

KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



February 2019

Upcoming Events

February

12 Radiography Program Information Night, 6 p.m., Room 115

18 College Closed – Presidents Day

22 Music Department Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m., Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center

28 Deadline to Apply for OCC Foundation Annual Scholarships

March

1 Last Day to Pay Spring Semester Tuition & Fees

1 Midterm

College Visits

Tables will be located outside Student Services.

Feb. 12 Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, Representative Nathan Caron, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Feb. 13 Eastern Illinois University, Representative Cecilia Yoakum, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Feb. 19 Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Feb. 25 Franklin University, Representative Nicole Jackson, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Feb. 27 Eastern Illinois University, Representative Cecilia Yoakum, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

OCC students to perform at Carnegie Hall

Musicians around the globe long to perform at New York City's famed Carnegie Hall. That dream will become a reality for Olney Central College students as they take to the legendary stage this summer during the venue's Symphonic Series.

"This is such an important event not only for the students personally, not only for the Music Department for many reasons, but also for the recognition it brings to Olney Central College on a worldwide stage as well as the extreme benefits to the community," said Director of Bands Wade Baker. "As a community college instructor, especially being someone who works in the arts at a community college, it is important to me to bring as many culturally enriching opportunities to the students and the community as I possibly can. I can't really think of too many things bigger than being able to take young people from this area to New York City. For most of them, this



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Blue Knights ranked in NJCAA Top 20

The OCC Blue Knights are enjoying an outstanding season, already posting 20-plus wins and being ranked among the top NJCAA Division I teams.

"We have a special group of young men in the classroom, in the community and on the court," said Coach Mike Burris. "Our sophomores have the

chance to become the winningest group ever. We have four home games left and I hope we can pack the place as these guys try to do something special this season."

The team moved up to the No. 16 spot in the NJCAA Top 25 poll released Feb. 5. The Blue Knights' highest ranking came at No. 14 during the 2011-2012 season, when OCC went 25-8. That team missed advancing to the regional championship round after sustaining a 3-point loss to Wabash Valley College.

January was a stellar month for the Men's Basketball team. The Blue Knights defeated

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Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

Feb. 13 — OCC at Kaskaskia, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 16 — OCC vs. Vincennes, 3 p.m. at home
Feb. 20 — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, 7:30 p.m. at home
Feb. 23 — OCC vs. Shawnee, 3 p.m. at home
Feb. 26 — OCC at South-eastern Illinois, 7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Feb. 13 — OCC at Kaskaskia, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 16 — OCC vs. Vincennes, 1 p.m. at home
Feb. 20 — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, 5:30 p.m. at home
Feb. 23 — OCC vs. Shawnee, 1 p.m. at home
Feb. 26 — OCC at South-western Illinois, 5:30 p.m.

Men's Baseball

Feb. 16 — OCC at Roane State, 1 p.m.
Feb. 17 — OCC at Roane State, 1 p.m.
Feb. 18 — OCC at Union, 1 p.m.
Feb. 21 — OCC at Kentucky Wesleyan, 1 p.m.

Women's Softball

Feb. 16 — OCC Boonville, Mississippi, TBA
Feb. 17 — OCC at North-western Mississippi, noon
Feb. 18 — OCC at Jackson State, TBA
Feb. 28 — OCC at Wabash Valley, 2 p.m.

Student Senate Bake Sale Feb. 13

The OCC Student Senate will host a Valentine's Day Bake Sale from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Free will donations will be accepted. Proceeds will benefit the OCC Food Pantry.

OCC Service Recognition Awards



Olney Central College recently presented service recognition awards to employees. Pictured at left, are full-time employee Dr. Linda Shidler, three years; and part-time employees Tim Dunahee, 10 years; James Majernik, 20 years; and Tara Buerster, three years. Below left, are part-time honorees Chad Groves, five years; Lindsey Buck, five years; and Mike Swick, 10 years.



Above, OCC part-time employee Tom Baker was recognized for 10 years of service.

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No. 1-ranked Vincennes University, 98-96, on Jan. 8, ending the Trailblazers' 28-game home winning streak. Later that week, freshman point guard Jalen Moore was selected NJCAA Player of the Week. Burris also received accolades as the sports website HoopsDirt.com named him JUCO Coach of the Week.

Burris said one of the keys to this season's success has been the leadership of the five returning sophomores, Cooper Bybee, Davion Warren, Nathan Scott, Wade Coomer and Tyler Witz.

"They are a good group, very unselfish," Burris said. "The freshmen were good about receiving their leadership. There is a lot of

chemistry on this team. This group of guys really gets it. There also is a lot of trust. Trust is a big part of our success."

