mail. Any remaining tickets may be purchased one hour before the performance.

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**Spring musical tickets on sale Feb. 15**

Olney Central College will offer a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Night from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 1 in Room 208.

The OCC Financial Aid staff will be available to assist students and parents in completing their 2016-2017 FAFSA application. For more information, contact the OCC Financial Aid Office at 618-395-7777, ext. 2021.

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**Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Feb. 19**

The OCC Student Senate will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Feb. 19.

Those interested in donating can utilize RapidPass to complete their pre-reading and donation questions online. The process can reduce the time donors spend at the blood drive by up to 15 minutes.

Just visit the website: redcrossblood.org/RapidPass, read the information and answer the questions. Then print the pass or email it to yourself.

RapidPass cannot be completed prior to the date of the drive. Donors must finish the steps to redeem their pass on the day they donate.

Donors who do not bring the printed pass with them to their donation or cannot show it on a mobile device will be asked to complete the questions again.

RapidPass does not take the place of scheduling an appointment.

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**FAFSA Night set for Feb. 1**

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The OCC Financial Aid staff will be available to assist students and parents in completing their 2016-2017 FAFSA application. For more information, contact the OCC Financial Aid Office at 618-395-7777, ext. 2021.

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**PTK FILLS SHOEBOXES**

OCC’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter participated in Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse. Members collected toys and other items filling 65 shoeboxes, which were delivered to children in Ghana, India and Uganda.
Sports Schedule

**Men’s Basketball**

Jan. 20 — OCC vs. Kaskaskia College, 7:30 p.m. at home
Jan. 23 — OCC at Vincennes University, 7 p.m.
Jan. 27 — OCC at Rend Lake College, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 30 — OCC vs. Lewis & Clark Community College, 7:30 p.m. at home
Feb. 3 — OCC vs. Wabash Valley College, 7:30 p.m. at home
Feb. 6 — OCC at Lincoln Trail College, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 10 — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois College, 7:30 p.m. at home
Feb. 13 — OCC vs. John A. Logan College, 7:30 p.m. at home

**Women’s Basketball**

Jan. 20 — OCC vs. Kaskaskia College, 5:30 p.m. at home
Jan. 23 — OCC at Vincennes University, 4 p.m.
Jan. 27 — OCC at Rend Lake College, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 30 — OCC vs. Lincoln Trail College, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 3 — OCC vs. Wabash Valley College, 5:30 p.m. at home
Feb. 6 — OCC at Lincoln Trail College, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 10 — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois College, 5:30 p.m. at home
Feb. 13 — OCC vs. John A. Logan College, 5:30 p.m. at home

**Baseball**

Feb. 14 — OCC at University of the Cumberlands, 1 & 3 p.m.

**Softball**

Feb. 6 — OCC at Jackson State Community College, 1 & 3 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Above, the Olney Central College international students display the plaque they received in the annual Olney Rotary Christmas Parade. At left, is their entry, which won second place in the most inspirational float category.

**Cast selected for ‘South Pacific’**

Cast members have been announced for the OCC Theatre’s upcoming production of “South Pacific,” sponsored by First National Bank in Olney.

Names of cast members selected and characters are:


- Ensemble: Adam Wyatt, Shaun Hopkins, Mike Shaw, Samuel Khairkar, Jason Shryock, Emma Gulovsen, Delaney Shryock, Kristen Brian, Rebecca Shires, Stephanie Klingler, Katie Hostetter, Emma Corry, Autumn Scherer, Abigail Nealis, Shae Caulfield, Jessica Slater, Tracy Snyder, Neita Lenear, Jordan Morris, Sydney Pitts, DeAnna Aldridge and Hannah Johnson.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on March 11, 12, 17, and 18. Afternoon shows will begin at 2 p.m. on March 13 and 20. Tickets for “South Pacific” will go on sale at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 15.
OCC students named to Who’s Who

Several Olney Central College students have been selected for inclusion in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Students are nominated by the faculty. Selection is based upon GPA, participation and leadership within school organizations and extracurricular activities, community involvement and future leadership ability and potential. OCC students selected include:

**Albion:** Morgan Collins  
**Carmi:** Neal Northcott  
**Clay City:** Quentin Klingler and Christina Welker  
**Dundas:** Heather Vaupel  
**Flora:** Luke Durre  
**Geoff:** Doug Ukena  
**Lawrenceville:** Kristen Aldridge and Christy Wimberly  
**Mill Shoals:** Becca Stover  
**Newton:** Ariel Flowers, Chelsea Kocher, Will May, Brianna Nail and Katlin Rauch  
**Olney:** Bree Boley, Dalyn Brach, Bridget Brian, Sandra Davis, Danny Deimel, Claire Downes, Lexie Erwin, Madison Gibson, Zachary Hardin, Jill Humes, Courtney James, Jason Jones, Stephanie Kirkland, Leighanna Miller, Jordan Morris, Tamie Sager and Rachel Zwilling  
**Sumner:** Torri Frye  
**West Liberty:** Kristen Urfer  
**West Salem:** Linda Goodwin  
**Ohio:** Spencer Schultz  
**South Carolina:** Jack Dwyer

Student IDs

All students are required to obtain a Student ID Card in Student Services. Students should bring their student course schedules and be prepared to have their photos taken.

Music Dept. auditions set for February

The Olney Central College Music Department will host auditions on Wednesday, Feb. 3, Wednesday, Feb. 10 and Saturday, Feb. 20.

Students interested in participating in OCC’s choral and instrumental ensembles must audition in order to be considered for a Music Department Tuition Waiver for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Tuition waivers are granted based on the needs of the OCC ensembles as well as student ability level and commitment.

The Wednesday audition dates allow students to attend rehearsals of the choral and band ensembles, audition for the OCC music faculty, meet with a faculty member of their chosen major and tour the college.

On Saturday, students can audition with the OCC music faculty.

All three audition dates provide instrumental students the opportunity to perform with the OCC Cavalier Pep Band at an OCC Blue Knights Basketball game.

For information about audition requirements, visit www.occmusic.org/auditions. You may also call 618-395-7777, ext. 2251.

STUDENT SERVICE PROJECTS

Students in Amie Mayhall’s Pathways to Success classes participated in community service projects last semester. At left, students deliver items from their food drive to The Master’s Hands. Students collected three boxes of food.