Burris said Moore has stepped up big as point guard to fill the void left by former Blue Knight Josiah Wallace, who has gone on to be a standout at Eastern Illinois University.

"Jalen stepped in and has done a great job running our team as a freshman," Burris said. "It is a joy to coach him."

Moore is joined by fellow freshmen Nick Walker, D.J. Haynes, Matt Berry, Isaiah Sulack, Stephon Dougherty, J.T. Wheeler and Charlie Cochran.

Burris is in his 14th season as Men's Basketball Coach at OCC. He played for the Blue Knights from 1997 to 1999.



LUNAR ECLIPSE

OCC Instructor Logan Marshall shot some fantastic photos of the Super Blood Wolf Moon Eclipse on Jan. 20. The photo was taken in his backyard.

Watch your email for PTK invitation letter

OCC students, watch for your invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

In order to qualify for membership, students must have completed at least 12 credit hours, have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, and be seeking a degree. If you meet PTK eligibility, you will receive an email/letter inviting you to join.

Membership empowers you with a competitive edge including \$37 million in scholarship opportunities for members only, some local universities, some competitive and some non-competitive. The official seal of PTK will be placed on your college diploma and a notation of membership will appear on your college transcript. Personalized letters of recommendation for scholarships and employment are available.

PTK members receive recognition during a college induction ceremony and will wear Phi Theta Kappa commencement regalia during college graduation and other official ceremonies. Your name also will be published in Phi Theta Kappa's anthology, Nota Bene.

Free enrollment in CollegeFish.org, a transfer and college completion planning tool, is available for members.

PTK also provides opportunities to develop research and servant leadership skills by participating in Honors in Action programming in the local chapter. You also can become part of a network of nearly 3 million fellow scholars and servant leaders on more than 1,285 campuses worldwide.

Members also are entitled to special benefits, financial offers and member discount offers from Phi Theta Kappa Corporate Partners such as GEICO and Bank of America.

For more information about PTK, contact Advisor Amie Mayhall mayhalla@iecc.edu.

OCC Radiography Information Night Feb. 12

The Olney Central College Radiography Program will host an Information Night from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 12 in Wattleworth Hall Room 115.

During the presentation, participants will learn more about the program and how to apply.

Radiologic Technology is one of the most dynamic and growing fields in medicine. Employment for radiologic technologists is expected to grow 9 percent by 2024, faster than the average for all occupations.

The program is free and pre-registration isn't required.

For more information, contact Vicki Thompson at 618-395-7777 or email thompsonv@iecc.edu. You can visit the Radiography Program's website at www.iecc.edu/radtech.

Concealed Carry Class April 11-13

Individuals interested in obtaining an Illinois Concealed Carry permit are encouraged to enroll in an upcoming course at OCC.

The Concealed Carry class provides 16 hours of required firearms training, including classroom and range instruction.

The class will meet from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, April 11 and Friday, April 12 at OCC. On Saturday, April 13, the class will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Olney Gun Range.

To register, call 618-395-7777.



Olney Central College SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply Now!

www.iecc.edu/occ/scholarships

Contact Financial Aid For More Information

Carnegie *Continued from Page 1*

will be the first time they have gone to New York, and for some, this may be the only time they get to go. To play on hallowed ground, as far as classical music goes or music in general, is such a great opportunity. We are going to get to play on the same stage as the New York Philharmonic Orchestra – the same stage that Leonard Bernstein conducted on. It is a really huge deal. It is something I think the community and our school can really be proud of.”

The invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall followed Baker’s selection as a quarter-finalist for the 2019 GRAMMY Music Educator Award given by the Recording Academy and the Grammy Museum. Baker advanced to the semi-final round of the competition.

“It was a pretty exciting moment,” Baker said of receiving the call. “Carnegie Hall is arguably one of the three most popular concert halls in the world.”

Baker along with adjunct faculty members Chris Parker and Monte Skelton will travel with members of the OCC Concert Band and Community Band to the Big Apple June 14-17. Accompanying them will be the Lincoln Trail College Concert Band faculty and a few LTC students. Altogether about 32 individuals are expected to participate.

While in New York, the students will visit the rooftop of Rockefeller Center and attend a Broadway show. They also will participate in a clinic given by the University of Arizona’s Director of Bands.

“The students are crazy excited,” Baker said. “I know a couple of students, the big reason they came here this year, was so they could go do this. One of the benefits of us getting to do this is that it is helping with our recruiting. I’d like to be able to take the students every two years on a trip to places like Chicago or Indianapolis.”

The trip, which will include accommodations at a Midtown Manhattan hotel, will cost just over \$40,000. The Music Department has already raised \$20,000 through private donors and is working diligently to generate the remaining funds.

Baker said students will be selling \$50 thank you advertisements for performances this semester.

“The ads will be placed in our concert programs and we will also be doing slide shows of all of the ads prior to the concerts and during the intermissions,” Baker said. “Purchasers would basically become patrons of the Arts for the Olney Central College Music Department.”

Donations also will be accepted during the Winter Concert on Feb. 22 and the Spring Concert on April 26. Both events begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Baker and his fiancée, Jamie Taylor, are planning a fund-raising concert in March or April at the Eagles in Olney. Other activities in the works include a pork burger sale at IGA and a car wash.

Individuals interested in supporting the OCC Music Department with its fund-raising efforts can contact Baker at 395-7777, ext. 2251, or email bakerw@iecc.edu.

Music Dept. Winter Concert set for Feb. 22

The Olney Central College Music Department will present its Winter Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

The concert will feature the OCC Concert Choir along with the OCC Concert Band, Big Band & Jazz Combo, Commercial Music Ensembles, and Contemporary Music Ensemble.

Selections by the Concert Choir will include *Seasons of Love* from the hit musical *Rent* along with *Let’s Call the Whole Thing Off* and *Embraceable You* by George Gershwin. The choir is under the direction of Andrew Pittman, Director of Choral Activities.

The Concert Band selections include *Flourish for Wind Band* by R. Vaughn Williams, *Irish Tune from County Derry* by Percy Aldridge Frainger and *George Washington Bicentennial March* by John Phillip Sousa. Wade Baker, OCC Director of Bands, is the conductor.

The combined Commercial Ensemble will perform Billy Joel’s *Tell Her About It*.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Lock Vehicles

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

Lost and Found

If you have lost an item, please check with Student Services.

Bigard serving as Title III Grant Advising Specialist

Olney Central College's Ashley Bigard will serve as the new Advising Specialist for the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Title III Block Grant.

The Title III program is supported in part by a five-year grant awarded to Olney Central College from the U.S. Department of Education effective October 1, 2018. The estimated total cost for all project activities is \$2,506,775 financed by the grant award of \$2,249,968 (90%) and \$256,807 (10%) by Olney Central College. Grant initiatives include streamlining the college's advisement process, redesigning the Information Systems Technology and Welding programs and developing an Unmanned Aerial Systems Program.

An OCC graduate, Bigard completed her associate's degree in 2011. She earned a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with a minor in psychology from Eastern Illinois University in 2013. Bigard finished her studies at EIU the following year earning a master's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in family services. She has served as an advisor at OCC since April 2017.

In her new position, Bigard will work with advisors across the IECC District to implement intrusive advising and fine-tune the early alert system to assist students who may be facing issues in the classroom.

"One of the greatest ways to reach at-risk students is through the use of intrusive advising," Bigard said. "It is about getting to the heart of what is causing difficulty for a student and recommending the appropriate intervention. Intrusive advising is an action-oriented approach to connecting and inspiring students to pursue assistance when desired. It is not 'hand-holding' or parenting, but rather active concern for students' academic preparation. While most students know that they have an advisor, many are unaware of how and when



they should make contact. The goal is for advisors to be intrusive without being intruding. Intrusive advising can improve the advising relationship while also encouraging student accountability and involvement."

Bigard also will assist with the integration of new technology tools including the placement of a kiosk at both OCC and the West Richland Center in Noble. Students will be able to self-register and receive assistance with financial aid forms using the kiosks. The units are expected to be in place by August.

"The kiosks will really enhance the registration process," Bigard said. "Students will be able to visit them and register for classes recommended by their advisor. They can set parameters allowing them to request morning or afternoon classes, whichever best fits into their schedule."

Bigard also is examining the current Pathways curriculum, which assists students in successfully transitioning to college.

"We will be working to redesign the Pathways course," she said. "I'll be looking at different models that have been successful at other universities."

Bigard is excited about her new position and the opportunities it presents.

"IECC strives to deliver excellent education and services to the students who attend," Bigard said. "Although, individually everyone may have different interests in IECC, we work together to make every day possible. It is encouraging to work for an organization where each person has the same goal of improving the lives of our students. I look forward to being a part of the Title III Grant. I believe that the new programs we are building will not only provide better opportunities for our students, but will also strengthen our communities. I am excited for the opportunity to continue making a difference, and helping each student reach their goals."

Complete a math class in just 8 weeks with mid-term course

Need to meet a math requirement to graduate this spring? Did you change your major and find you need to take College Algebra this semester? It's not too late take MTH 1103 Liberal Arts Math or MTH 1102 College Algebra at OCC.

Both courses will be offered in a hybrid format beginning March 11. Students should consult their advisors to make sure they have met the prerequisites for either course. The hybrid format means that most of the homework and the exams for the courses will be online, while instruction will take place face to face.

Liberal Arts Math is being offered from

8 to 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and College Algebra is being offered from 10 to 10:50 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students who need calculus for their major could complete College Algebra this spring, take Trigonometry this summer and be ready for Calculus I in the fall. These two courses are being piloted together with an 8-week PRE 0420 Intermediate Algebra course.

As part of a statewide mandate to reduce remediation time in mathematics courses, OCC has changed when and how it is offering remedial and college math courses. Last year, instructors piloted an 8-week hybrid course in REM

0422 Math Literacy, followed by an 8-week hybrid course in Liberal Arts Math. Students can complete the courses in one semester and meet their math requirement for graduation.

Regular 16-week courses are still an option for students who don't wish to move so quickly as are online courses. Instructors are planning to continue to offer courses in the 8-week format to assist students who wish to complete these courses in one semester.

Students should contact their advisor or the instructors for the courses, Tammie Bohnhoff at bohnhofft@iecc.edu or Lisa Benson at bensonl@iecc.edu, for more information.

Zeilstra joins Title III as Information Systems Technology Specialist

PJ Zeilstra has joined Olney Central College as the Information Systems Technology Specialist for the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Title III Block Grant.

The Title III program is supported in part by a five-year grant awarded to Olney Central College from the U.S. Department of Education effective October 1, 2018. The estimated total cost for all project activities is \$2,506,775 financed by the grant award of \$2,249,968 (90%) and \$256,807 (10%) by Olney Central College. Initiatives at OCC include implementing and redesigning the Information Systems Technology Program.

“The goal is to make this a top of the line program for our area — something that is currently lacking,” Zeilstra said. “You have to travel one or two hours away for this type of program. We are looking at creating a transfer degree, which would include electives and give students the basics of IST, a two-year degree that would incorporate more technology and enable students to enter the workforce right away and a one-year certificate for those who need to get out and get a job.”

Zeilstra, who previously worked for the Help Desk at the IECC District Office, assumed his new position on Jan. 14 and is already hard at work revamping the program’s curriculum in preparation for the first students this fall. He also is overseeing the creation of a new state-of-the-art Information Systems Technology lab at the West Richland Center in Noble. In addition, Zeilstra is working with various universities to ensure IST students can easily complete their bachelor’s degrees.

“Right now I am putting together the first semester classes,” said Zeilstra, who previously served as an adjunct instructor at OCC. “I’ve taught the classes before and some of them will have similar content. We’re just fitting the program’s classes a little differently to transfer better and making them more structured.”

Zeilstra is looking forward to working with and sharing his knowledge with students.



“I think I’ve always had an interest in teaching,” Zeilstra said. “When I was in high school, I thought about teaching math then I realized I didn’t like the higher math. I went to Parkland for the first two years and the classes I had there with the guys who worked during the day and taught at night — I got so much from those classes. It made me want to get out in the field to learn stuff and do stuff, then come back and teach. I like to help people understand things. When you explain something and you see that light go off, it’s very satisfying.”

Zeilstra completed a bachelor’s of science degree in Information Systems Technology from Southern Illinois University. While at SIU, he served an internship at the former U.S. Franchise Systems Reservation Center in Marion, which led to a full-time position with the hotel call center.

“While I was there, I traveled to 300 or 400 hotels to put in wireless networks. I then came back and developed a help desk to support guests,” he said. “This was a time when the technology was new. We had to figure out what wireless was and how to put it in.”

Zeilstra said the IST Program offers an excellent opportunity for students to explore various aspects of supporting computer hardware, software and network systems.

“The program is ideal for someone who knows they want to work with computers, but are unsure what area they want to pursue,” Zeilstra said. “It allows them to see what options are out there. I also think we have a great opportunity, for those students who don’t want to go to a four-year school, to really help them in this area. I want the program to be a smooth, great experience for the students, and depending on the course or track that they take, have students come out that can legitimately do a job.”

To learn more about the Information Systems Technology Program, contact Zeilstra at 393-3490 or send an email to zeilstrap@iecc.edu. IST classes will begin Aug. 15.



GUEST SPEAKERS

John Kendall's Principles of Macroeconomics class welcomed guest speakers Deb Keller and Nathan Klingler from First Financial Bank. Their presentation included a discussion of loans and credit ratings. Klingler, who works in the Vincennes, Ind., branch, is an OCC graduate.